

Hazel McShine: A Life Dedicated to the Sea and to Writing

We join in mourning the passing of Ms. Hazel McShine, former Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) of Trinidad and Tobago, on January 23, 2024. Ms. McShine was a prominent Marine Biologist who joined the IMA in 1978, significantly contributing to its consolidation and development.

IMA's first female director, Hazel Mc Shine, dies

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Image source: CNC3 News Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. McShine was responsible for establishing the Technical Advisory Services (TAS) and successfully led them for several years. In 1996, she was promoted to Deputy Director of Research and in 2000 became the first

woman to hold the position of Director of the IMA, a role she fulfilled with distinction until her retirement in 2005.

During her tenure, Ms. McShine was characterized by her diligence and efficiency, motivating young researchers and professionals to reach their full potential. Her role was pivotal in developing the marine research capabilities of the IMA and gaining recognition in the region. Additionally, she contributed to transforming the IMA into the Regional Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), representing her country in the Caribbean Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research Centre (COAR) and the IOCARIBE Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) for many years.

Ms. McShine's commitment was also reflected in the infrastructure of the IMA, leading projects such as the construction of the research building, the launch of the official Institute's website, and the establishment of the Marine Education Center.

After her retirement, Ms. McShine pursued her passion for writing, standing out as a proud member of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago. Her creative talent was evident in her short story "The Wall," which was a finalist in the prestigious 2014 Small Axe Literary Competition.

Hazel McShine was an extraordinary woman who left an invaluable legacy in the fields of marine research and culture. Her memory and work will endure over time and in the hearts of those who knew and admired her. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends.