

*Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
November 5-7, 2005
Republic of Palau*

Resolution 14-7: Call for Increased Use of Coral Reef Protected Areas

Summary: Following panel presentations on use of protected areas and protected area networks for coral reef conservation, the Task Force affirmed the goals and objectives for coral reef protected areas in the National Action Plan and Strategy, and tasked the Steering Committee with completing the draft inventory of existing U.S. coral reef protected areas by the next Task Force meeting.

Decision Statement: The Task Force reaffirms the goals and objectives for building effective coral reef protected areas and protected area networks in coral reef ecosystems adopted by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) as part of the U.S. National Action Plan for Coral Reef Conservation and the U.S. National Coral Reef Action Strategy. The CRTF encourages local, state/territory, national and international entities to assist in fulfilling these goals.

To help achieve these goals/objectives, the CRTF calls on member agencies to

1. Support and help build collaborative partnerships to strengthen the effectiveness of existing sites and further the development and implementation of coral reef protected area networks. Specifically, CRTF member agencies can assist by providing technical assistance to help build local capacity and support for the design, designation and management of sites.
2. Coordinate and integrate their protected area efforts as appropriate with the ongoing initiative to develop the National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), as called for by Presidential Executive Order 13158 on MPAs.
3. Complete the draft inventory and assessment of U.S. coral reef protected areas prior to the next CRTF meeting.