#16571

Summary of Decisions from the 10th Meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

☆

3 October, 2003 Saipan, CNMI
6 October, 2003 Tumon, Guam

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DECISION HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
October 3, 2003 Saipan, CNMI
October 6, 2003 Tumon, Guam

1. RECORD TURNOUTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES/SCHOOL GROUPS INVOLVEMENT:

The 10th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) had a record number of meeting participants – about 250 people attended each meeting in Saipan and Guam. The Task Force Outreach and Education Working Group also invited local communities and school groups to the meeting and engaged them in educational activities on coral reef conservation such as setting up informational booths around the meeting venue and, displaying and providing materials on various environmental issues.

2. PRODUCTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (October 1, 2003 Saipan, CNMI):

The 10th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) began with a half day Steering Committee meeting. Participants discussed six new resolutions to be adopted for the CRTF meeting and the implementation of the Local Action Strategy (LAS). In addition, Steering Committee members reviewed draft guidance on funding sources for LAS and provided additional information on existing funding mechanisms from federal agencies. The Steering Committee members also discussed the need for a web-based database to track coral reef related activities and accomplishments. The Steering Committee has made a decision to proceed and develop such a database system.

3. COMMITMENT FROM THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAS:

Hawaii, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa from the Pacific Region presented their Local Action Strategies and identified each of their needs:

<u>Hawaii:</u>
Lack of Awareness – Hawaii's Living Reef Program
Coral Reef Fisheries Management LAS
Land-based Pollution Threats to Coral Reefs
Bleaching and Disease Strategies

<u>Guam:</u>
Land-based Sources of Pollution
Overfishing
Lack of Public Awareness and Participation
Recreational Overuse and Misuse
Global Climate Change and Bleaching

American Samoa:
Land-based Pollution
Overfishing
Climate / Bleaching
Over-population

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:
Land-based Sources of Pollution
Recreational Use
Fisheries Management
Public Awareness and Outreach
Crosscutting Issues

Regional Subcommittee members and their representatives at the meeting discussed the opportunities and barriers to address each focus area in the Local Action Strategies, and outlined next steps to be taken to implement the LAS:

1. Navigators getting back one-on-one with the local jurisdictions and following-up on next steps, strengthening and implementing LAS
2. Matrix of what can be implemented now
3. Convening a special workgroup or subcommittee for capacity
4. Reporting to Task Force on budget in February and how implementation is going
5. Agencies will report on what they have done to get this into out-year planning

Complete statement of the "next steps" from the Regional Subcommittee meeting is attached.

4. ADOPTION OF SIX RESOLUTIONS:
The Task Force members and representatives discussed and adopted six resolutions.

Resolutions:

1. Implementing Local Action Strategies and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution
2. Improve Pacific Water Quality
3. Support for Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Programs
4. Improving Outreach by participation in the CRTF
6. Support for Coral Reefs, Climate and Coral Bleaching Initiative
7. Response to Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters

5. CONTINUE ON-GOING INITIATIVES:
The United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency will continue to co-lead an effort to address the CRTF focus area of land-based sources of pollution. The Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to carry on studies on compensatory mitigation for coral reef impacts.

6. PALAU'S PROPOSAL TO JOIN USCRTF AS FULL A MEMBER:
President of the Republic of Palau Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. spoke to CRTF members and representatives that Palau wants to join the Task Force and contribute to the coral reef conservation efforts. The Department of the Interior and NOAA will draft response after discussion with CRTF members.

7. GOVERNOR SUNIA MEMORIAL CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AWARD:
The CRTF announced the creation of the Governor Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Award in honor of the late American Samoa Governor Tauese Sunia. The Award is envisioned to provide a six-month to one-year internship opportunity to an outstanding student from a U.S. insular area on an annual basis. NOAA will be the first sponsor for this Award and other agencies are invited to be future sponsors.

8. ENGAGE DOD/ACOE:
The CRTF has reaffirmed that the Department of Defense's Army Corps of Engineer hold nonvoting member status and be represented by the DoD.

9. ENGAGE DOT:
The CRTF has decided to send an official request to the Department of Transportation to become more engaged in U.S. coral reef conservation and management, especially with issues related to land-based sources of pollution.

10. AWARDS & RECOGNITION
The CRTF presented national and local awards to eight individuals for their distinctive contribution towards coral reef conservation, outstanding work in public awareness and education, outstanding work in community level participation, and outstanding work in scientific advancement of knowledge. The CRTF also recognized local and Federal navigators for their dedication and commitment in developing the Local Action Strategies to improve coordinated implementation of coral reef conservation.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force by consensus on October 6, 2003. Resolution text and background information follows.

