

## □ Opening Day at GCFI-78 - Monday, 27 October 2025

**GCFI78 officially opened today in Cartagena under the theme “*Partnering for the Oceans: Merging Ocean, Climate, and Biodiversity Efforts Through Regional Marine Data and Innovation.*”**



27 October 2025

**The ceremony featured opening remarks from Eduardo Boné-Morón (GCFI), Erick Castro (CAF), Ángelo Bacci (CARDIQUE), Lorna Inniss (IOC/UNESCO), Patrick Debels (PROCARIBE+), and partners from CAF and CARDIQUE.**

**The Leroy Creswell Memorial Keynote Address was delivered by Alison Clausen, Deputy Global Coordinator of the UN Ocean Decade, on *“Ocean Knowledge for Action in the Caribbean - Looking Forward to the Next Five Years of the Ocean Decade.”***

**Two dynamic Ocean Decade Panel Sessions followed, exploring innovative approaches to sustainable fisheries, marine data sharing, and inclusive governance, with contributions from experts across the Caribbean and beyond.**

**Afternoon sessions spotlighted small-scale fisheries, highlighting community-driven innovations from Colombia, The Bahamas, and the Yucatán Peninsula.**

**The day concluded with the lively Fishers Forum and an Opening Reception , setting a collegial and inspiring tone for the week ahead.**