



FACT SHEET

External Program Review **NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP)**

WHAT:

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) is planning a program review by an external panel of experts, September 25-27, 2007, in Washington D.C.

The purpose of the review is to:

- Evaluate how effective the CRCP has been in meeting its legislative and other mandates over the 2002-2006 period;
- Provide recommendations on future directions to improve Program effectiveness.

The charge to the panel is provided below. The Review Panel will prepare a final report that includes panelist findings and recommendations.

The CRCP will use the results of the external review as one source of input during development of a CRCP strategic plan and priorities for 2009-2011.

WHY:

The CRCP is committed to improving its performance and considers review by an external panel of experts one of several important ways to get input on its effectiveness.

This is an important time for input because in the coming year, the CRCP will be assessing its strategy and priorities for 2009-11.

All NOAA programs are encouraged to conduct periodic external reviews.

External reviews are required as part of the OMB performance review process and the CRCP is scheduled for PART evaluation in 2009.

HOW:

DESIGN OF THE REVIEW: The CRCP Senior Management Council (David Kennedy (NOS), Pat Montanio (NMFS), Barbara Moore (OAR) and Al Powell (NESDIS) is leading design and

implementation of the Review through a Program Review Team that includes representatives of all 4 NOAA Line Offices.

EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL: The Review will be conducted by a 7 member external review panel with expertise in coral reef science and management from government and non-government organizations (see list of panelists below). Panelists will deliver findings and recommendations to CRCP in a final report.

CUSTOMER/STAKEHOLDER INPUT:

1. The Review will include input from customers, stakeholders, partners and the general public solicited through a federal register notice calling for input on the program.
2. The input collected through this call will be provided to the review panel.
3. A subset of key customers and stakeholders will also participate in the review panel meeting to provide input directly to the review panel.

INFORMATION FOR THE PANEL: The Panel will be provided with:

- Background information on the CRCP;
- Input from customers, stakeholders and partners collected via federal register notice;

REVIEW PANEL MEETING: The Sept 25-27 Panel meeting will include:

- Presentations and interaction with CRCP representatives from HQ and regions;
- Presentations and interactions with key external customers and stakeholders.

WHO:

The members of the review panel are:

Dr. Ron Baird, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Dr. Charles Birkeland, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Lynne Hale, Global Marine Initiative, The Nature Conservancy

Richard Kenchington, International Coral Reef Action Network

Dr. Kem Lowry, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. John McManus, Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami

Dr. Patrick Christie, School of Marine Affairs and Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

The following customers/stakeholders have agreed to attend the panel meeting to provide input on the CRCP:

Panel 1

Dr. Rich Appledorn (University of Puerto Rico)
Dr. Jerry Ault (Univ of Miami/RSMAS)
Dr. Mike Hamnet (University of Hawaii)
Dr. Jo-ann Leong (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology)
Dr. Steven Miller (University of North Carolina -Wilmington)
Dr. Bob Richmond (University of Hawaii)
Dr. Rob van Woesik (Florida Institute of Technology)

Panel 2:

Kacky Andrews (Coastal States Organization)
Stephanie Bailenson (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
Dr. Leah Bunce (Conservation International)
Billy Causey (NOAA/NOS/National Marine Sanctuaries Program)
Athline Clark (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Dr. Bill Eichbaum (World Wildlife Fund)
Kim Hum (The Nature Conservancy – Hawaii)
Dr. Karen Koltes (Dept of the Interior/Office of Insular Affairs)
Evanjeline Lujan (Government of Guam)
Robert Mahood (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information please contact

David Kennedy, Program Manager
301-713-3155
david.kennedy@noaa.gov

Roger Griffis, Program Coordinator
301-713-3155x152
roger.b.griffis@noaa.gov

CHARGE TO THE EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

The charge to the External Review Panel is to evaluate the success of the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) in meeting the purposes of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Section 202) and the National Coral Reef Action Strategy during the period 2002–2006, and to provide recommendations that the CRCP may use to improve the Program. The specific charge to the Panel is to evaluate past performance and provide recommendations for future improvement by addressing the following questions and topics:

1) **Is the CRCP directing resources and efforts in the appropriate areas to optimize the conservation of coral reef ecosystems?**

- **Mission** – Is the mission clear and appropriate to address Program mandates?
- **Goals and Objectives** – Are the goals and objectives clear and appropriate to address the Program mandates?
- **Priorities and Strategic Planning** – Are priorities appropriate to enable the Program to make a significant impact on coral reef conservation? Are there lower priorities that should be elevated, or *vice versa*, to complete or enhance long-term objectives?
- **Resources** – Is the Program funding the right balance of activities to advance the conservation of coral reefs? Is the overall Program cost-effective? Are available resources adequate to fulfill the Program mission?
- **Regional Focus** – Is the balance between efforts in the Atlantic and the Pacific appropriate to address the issues in each region? Is adequate effort being spent on international issues?

2) **How effective have these efforts been in advancing coral reef conservation?**

- **Application of Results to Resource Management** – Are the science and observation efforts (e.g., research, mapping, monitoring) funded by the Program adequately addressing management needs? Are they adequately informing and resulting in management actions? Are the Program’s efforts to build management capacity and support implementation of management actions resulting in effective conservation of coral reefs?
- **Education and Outreach** – Have the Program’s education and outreach efforts been effective in reaching target audiences?
- **Partnerships** – Is the Program building and maintaining effective partnerships in support of its mission and mandates?
- **Leadership** – Is the Program providing effective leadership to advance coral reef conservation?
- **Evaluation** – Is the CRCP using appropriate tools and mechanisms to evaluate impacts of funding and measure progress in meeting its goals and objectives?

3) **Building on responses to #1 and #2 above, how can the CRCP improve its impact and performance in the future?**