Resolutions:

1. Implementing Local Action Strategies and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution
2. Improve Pacific Water Quality
3. Support for Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Programs
4. Improving Outreach by participation in the CRTF
5. Proposal on International Coral Reef Management
6. Support for Coral Reefs, Climate and Coral Bleaching Initiative
7. Response to Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters

Proposed Resolutions: 10th meeting USCRTF

Resolution 1: Proposal for Implementing Local Action Strategies and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution

Background:

In October 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) met in Puerto Rico and passed a resolution aimed to improve implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (NAP). The resolution, now known as *the Puerto Rico Resolution*, identified four impediments to implementation and recommended solutions to address them. These recommendations included:

- Endorsing six Focus Areas for priority action: land-based sources of pollution, overfishing, lack of public awareness, recreational overuse and misuse, climate change and coral bleaching, and disease.
- Developing Local Action Strategies (LAS) for relevant Focus Areas as determined locally.
- Establishing two regional subcommittees to support local action.
- Identifying methods for tracking progress toward national goals.
- Highlighting needs and opportunities to strengthen human resources for reef conservation.

A center-piece of the resolution was the development of Local Action Strategies to improve coordinated implementation of coral reef conservation efforts. This recommendation was developed from a series of interviews and meetings that highlighted the need to strengthen coordination among and between levels of government. It was expected that greater coordination will improve technical and financial support for local level implementation by:

- Increasing participation of federal Task Force partners targeting those not fully engaged in coral conservation efforts at the local/regional level and providing a venue for developing funding priorities.
- Improving coordination between federal and state/territory priorities.
- Raising the profile of coral reef issues and concerns in related projects (e.g. non-point and CZM initiatives).
- Strengthening national policy and support for coral reef conservation by providing a basis for updating national goals for new and ongoing coral reef management.

Current Status:

In addition to the actions to implement the U.S. National Action Plan and Strategy that were already underway, each state and territory with its federal partners has invested significant effort in developing these draft LAS through a collaborative, participatory process since last October. Each jurisdiction has developed a core group of experts to

develop these draft strategies, and has hosted one or more stakeholder meetings to guide crafting and revision of the documents.

To date, most of the LAS are in development and in draft form, exceeding the expectations and schedule established in February 2003. Overall, the process the Task Force set in motion a year ago has achieved many important things, including (1) significantly increased participation and collaboration among government partners at local levels, and (2) engaged hundreds of stakeholders and other partners in helping determine the key actions needed over the next three years to reduce priority threats to reef ecosystems. This process is considered the most rigorous effort taken by the USCRTF to identify the key needs required to achieve tangible improvements in reef quality at the local level.

State and territorial officials with their federal partners have found that there are indeed grant programs that had not been previously tapped to support coral reef management activities in the islands. Most of these grant programs have defined areas of focus that do not usually coincide exactly with the priorities identified in the LAS. Grant proposals need to be developed for each one of these programs and each grant comes with different reporting requirements. Development of grant proposals and fulfilling reporting requirements will require significant amounts of staff effort that cannot be accommodated through existing state and territorial resources.

Continued support and resources are needed to complete and implement the LAS that have already been drafted and to refine and further develop priorities that still need to be addressed from the Puerto Rico Resolution. The Task Force has an important opportunity to review the progress to date and build on the existing momentum to achieve the goals set forth in the Puerto Rico Resolution.

This resolution affirms the Task Force's support for continuing to implement the actions called for in the Puerto Rico Resolution including specific steps, such as LAS completion, implementation and increased federal support, that are required to complete the LAS process.

Resolution:

The Task Force recognizes the significant efforts to implement the Puerto Rico Resolution and the successes already realized in this process to date, including:

(1) increased participation and collaboration among government partners at local levels;
(2) engagement of hundreds of stakeholders and other partners in helping determine priority local actions to reduce threats to reefs; and
(3) development of most of the 3 year Local Action Strategies called for in the Puerto Rico Resolution.

The Task Force affirms the need to continue efforts to complete the draft LAS and implement the completed LAS and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution.

The Task Force affirms that all members will actively participate and support the local jurisdictions in implementing their LAS.

(1) Finalize Local Action Strategies:
- Task Force members will assist in finalizing the draft Local Action Strategies as soon as possible.

(2) Task Force members will assist in the development and completion of any additional Local Action Strategies as appropriate.

(3) LAS Implementation
- Task Force members will assist in implementing the draft Local Action Strategies as soon as possible by:
    - inventory existing opportunities to support implementation of the LAS.
    - identify resources committed to support the LAS.
    - identify needs/gaps between the LAS and these existing opportunities and resources.
    - identify lead federal agencies to coordinate and implement regional actions or cross-regional issues identified as key themes in many of the local LAS.
    - Task Force members will provide a status report on finalizing and implementing the LAS at the local level during each Task Force Meeting.
- Task Force members acknowledge that the three-year LAS may require several years for development and are dependent upon increased funding and capacity support for initiation and completion.
- Task Force members will evaluate the role, function, and effectiveness of the Regional Subcommittees, providing a preliminary evaluation at the February 2004 Task Force Meeting.

