

1 **U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**
2 **Pago Pago, American Samoa**
3 **Approved August 23, 2007**
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5 **Resolution 18.3: Recognition and support for the United States All Islands Coral**
6 **Reef Committee Strategic Action Plan and Charter (2008-13).**
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8 **Points of Contact:**

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14 **Issue Statement:**
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16 The **U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)**) represents the Governors and
17 Executive branches of the states, commonwealths, territories and the Freely Associated
18 States (FAS) possessing coral reefs and related natural resources, and is made up of
19 marine resource managers from these jurisdictions working collaboratively with federal
20 agencies to conserve and protect coral reefs in the United States and FAS.
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22 As a result of a recent strategic planning process, the AIC members have produced the
23 Committee's new Strategic Action Plan (2008-2013) and Charter, which has been
24 distributed to USCRTF members. This strategic plan builds on the 1999 All Islands
25 Coral Reef Initiative Strategy, ("Green Book") and the 1997 U.S. Islands Coral Reef
26 Initiative ("Blue Book"). However, the strategic plan is different from these earlier
27 strategies as it focuses on the activities of the Committee as a whole and the AIC
28 Secretariat.
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30 **Relevant Mandates and Action to support the All Islands Coral Reef Committee**
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32 **Executive Order #13089 for the Protection of Coral Reefs** mandates that the "Task
33 Force shall oversee implementation of the policy... and support activities under the U.S.
34 Coral Reef Initiative ("CRI"). All Federal agencies whose actions may affect U.S. coral
35 reef ecosystems shall review their participation in the CRI and the strategies developed
36 under it..... and to the extent feasible, shall enhance Federal participation and support of
37 such strategies and plans."
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39 **The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs, 2002.** The USCRTF in 1999
40 formed seven working groups to address threats to coral reefs, including the U.S. All
41 Islands Working Group. This group produced a report, the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef
42 Initiative Strategy, as part of the National Action Plan.
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44 **Resolution 2-2 The Maui Resolution.** The USCRTF in 1999 agreed to "Support the
45 existing US Islands Coral Reef strategy as a priority for new funds proposed in President

46 Clinton's FY00 Lands Legacy Initiative". The spirit and intent of the resolution at that
47 time was to support the strategies identified by the All Islands Committee.

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49 **Resolution 8-1 Improving Procedures of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.** In the
50 Puerto Rico Resolution (2002) the Task Force, through its Steering Committee identified
51 the need to increase human resources supporting the Task Force, All Islands Committee,
52 State, Territory and Commonwealth coral reef conservation efforts. The resolution made
53 procedural revisions to address human resource limitations. The Steering Committee
54 agreed to work with the All Islands Committee to assess human resource needs required
55 and recommended strategies for increasing human resource capacity development and
56 funding. It also identified the need for "*adequate support for the All Islands Committee*
57 *Secretariat*" and "*the need to significantly strengthen the All Islands Committee*
58 *Secretariat*". The USCRTF has provided support to the All Islands Committee
59 Secretariat, however, additional support is required to enable the Committee to
60 implement its five year strategic plan.

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62 Support of the AIC's Strategic Plan and Charter by the USCRTF will enable the
63 Committee to continue to exercise and demonstrate leadership in the area of coral reef
64 management and conservation.

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66 **Background:**

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68 The AIC has been instrumental in providing leadership for coral reef conservation in
69 member jurisdictions. The Committee was established in 1994 by the governor-
70 appointed Points of Contact (POCs) from the U.S. states, territories and commonwealths
71 of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Hawai'i, Puerto
72 Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The AIC was recognized as a key element of the
73 overall U.S. Coral Reef Initiative in the *Presidential Executive Order 13089* which
74 established the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) in 1998. The State of Florida
75 joined the Committee as an Associate member in 2000 and became a full member in
76 early 2007. The Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the
77 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau were invited and became
78 Affiliate Members in 2000.

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80 Over the past decade, due in large part to AIC efforts, the USCRTF has been the driving
81 force behind scientific, governmental, and community based, efforts to protect coral reefs
82 and related ecosystems.

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84 Supporting the implementation of the AIC's five year strategic plan will signal a
85 continued USCRTF commitment to the conservation of coral reefs of the states,
86 commonwealths, territories and the Freely Associated States.

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88 The AIC is a partnership among states, territories and commonwealths working with the
89 USCRTF and federal agencies to stop and reverse the global degradation of coral reefs
90 and related ecosystems. The AIC participates in efforts to improve science-based

91 management of coral reef ecosystems, develop and implement sound policies, track and
92 assess the health of coral reef ecosystems.

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94 The AIC approach is to mobilize governments and a wide range of other stakeholders in
95 efforts to improve management practices, increase capacity and political support, and
96 share information on the health of these fragile ecosystems. AIC activities have inspired
97 successful regional and national efforts to protect coral reef ecosystems, including the
98 development and implementation of local action strategies (LAS) in seven member
99 jurisdictions.

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101 **Statement Decision:**

102 The USCRTF

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- Commends AIC efforts to develop their strategic plan to guide and track progress of future efforts;

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- Affirms its support for AIC's implementation of the strategic plan and the AIC Charter;

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- Encourages members to consider how they can actively participate in the implementation of the strategic action plan;

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- Requests that the USCRTF and AIC work collaboratively to identify possible roles to support implementation of the plan and report back to the USCRTF at the spring 2008 meeting.

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