

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
Award Recipients
Washington D.C.
February 2008**

Outstanding Leadership and Policy Coordination

Roger Griffis

Roger Griffis has provided outstanding leadership in developing the national program to protect coral reef ecosystems. From the early years of the US Coral Reef Task Force through 2007, Roger Griffis provided outstanding leadership as a Steering Committee Co-Chair. With Roger's guidance and leadership, the Steering Committee developed the core objectives, strategies, policies and operational plans which serve as the foundation for the Task Force. Several key policy actions include:

- The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (2000);
- A National Coral Reef Action Strategy (2002); and
- Local Action Strategies (2002).

Roger's leadership and hard work have contributed to more effective policies and management of coral reef ecosystems while increasing public awareness of the key issues. These efforts have led to enhanced protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems both in the United States and internationally. The early success of the task Force depended in large measure on Roger's emphasis on a true partnership approach – involving local, state, federal and international partners -- to strengthen coral reef conservation and focus on key threats to reefs. Working with Task Force colleagues, he has created a strong foundation upon which others continue to build.