(4) Track implementation of the Coral Reef Initiative Programs and Local Action Strategies
- Members will assist the Steering Committee in developing a database system for Coral Reef Initiative programs, including the LAS and a process for obtaining annual progress reports.

(5) Develop proposal on how to update the U.S. National Coral Reef Action Strategy
- Members will assist the Steering Committee in developing a process and schedule to update the U.S. National Coral Reef Action Strategy in 2004 to incorporate the LAS and other efforts.

Resolution 2. Proposal on Pacific Water Quality

Whereas, in the Pacific Islands of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Freely Associated States, the coral reef resources are a cornerstone of the economy, tourism, fisheries, and traditional cultures; and

Whereas, these coral reefs are of local, national and international importance affording the public at large the opportunity to develop an understanding of the aesthetic, recreational, economic, and scientific value of these resources to the world economy; and

Whereas, coral reefs protect shorelines and support a richly diverse and productive ecosystem; and

Whereas, coral reefs can only thrive under a narrow range of environmental conditions including light, salinity, temperature, water quality, and nutrients, and are thereby extremely vulnerable to anthropogenic inputs to nearshore waters; and

Whereas, the coral reefs of the Pacific exist in close proximity to coastal development which provides lodging and infrastructure to residents and visitors; and

Whereas, these coral reef ecosystems often serve as the receiving waters for land-based pollution such as sewage or industrial effluent, sedimentation and erosion, based on regulations and using management practices that do not adequately take into account impacts on the coral reefs; and

Whereas, in some of the Pacific Islands, current wastewater treatment systems are often in dire need of repair, replacement and expansion in order to accommodate increasing populations and to avoid repeated incidents of sewage spills. Such spills can adversely affect coral reef health and the public health of residents and visitors alike; and

Whereas, over 500 million gallons of raw sewage were spilled in Guam between 1999 and 2002, CNMI has 8,000 septic tanks, many of which were improperly constructed, almost 40% of the population of American Samoa is not hooked up to water or sewage, and there are approximately 18,000 cesspools in Hawaii. Releases of sewage and pollution into the nearshore environment jeopardize the coral reef ecosystem, the vitality of which is based on maintaining nutrient-poor waters; and

Whereas, the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands are exposed to the effects of erosion, sedimentation, runoff from construction and unpaved roads, and other poor land-use practices and these activities can seriously impact coral reef health in some areas; and

Whereas, all of these types of land-based sources of pollution can result in negative impacts to coral reef habitat, varying from poor reef health to complete destruction; and

Whereas, immediate and effective action is needed to ensure these sensitive and slow-growing coral reefs continue to be the cornerstone of thriving ecosystems; and

Whereas, the U.S. Pacific Islands have developed local action strategies that identify strategic short-term actions needed to reduce the threat of land-based sources of pollution on coral reef ecosystems; and

Whereas, these local action strategies have not fully identified the actions needed to address many of the large-scale and long-term infrastructure needs that continue to seriously degrade the Pacific Island coral reef ecosystems;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force supports, in coordination with the appropriate local jurisdictions:

(a) Identification and allocation of funding or other resources to implement the elements of the U.S. Pacific Islands coral reef protection local action strategies that pertain to reducing land-based sources of pollution;
(b) Assistance to bring relevant jurisdictions subject to enforcement actions into compliance as needed;
(c) Assistance to address wastewater treatment in the Pacific Islands;
(d) Assistance to address erosion, sedimentation, and runoff problems in the Pacific Islands;
(e) Identification of appropriate grant or other opportunities to assist local governments to address land-based sources of pollution;
(f) Submission of a list from each jurisdiction of the top infrastructure needs to reduce impacts on coral reefs to the USCRTF within 60 days of adoption; and,
(g) A report by members of the Task Force on progress made toward addressing this resolution as well as the Caribbean water quality resolution by October 2004;

recognizing that, in the case of the Federal members of the Task Force, support for specific amounts and individual actions will be subject to the budget and appropriations process.

