

## International Year of the Reef 2008



**Alissa Barron, NOAA**

**October 25, 2006**

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

## Historical Overview: 1997 IYOR

- Primary goal: To raise global awareness of the value of coral reefs and the challenges they face
- Prompted by the scientific community and supported by governments and organizations around world
- Intended to promote and pursue the goals of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- General examples of IYOR activities:
  - reef clean ups, volunteer monitoring (Reef Check '97), protected area designations, creation of coral reef guides, coral reef workshops for teachers, photo competitions/ exhibitions, etc.



## Momentum for a 10-yr Anniversary of IYOR

- **Ongoing discussions** by international ad hoc group
- **Resolutions** to move forward with 2008 IYOR:
  - ICRI Nov 2005 Decision (recurring Day of the Reef)
  - USCRTF Nov. 2005 Resolution (scoping)
  - USCRTF May 2006 Resolution (endorsement)
  - ITMEMS: Int'l Discussion Workshops
  - ICRI Oct. 2006 Resolution (endorsement)



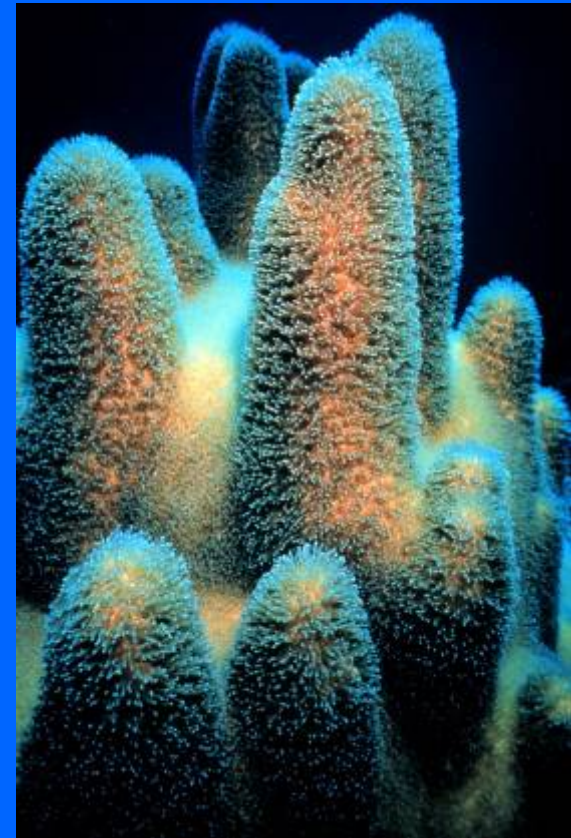
## ITMEMS and ICRI

- **ITMEMS:**
  - Two IYOR workshops
  - ITMEMS Action Statement including six IYOR recommendations
- **ICRI General Meeting:**
  - 2008 IYOR Resolution and discussion
  - IYOR Terms of Reference for “ad hoc committee”



## Key Events Taking Place in 2008

- Key Events in 2008:
  - U.S. and Mexico to serve as co-chairs of ICRI Secretariat – 2007 to 2009
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of GCRMN, Reef Check network, and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
  - International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) – July 2008
  - Release of Global and U.S. ‘State of Reef’ reports
  - Opening of Smithsonian Oceans Hall Coral Reef Exhibit (30M visitors/yr)
  - *Others?*



## 2008 IYOR Decision Item

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force:

- Reaffirms its support and endorsement of the 2008 International Year of the Reef.
- Encourages its members to actively participate in the IYOR Working Group through their designated POC, and to consider in detail the role of their agency or jurisdiction in IYOR.



## 2008 IYOR Decision Item

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force:

- Encourages its members to **support IYOR through financial contributions, staff time, and/or content development** for coral reef related events, announcements, products and initiatives for 2008.
- Requests that its members **report** on their initial levels of support for IYOR during the **Spring 2007 CRTF** meeting.
- Requests that the Working Group present their **IYOR plan of action during the Spring 2007 CRTF meeting.**

## CRTF IYOR Side Meeting

- October 26: 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Provide detailed update on IYOR efforts (including ITMEMS, ICRI)
- Discuss proposed outline of U.S. IYOR Plan of Action

