

*Coral Reef Task Force Meeting  
November 5-7, 2005  
Republic of Palau*

**Resolution 14-4: Call for Building Enforcement Capacity**

**Summary:** The Task Force called on its members to increase efforts to build enforcement capacity, and charged the Steering Committee to continue training and other efforts including the development of an “enforcement toolbox” in cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) to help coral reef management communities build enforcement capacity.

**Responsible Party:** CRTF Steering Committee

**Purpose:** Encourage ongoing CRTF capacity building efforts in the area of environmental and marine resources enforcement and support and join in international efforts proposed by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

**Background Statement:**

- The members of the CRTF have recognized that a key component of any successful coral reef protection program is strong enforcement. Enforcement is an important tool in effective management that complements community involvement and stewardship building.
- To increase the capacity of Task Force member jurisdictions to build effective enforcement programs an interagency group of Federal partners – including the Department of Justice, NOAA, Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard – have to date conducted enforcement training workshops in four jurisdictions.
- The goals of these workshops have been to increase understanding of Federal legal tools to address environmental and marine resource problems, increase cooperation and coordination among Federal and local jurisdictions, and present instruction on techniques and methods for conducting inspection and preparing cases.
- In its meeting this week here in Palau, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) also identified the importance of strong enforcement and the need for increased capacity building internationally in the areas of marine and natural resource enforcement.
- To address this need, ICRI has proposed the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* committee to focus on coral reef ecosystem enforcement and natural resource investigations, including both statutory and traditional law enforcement practices.
- ICRI’s proposed focus is broad-based, looking at issues ranging from the need for public education, the development of effective legislation, training on crime scene investigation, to hands-on training for prosecutors and judges.

- ICRI proposes the development of training materials that could be used by a global audience. Several Federal agency members of the Task Force are active in ICRI and currently working with ICRI on the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* committee on enforcement.
- In recent years the international coral community has worked collaboratively to develop a series of “toolkits” or guidebooks to assist resource managers in monitoring, establishing and measuring effectiveness of MPAs, and the like, but no such tool kit exists to assist in enforcement.

**Decision Statement:** The Task Force supports and recommends the continuation of ongoing efforts and development of new efforts by Task Force member agencies to conduct workshops and related activities to build capacity and effectiveness in the area of environmental, marine and natural resource enforcement.

Specifically, the Steering Committee is directed to work on development of written training guidance and other tools that can be used by all jurisdictions. The Steering Committee is also directed to investigate the feasibility of developing judicial training programs and report on these efforts to the CRTF at future meetings

The Task Force supports the efforts of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) to increase enforcement capacity internationally to protect coral reefs and related marine resources. It requests that those agencies currently involved in ICRI’s efforts share developments by the *Ad Hoc* committee with the Steering Committee on a periodic basis so that the Task Force may collaborate in ICRI’s efforts. It also encourages other Task Force member agencies and jurisdictions to join the ICRI *Ad Hoc* committee.