Resolution 3. Proposal on Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program

Whereas, the coral reef resources in the U.S. Pacific Islands of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Freely Associated States, and the Pacific Remote Insular Areas (PRIAs) are a cornerstone of the region's economy, ecological diversity, tourism, fisheries, and cultural practices; and

Whereas, jurisdictions in the region have varying capacities to conduct comparative, comprehensive, long-term monitoring and assessment across both locally-accessible and remote coral reef ecosystems; and

Whereas, much of the Pacific Island's coral reef ecosystems are found in geographically remote areas; and

Whereas, the Pacific Islands geographically remote coral reef ecosystems are typically less impacted by stresses from local development and other sources of pollution and are national treasures that have significant scientific value as baseline indicators of coral ecosystem health, both nationally and globally; and

Whereas, these remote areas provide a unique opportunity to observe and better understand the effects of climate change, disease, and natural processes as compared to reefs in populated areas; and

Whereas, federal agencies have important capabilities in assessing, monitoring and implementing actions to protect U.S. Pacific coral reef ecosystems and are key partners in building coral reef ecosystem assessment, monitoring and management capacity within the region; and

Whereas, federal agencies have important responsibilities in providing platforms, training and access to remote areas; and

Whereas, there is a need to coordinate and conduct similar and compatible monitoring and assessment programs with the on-going efforts in each jurisdiction and to share and compare data between the remote and populated sites.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force supports the following through appropriate coordination with local jurisdictions:

(a) Continued long-term assessment and monitoring of the nation's coral reef ecosystems throughout each of the Pacific island jurisdictions on at least a biannual basis;
(b) Expansion of long-term assessment and monitoring efforts to include coral reef ecosystems of the Freely Associated States;

(c) Continued and expanded comparative study of remote coral reef ecosystems and locally-accessible, more human-influenced reef ecosystems; and
(d) Continued and expanded allocation of funding and other resources to support these activities;

recognizing that, in the case of the Federal members of the Task Force, support for specific amounts and individual actions will be subject to the budget and appropriations process.

Resolution 4. Proposal on Improving Outreach by and participation in the CRTF

Public participation plays an important role in the activities of the United States Coral Reef Task Force. Public awareness of and involvement in coral reef protection and preservation is vital to the long-term survival of coral reefs.

Many organizations and individuals have expressed a strong continuing interest in assisting the Task Force in achieving the goal of coral reef protection and preservation, and maintaining this interest and desire to support the Task Force's efforts will be crucial to coral reef protection and conservation.

Members of the public and organizations that have a special interest in coral reefs are also a valuable source of information about reef health and protection.

The Task Force has actively sought out such information by, for example, hosting panels to present information on a wide variety of coral reef-related topics at Task Force meetings and by establishing a tradition of an open public comment session at each Task Force meeting.

The non-Federal Task Force member States and Territories have also actively sought out and encouraged public participation and involvement at their respective local levels.

In response to the Task Force's charge, the Steering Committee, together with the Outreach and Education Working Group, have also explored further options and proposals for improving public outreach, involvement and participation in the Task Force's work.

As part of its exploration, the Steering Committee received valuable input from members of the public and the All-Islands Committee.

As a result of this exploration and collaboration, the Steering Committee developed several ideas for improving outreach and participation, some of which are already being implemented as part of the October 2003 Task Force meeting.

Other ideas will require a more extensive commitment of time and resources from Task Force members.

Now therefore the Task Force directs that the following specific actions be taken:

1. **Improve Outreach Via the Coral Reef Task Force Web Site**. The Steering Committee will ensure that the Task Force web site provides members of the public with information about the full range of the Task Force's activities, opportunities for public participation and input, and information about coral reef protection and preservation more

generally. The Steering Committee will report on progress toward this task at the February 2004 Task Force Meeting.

2. **Responding Task Force Meeting Public Comments.** The Steering Committee will establish a mechanism for responding to the concerns raised in the public comment session at each Task Force meeting, preferably utilizing currently available mechanisms where feasible, and reporting back to the public on such responses. The Steering Committee will report on this mechanism at the February 2004 Task Force meeting.

3. **Local, Scientific and National Policy Issues at Task Force Meetings.** Future Task Force meetings will ensure that there are opportunities in addition to the public comment session for increasing information exchanges between the Task Force and the scientific and local communities. Such a forum might include, but is not limited to, a presentation discussing (a) local concerns and approaches to coral reef-related issues at Task Force meetings held outside of Washington, and (b) scientific and/or national policy issues at Task Force meetings held in Washington.

Resolution 5. Proposal on International Coral Reef Management
Postponed until Feb/Mar 04.

Resolution 6. Proposal on Coral Reefs, Climate and Coral Bleaching Initiative

Background:

At its meeting in October 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) passed two resolutions highlighting the impacts of climate change and coral bleaching on coral reefs:

1. **The *Puerto Rico Resolution*** identified climate change and coral bleaching as one of six key focus areas for priority attention, including the development of Local Action Strategies (LAS) for climate change and bleaching, as locally appropriate.
2. **The Resolution on Coral Reefs and Climate Change** called for development of an interagency, public/private partnership for planning a comprehensive, integrative program for understanding local and system-wide coral reef responses to climate change, including the application of this knowledge for local reef management.

