

NOAA Coral Program, International Working Group Meeting, 12/ 4/2008

ATTENDEES:

Al Strong, NOAA NESDIS
Tyler Christensen, NOAA NESDIS
Michael Abbey, NOAA NMFS
Arthur Paterson, NOAA NOS
Margot Bohan, NOAA OAR
Roger Griffis, NOAA, NMFS

Christy Loper, NOAA NOS
Scot Frew, NOAA NOS
Elizabeth McLanahan, NOAA OIA, (phone)
Paulo Maurin, NOAA NOS (phone)
Scott Smith, TNC (phone)
Roberta Elias, WWF (phone)

NOTES

Review of NOAA coral threat capabilities and regional needs assessments submitted to date

Christy combined submitted material which now forms the basis of the International Strategy text.

Fishing impacts

- NMFS (Michael): Submission is mostly from an existing summary of NMFS 2008 coral projects, reflecting NOAA capabilities. Additional info, such as project contacts, etc. is available.
- WWF (Roberta): submitted information on their Meso-america project, which notes, in particular, impacts from the lobster/fish trap fishery. They will try to obtain additional information on East Africa.
- TNC (Scott): Information coming soon.

Climate Change

- NESDIS (Al): Satellite bleaching alerts are already done internationally. Sea level observations, also now done internationally, will be included later.
- OAR (Margot) –Not all of projects included are specifically coral, but it might be useful to know about them. OAR is expanding all ocean observing systems.

Land-based Pollution

- NOS (Arthur) and OAR (Margot) submitted capabilities. Some of the items included should be under the Climate Change category.

Discussion:

- We need to figure out how to express NOAA capabilities: the potential range is too broad.
- We should indicate the management relationship or outcome. The capabilities should be linked to management solutions and to the strategy we are developing.
- We could redo the request – go back to the contributors with more specific guidance

Regional perspectives: Kacky sent out a coral list request to get more perspectives on regional threats, needs, solutions. Key regional problems/needs can be fed into regional perspectives. Core group (Roger, Arthur, Christy, Scot, Paulo) will assemble regional pieces next week.

Revised Report Structure

- We dropped a 4th area, marine management initiatives, which didn't fit the threat-based structure. For now, the draft will include each threat, one goal – long term 15-20 yrs, and five year objectives. Still not sure about particular aspects, like SocMon, it can made to fit other

sections, or think of a more appropriate category. In following meetings we'll discuss delivery mechanisms: funding levels, grants, NOAA capabilities.

- Goals, Objectives, Strategies format allows us to go from general to specific. We'll aim for 2-4 strategies, which will help focus on the priorities. Determining the goal statements sets the path. Outcomes under each goals will direct action. The IWG will work back from threats.
- The report will first identify priority issues/needs/gaps to help narrow the mandates/capabilities we list.
- Objectives should not be narrowed by current capabilities. That's where we should think broadly and consider partnerships and other players.
- The group will initially try one goal per threat, then list objectives under each goal.
- Still need to address outcome/indicators that will be our performance measures. The IWG will need to coordinate with the 3 Threat groups to see their goals and objectives.

ACTIONS (Note these have been modified since the meeting):

- Coordinators for each "threat" team are: Michael Abbey, Fishing impacts; Al Strong (with Margot Bohan), Climate Change; and Arthur Paterson, LBS.
- By our next meeting, December 22, the coordinators will identify team members to help write goals and objectives. Goal statements should be framed very broadly for a 20-year time frame and objectives for an approximate 5 year time frame. Each threat team should coordinate with their associated domestic threat-based panel during this effort. Goals and objectives are now due to the IWG by about January 29 (we'll confirm this date at our next meeting).
- Also by December 22, NGO representatives will look to their agencies for additional existing strategies and regional assessments and provide these to Scot and Christy. NGO reps will also identify associate experts to join each "threats" team.
- Roger, Arthur, Paulo, Christy and Scot will consolidate and review regional assessments and prepare short summaries for the Caribbean, Pacific, CTI and "Global/other" regions before December 22.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 22, 2-3:00PM