

3rd Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
November 2-3, 1999
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Resolution 3-10 - The CRTF adopted the following resolution concerning fishery management councils:

Historically fishery management councils operating under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) have focused on conservation and management on a species by species basis. With this Task Force and Executive Order, the councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have an opportunity to go further. Some councils have begun to address corals on an ecosystem basis--which we applaud--but are finding it difficult to succeed while working within the boundaries of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Task Force requests that the Council on Environmental Quality convene a group to assist in this effort by providing guidance to the councils and NMFS on how best to protect corals through its NEPA responsibilities and on an ecosystem basis.