In response to these resolutions, NOAA, EPA, and DOI sponsored a workshop on Coral Reefs, Climate and Coral Bleaching in June 2003. In the Workshop, over 100 scientists and managers from local and federal governments, universities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations:

- Shared the most current information on the status of the science and best practices for management of coral reefs in the context of climate change and coral bleaching;
- Discussed strategies for development of novel approaches and tools for enhancing coral reef survival in the context of climate change and coral bleaching;
- Developed partnerships to develop a Reef Manager's Guide to Action to articulate the state of knowledge about how local managers can prepare for and respond to mass coral bleaching; and
- Initiated development of a framework for an integrated research program on local and system-wide responses of reef ecosystems to climate change.

Proposal:
The USCRTF requests that DOI, NOAA, and EPA, along with other interested Task Force Members, in cooperation with the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, continue development of an interagency, public/private partnership for planning a comprehensive, integrative program for understanding local and system-wide coral reef responses to climate change, including its application of this knowledge for local reef management.

Specifically, the USCRTF requests that these partners:

1. Finalize production of the Reef Manager's Guide to Action.
2. Develop a process for testing the Reef Manager's Guide to Action by the February 2004 Task Force Meeting. This process will assess the need to build capacity in applying the recommendations outlined in the Guide.
3. Develop a strategy with input from local coral reef managers that will identify the specific components of a comprehensive, integrative program for understanding local and system-wide coral reef responses to climate change.

4. Develop a strategy to partner with the international community to further test and develop strategies for building reef resilience in the face of climate change by the October 2004 Task Force Meeting. This strategy will address the need to learn from other international efforts, and identify and assist in support of pilot sites that systematically test the strategies described in the Manager's Guide to determine their effectiveness.

Resolution 7. Proposal on Response to Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters

WHEREAS, All U.S. states, territories and commonwealths and the Freely Associated States are subject to recurring, devastating natural disasters which significantly impact human communities and the natural environment and;

WHEREAS, coral reefs and tropical ecosystems and temperate climate aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are fragile and the impacts of disasters can result in the loss of years of successful reproduction and recruitment, and;

WHEREAS, failure to respond to environmental impacts of natural disasters can result in immediate dangers to the human communities and result in permanent damage to the natural ecosystems and resources and serve as the impetus for long-term degradation and;

WHEREAS, both short and long-term damage to the natural environment negatively impacts the security, environment and quality of life in the states, territories and commonwealths of the United States, and;

WHEREAS, in a Presidentially declared natural disaster, the current National Response Plan defines the areas of response, and;

WHEREAS, the Federal Response Plan contains twelve Emergency Support Functions, and;

WHEREAS, the only Emergency Support Function addressing any aspect of response to environmental damage deals narrowly with hazardous materials, and;

WHEREAS, federal agencies are limited in their ability to assist in environmental response and states and territories are limited in their ability to fully address emergency needs of environmental damage, and;

WHEREAS, the National Response Plan is currently being written by an interagency workgroup led by the Department of Homeland Security, and;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of environmental response requirements in the Plan will increase the real security of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

The United States Coral Reef Task Force will consult with the Department of Homeland Security to discuss development of one or more Emergency Support Functions, as necessary, to address emergency response for environmental impacts of natural disasters. The Task Force would also suggest that the Steering Committee communicate its response to this resolution the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of

Foreign Disaster Assistance, and recommends that the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance adopt similar measures.

2. Federal members of the Task Force, as appropriate, will engage the states, territories and commonwealths of the United States and the Freely Associated States in developing partnership response plans for environmental impacts to coral reef ecosystems from natural disasters, and developing strategies to support implementation of the plans.

3. The steering committee will investigate and consider the opportunities to include mass coral bleaching in natural disaster relief efforts. The steering committee will report to the Task Force on this issue at the February 2004 meeting.

Future Meetings of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

The 11th Task Force meeting will be held in Washington, DC, in February, 2004.

The State of Florida offered to host the 12th meeting in October, 2004. The CRTF was pleased to accept its invitation.

