

IWG 11/13/2008 Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Michael Abbey (NOAA NMFS)
Al Strong (NOAA NESDIS- Coral Reef Watch)
Christy Loper (NOAA NOS CRCP)
Paulo Maurin (NOAA NOS CRCP)
Arthur Paterson (NOAA NOS IPO)
Scott Smith (TNC) (phone)
Karen Koltes (DoI) (phone)
Roberta Elias (WWF)

MEETING NOTES

1. Discussion of lessons learned/what has and has not worked for international grants

- Several members mentioned that there is not enough allocation of resources to evaluate and disseminate results from projects. Funding should have some provisions for technical assistance, to help smaller NGOs in the administration and reporting requirements of funding.
- Several members commented on the cumbersome application process for both NFWF and NOAA International Coral Grants, which can be challenging for developing country partners. In particular, NFWF's logic model requirement and NOAA's grants.gov process are difficult.
- TNC suggested that NOAA conduct a sort of meta-analysis of data from coral grants projects. There should be a more systematic way to connect results from varied projects, and provide a more robust analysis.
- NMFS commented that grants are currently not directed at Roadmap threat areas, and should align with these major theme areas. Some emphasis should be given to key indicator fish species, ensuring that research is done on such species, and engaging the fisheries aspect is part of the general "conversation," taking an ecosystem approach.
- International Trade: This issue is often brought up, and there seems to be consensus from NMFS that trade of coral reef-related species needs to be fully addressed.

On lack of NFWF funding of international coral work:

- NFWF filled an important niche. NFWF was willing to fund work in all coral reef areas of the world, unlike most other coral grants. Therefore, these grants represent a unique funding mechanism.
- Many of the grants they had were, however, relatively small but came with significant requirements. Often, the accountability and application process for small grants was such that it discouraged NGOs from applying. They were a lot of work, but for relatively small funding amounts. Increases in funding caps should be considered.

2. Discussion of management needs identified in regional literature

IWG members are encouraged to submit more resources for the reference list

3. Involving the broader NGO community

- Christy will notify the larger DC marine community about IWG's thinking and direction.
- NGO community input will be sought through solicitations on Coral List and other relevant fora.

4. Presentation of strawman structure of International Strategy

The proposed structure for the IWG report was discussed. This report will likely contain seven main sections and several subsections:

1. Introduction
2. Fishing Impacts
 - a. Goals and Objectives
 - b. NOAA Capabilities
 - c. Regional Perspectives
3. Land-Based Sources of Pollution
 - a. Goals and Objectives
 - b. NOAA Capabilities
 - c. Regional Perspectives
4. Climate Change
 - a. Goals and Objectives
 - b. NOAA Capabilities
 - c. Regional Perspectives
5. Marine Management Initiatives
 - a. Goals and Objectives
 - b. NOAA Capabilities
 - c. Regional Perspectives
6. Delivery Mechanisms
7. Recommendations

It is expected that following our next meeting, the IWG will be in a position to begin drafting goals and objectives for each of the major thematic areas. Regional perspectives will be provided by the NGO and federal partners on the IWG according to their expertise (e.g. Koltes can best provide regional perspective for Micronesia). Initially, first draft attempts of NOAA capabilities will be divided as follows:

- Fisheries: Abbey
- Pollution: Paterson
- Climate Change: Strong
- Marine Management Initiatives: Loper

ACTION ITEMS AND FOLLOW UP: (See guidance on email message)

- **Christy** will develop draft survey to solicit input from the broader international community (update- using web-based survey tools is not an option for us; we will therefore draft a list of questions to be asked over coral list and discussed in a series of conference calls for international partners to submit input)

DRAFTING OF INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY:

- **NOAA members** will provide agency capabilities in each of the main areas (Fishing, Pollution, Climate Change) to Christy Loper and Scot Frew by noon on Tuesday Dec 2.
- **NGO and federal partner members** will submit information regional perspectives for each area, also by noon on Tuesday, December 2.
- This input will form the basis of the “NOAA Capabilities” and “Regional Perspective” sections of the draft International Strategy

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, Dec 4, 2008, at 1:30 PM