

NOAA Coral Program, International Working Group Meeting, January 15, 2009

Present:

Michael Abbey, NOAA NMFS
Roger Griffis, NOAA, NMFS
Felipe Arzayus, NOAA OAR
Margot Bohan, NOAA OAR
Arthur Paterson, NOAA NOS

Scot Frew, NOAA NOS
Paulo Maurin, NOAA NOS
Al Strong, NOAA NESDIS (phone)
Scott Smith, TNC (phone)

Meeting Notes:

Report Structure

Following discussions with Kacky, we have decided to, at least in the drafting stage, focus the international strategy on regional perspectives rather than priority coral threats. For this effort the IWG will look to key regional players and initiatives to help determine what is needed and where NOAA can best provide services. The assessment will make up most of the report but thematic threats may still play a part in the final layout.

The regional assessments will summarize: major initiatives / key players in the region; priority coral issues (threats); priority needs; and most importantly, solutions or services that NOAA can offer (organized as Goals, Objectives and Strategies). Regional goals will reflect a 5-year timeline, representing a realistic goal where NOAA can play a role (either with existing or expanded capability).

To help develop the assessments, over the next three weeks we will hold discussions with NOAA and non-NOAA experts in the field. IWG members are encouraged to identify experts for the following regions:

Wider Caribbean (lead, Scot)

Scott Smith will identify some key people. He will also be attending a TNC meeting in Miami next week to coordinate NGO work in support of the Caribbean Challenge. A summary draft will be shared with the group.

Micronesia and Samoa (lead, Paulo)

Paulo and Kacky held discussions last week with some Micronesia experts and Paulo has completed a preliminary draft. The group suggested additional calls with Steven Vicktor, PICRC, Willy Kostka, Micronesia Trust, and Robert Richmond UHM. Scott Smith will provide a link to the "Pacific 2020," a broader initiative that expands beyond the Micronesia region, for a possible mechanism for engaging regional work (to supplement MC and Two Samoas Initiative).

Coral Triangle plus Fiji and Vanuatu (lead, Roger)

Roger and Michael Abbey will be going to a CTI meeting in Indonesia in two weeks and will use the opportunity to speak with experts from the region.

Global / other regions (tbd) (lead, Christy)

February Workshop

The workshop will be held after the CRTF meeting, Thursday, February 26 and possibly part of the following day. We hope to bring in some Micronesia people who are already going to the CRTF. For our \$15K budget, we will likely invite one additional Micronesia representative, and several people from the Caribbean people. Invitees should ideally be from or working in the region and have a balance of expertise (fishing, LBS, climate change). IWG members are encouraged to identify Caribbean workshop participants by next Thursday, January 22. We will discuss the workshop agenda at our next meeting.

Domestic Threat Panel Update

Overfishing– The panel will hold a workshop in Annapolis in a few weeks to prepare their goals and objectives.

Action Items

- All: Submit to Christy and Scot by Thursday, January 22, experts the assessment leads might speak with to gather info for the Caribbean, Micronesia and CTI regions
- All: Submit to Christy and Scot by Thursday, January 22, Caribbean representatives to attend the February 26 workshop.
- Assessment Leads: Submit first drafts Wednesday, February 4.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 2-3pm, NOAA SSMC4, Room 9153