Coral Reef Task Force Awards and Recognition
October 2003 Meeting

National Award #1:
Presented to: Dr. Bob Richmond, University of Guam
for outstanding scientific advancement of knowledge and public awareness and education

National Award #2:
Presented to: Gerry Davis, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
for outstanding management

Local Awards, CNMI:

1. ***Outstanding Public Awareness and Education Award:***
Presented to: Pedro PeterJun "John" Ravelo, Jr., Saipan Tribune reporter

2. ***Outstanding Community Level Participation:***
Presented to: Clarissa T. Bearden, CNMI Division of Environmental Quality

3. ***Educational Awards:***
Underwater Photography Contest:
Brian Smith

Build a Castle, Save a Reef Sand Castle Building Contest:
High School Division: Rota High School
Junior High School Division: Saipan Community School

"Save Our Reefs" Art Contest (HS division):
Giovanni Taitano from Mariana High School

"Save Our Reefs" Essay Contest (JH division):
Ariel Mike Villagomez from Hopwood Jr. High School

"Save Our Reefs" Art Drawing Contest (elementary school division):
Mi Lin Kim from Saipan Community School

Local Awards, Guam:

1. ***Outstanding Public Awareness and Education Award:***
Presented to: Linda Tatreau, George Washington High School marine biology teacher for being an adviser for the school's club "Marine Mania," which organizes reef cleanups, plants trees and raises money for reef-preservation projects.

2. ***Outstanding Community Level Participation:***
Presented to: Lee P. Webber, Pacific Daily News Publisher
for the newspaper's nine-month-long Man, Land and Sea project in 2003, which focused on raising awareness about Guam's coral reefs

3. ***Outstanding Management:***
Presented to: John Calvo

4. ***Outstanding Scientific Advancement of Knowledge:***
Presented to: Dr. Mark Tupper, University of Guam Marine Laboratory

Recognition of Local and Federal Navigators:

[redacted]

Florida:
POC – Katherine "Kacky" Andrews (DEP) and Paula Allen (DEP)
Land Based Sources of Pollution/Water Quality – Ken Banks (BCDPEP), Richard Harvey (EPA), Ron Smola (USDA), and Fred McManus (EPA)
Fishing, Diving, and Other Use – Janet Phipps (PBERM) and Jim Bohnsack (NOAA)
Awareness and Appreciation – Diane Behringer (Sea Grant – Broward County) and Mary Tagliareni (NOAA)
Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts – Steve Blair (DERM), Kurtis Gregg (DEP), and Richard Curry (DOI)

[redacted]

Hawaii:

POC – Athline Clark (DLNR)

Land Based Sources of Pollution – Katina Henderson (HDOH), Francis Oishi (HDAR), Carey Morishige (HDAR), Wendy Wiltse (EPA), and Chris Smith (USDA)

Fishery Management – Walter Ikehara (HDAR), Athline Clark (HDAR), Liz Fairey (NOAA), and Alan Everson (NOAA)

Lack of Awareness – Athline Clark (HDAR), Troy Antonelis (HDAR), Aulani Wilhelm (NOAA), and Kristine Davidson (HCRI-RP)

Puerto Rico:

POC – Aileen Velazco (DNER)

Land Based Sources of Pollution – Ernesto Diaz (DNER), Teresita Rodriguez (EPA), and Marisol Morales (USDA)

Overfishing – Craig Lilestrom (DNER), Aida Rosario, and Aitza Pabón (NOAA)

Recreational Overuse – Aileen T. Velazco Domínguez (DNER), Lourdes Díaz Colón (Puerto Rico Tourism Company), Miguel Lugo (NOAA), Luis D. Beltrán (DNER), and José Soleiman (Sociedad Ambiente Marino)

Lack of Awareness – Dixie Bayó (DNER), Astrid Green (DNER), Aileen T. Velazco Domínguez (DNER), and Miguel Lugo (NOAA)

U.S. Virgin Islands:

POC – Janice Hodge (CZM), Bill Rohring (CZM), and Ursula Anlauf (CZM)

LAS Coordinator – Nick Drayton (TOC)

Land Based Sources of Pollution – Bill Rohring (CZM), Teresita Rodriguez (EPA), and Marisol Morales (USDA)

Overfishing – Toby Tobias (DF&W), Wesley Toller (DF&W), Gerson Martinez, and Aitza Pabon (NOAA)

Recreational Overuse – Stephanie Wear (TNC), Raquel Seybert (TNC), and Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA)

Lack of Awareness – Marcia Taylor (UVI) and Dana Wushinich-Mendez (NOAA)

Appendix A: Task Force Attendees

Governor Juan BABAUTA	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Bob BALLARD	Florida
Dr. Paula BONTEMPI	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Governor Felix CAMACHO	Guam
Dr. Mack GRAY	Department of Agriculture
Craig HOOKS	Environmental Protection Agency
Timothy KEENEY	Department of Commerce
Craig MANSON	Department of the Interior
Tom PRASTER	Department of State
Sylvia QUAST	Department of Justice
Tommy REMENGESAU Jr.	Republic of Palau
Terry RICE	U.S. Coast Guard
Bill ROHRING	U.S. Virgin Islands
Donald SCHREGARDUS	Department of Defense
Governor Togiola TULAFONO	American Samoa
Aileen VELAZCO	Puerto Rico
Peter YOUNG	Hawaii

Appendix B: Agenda

Meeting Agenda
United States Coral Reef Task Force
October 3-6, 2003

Wednesday, Oct 1

8:00-12:30 TF Committee Meeting: Implementing Local Action Strategies
Location: Hyatt Regency, CNMI

Thursday, Oct 2

8:00-4:30 Pacific Regional Subcommittee Meeting
Location: Hyatt Regency, CNMI

6:00 p.m. Street Market (TF members can visit the small markets and eat dinner)
[includes Awards Ceremony for contest winners from 7:30 – 9 p.m.]

Friday, Oct 3
(Task Force meeting location: Dai Ichi Hotel, CNMI)

7:00 Registration & Exhibit Viewing

8:30 Open Meeting (Task Force Co-chairs Manson, Keeney)

Welcome Remarks (Governor of CNMI)

Task Force Member Introductions (all)

9:15 Task Force Business Items – Part 1: Presentation and Discussion

1. Report from the Steering Committee: (Steering Committee co-chairs)
   - Outline actions implemented since Puerto Rico that will be presented throughout the meeting (5 min)
2. Resolution 1: Proposal for Implementing Local Action Strategies and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution, *Roger Griffis, NOAA* (20 min p, 10 min d)
3. Resolution 2: Proposal on Pacific Water Quality, *Lelei Peau, AS* (10p, 5d)
4. Resolution 3: Proposal on Mariana Reef Assessment Monitoring Program, *Erica Cochrane, CNMI* (10p, 5d)

10:15 break

10:30
5. Update on October 2002 USDA/EPA Land Based Pollution Announcement, *Wendy Wiltse, EPA* (10p, 5d)
6. Update on February 2003 Caribbean Water Quality Resolution (10p, 5d)

7. Report on Compensatory Mitigation for Coral Reef Impacts, *Michael Molina, DOI* (10p, 5 d)

11:15 Awards/Presentations – Part 1

- Announcement of Award in honor of Governor Sunia
- Outstanding Public Awareness & Education (national & local CNMI)
- Outstanding Community Level Participation (national & local CNMI)
- Non-Point Pollution Program Approval Award Signing (CNMI)
- Recognition of Local and Federal Navigators

11:30 Hot Topics – Part 1

- Mariana Islands Research Cruise Presentation: CNMI Findings, *Rusty Brainard, NOAA,* (10p)

11:45 Task Force Member Reports – Part 1

- CNMI, *Governor Babauta* (10p)
- American Samoa, *Governor Tulafono* (10p)
- Palau, *President Remengesau* (10p)

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch/Exhibit Viewing; [Lunch at Azucena I & II, Dai Ichi Hotel, Saipan]

1:45 8. Roundtable 1: Marine Protected Areas

- Moderator: Mark Tupper, University of Guam
- Speakers:
  a. Managaha Marine Conservation Area, *Richard Seman, CNMI/DFW*
  b. Guam's MPAs, *Gerry Davis, GU/DAWR*
  c. The Biodiversity of Micronesia, *Bill Raynor, The Nature Conservancy*

2:45 Public Comment (sign-up requested; 5 min each speaker)

3:45 break

4:00 Task Force Business Items – Part 1: Decisions

- Resolution 2: Proposal on Pacific Water Quality (10d)
- Resolution 3: Proposal on Marianas Reef Assessment Monitoring Program (10d)

4:30 Task Force Member Reports – Part 2

- Florida, *Bob Ballard* (10p)
- Department of Agriculture, *Mack Gray* (10p)
- Puerto Rico, *Aileen Velazco* (10p)
- U.S. Virgin Islands, *Bill Rohring* (10p)
- Department of Defense, *Donald Schregardus* (10p)

5:30 Wrap-up

5:15-6:00 Exhibit Viewing

7:00 – 9:30 Governor's Welcoming & Appreciation Dinner Reception

Saturday, Oct 4
CNMI Field Trips
1) Saipan Island Tour: 8am to 10am
2) Managaha Boat Tour: 10:15am to 2pm

Sunday, Oct 5
Travel to Guam
Guam Field Trips 1pm to 4pm
1) Southern Guam Tour
2) Northern Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian, Guam
3) SCUBA Diving off Guam

Monday, Oct 6
(Task Force meeting location: Hilton Hotel, Guam)

7:30 Registration/Exhibit Viewing

8:30 Open Meeting (Task Force Co-chairs Manson, Keeney)

Welcome Remarks (Governor of Guam)

Task Force Member Introductions (all)

8:45 Task Force Business Items – Part 2: Presentation and Discussion

8. Report from the Steering Committee: (Steering Committee co-chairs)
   - Outline actions implemented since Puerto Rico that will be presented throughout the meeting (5 min)
9. Resolution 1: Implementing Local Action Strategies and other actions from the Puerto Rico Resolution, *Roger Griffis, NOAA* (20 min p, 10 min d)
10. Report from the All Islands Committee, *Lelei Peau, AS* (15p, 10d)
11. Report on the Pacific Regional Subcommittee Meeting, *John McCarroll, EPA* (15p, 10d)
12. Report and Proposal on Increasing Stakeholder Engagement, *Sylvia Quast, DOJ* (10p, 5d)
13. Report and Proposal on Coral Reefs, Climate, & Coral Bleaching Initiative, *Billy Causey, NOAA* (10p, 5d)
14. Proposal on Response to Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters, *Michael Ham, All Islands* (10p, 5d)

10:05 break

10:35 Task Force Member Reports – Part 3

- Guam, *Governor Camacho* (10p)
- Hawaii, *Peter Young* (10p)
- Department of the Interior, *Craig Manson* (10p)
- Environmental Protection Agency, *Craig Hooks* (10p)
- FSM, *Willy Kostka, Conservation Society of Ponhpei* (10p)

11:30 Public Comment (sign-up requested; 5 min each speaker)

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch/Exhibition Viewing

1:45 Awards/Presentations – Part 2

- Outstanding Public Awareness & Education (local Guam)
- Outstanding Community Level Participation (local Guam)
- Outstanding Management (national and local Guam)
- Outstanding Scientific Advancement of Knowledge (national and local Guam)

2:00 17. Roundtable 2: Traditional Coral Reef Management System/Practices

- Moderator: Bob Richmond, University of Guam
- Speakers:
  a. Chief Apelu Aitaoto's, American Samoa Coastal Program
  b. Noah Idechong, Palau National Congress
  c. Mayor Buck Cruz, Guam

3:00 break cancelled

3:00 Task Force Business Items – Part 2: Decisions

- Resolution 4: Increasing Stakeholder Engagement (15d)
- Resolution 6: Coral Reefs, Climate, & Coral Bleaching Initiative (15d)
- Resolution 7: Response to Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters (10d)

3:45 Task Force Member Reports – Part 4

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, *Paula Bontempi* (10p)
- Republic of the Marshall Islands, *John Bungitak, EPA of RMI* (10p)
- U.S. Coast Guard, *Terry Rice* (10p)
- Department of Justice, *Sylvia Quast* (10p)
- Department of State, *Tom Praster* (10p)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Timothy Keeney* (10p)

4:45 Hot Topics – Part 2

- Mariana Islands Research Cruise Presentation: Guam Findings, *Rusty Brainard, NOAA* (15p)
- NOAA Research Strategy, *Ruth Kelty, NOAA* (10p)
- Coral Reef Protected Area Status Report, *Bill Millhouser, NOAA* (10p)
- Establish MPAs in Marshall Islands, *Melba White, RMI* (10p)
- Status of Integrated Mapping and Monitoring of Shallow-water U.S. Coral Reefs System, *Mark Monaco, NOAA* (10p)

5:45 Closing Remarks (Governor of Guam)

7:00 Reception at the Micronesia Ballroom

Appendix C: Public Comment

The following individuals and organizations provided public comment in CNMI:

Pete A. Tenorio	CNMI Resident Representative
Ariel Mike Villagomez	Hopwood Junior High School Student
Alma Ridep-Morris	MAREPAC, Palau
Francis	CEO of Palau International Coral Reef Center
Ruth Tighe	Citizen
Richard Dodge	NCRI
John Furey	Northern Mariana College
Dave Raney	Pacific NGO Representative, HI Sierra Club and Reef Check
Rosemary Godfrey	RARE Center for Tropical Conservation
Ellyn Tong	Hawaii Audubon Society
Thorn Abbott	CNMI Coastal Zone
John Gourley	Micronesian Environmental Science
Tony L. G. Reyes	Saipan Resident
Semona Ann Igama	Mariana High School Marine Biology Club

The following individuals and organizations provided public comment in Guam:

Dr. Patrick Colin	Coral Reef Research Foundation
Tiare Holm	Palau Conservation Society
Kelly Raleigh Moses	Office of the Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System
Tony L. G. Reyes	Saipan Resident
Barbara Fournier	Guam Resident
Dave Raney	Pacific NGO Representative, HI Sierra Club and Reef Check
Rosemary Godfrey	RARE Center for Tropical Conservation
Ronald Laguaña	Guam Resident
Robert Celestial	Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors
Olympia Cruz	Guam Resident
Aniti	Guam Resident
Rufo Lujam	Colonized Chamoru Coalition
Jose U. Garrido	Chamoru Citizen
Julie Paxtor	Realtor