

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program Roadmap for the Future

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Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP)

- Established in 2000 to support effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore coral reef ecosystems
- Implement Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA) and other drivers (Executive order 13089 on Coral Reef Protection, U.S. National Action Strategy to Conserve Coral Reefs)
- Co-lead and support U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Who is the CRCP?

- **NOAA partners**

- 4 Line Offices (NOS, NMFS, OAR, NESDIS)
- 30 NOAA offices

- **External partners**

- State & Territory Governments
- Local Resource Managers
- Resource Users
- NGOs
- Private Sector
- Federal Agencies
- International Partners
- Academia
- Local Communities



2007 External Program Review

- To provide independent assessment of CRCP's effectiveness and success in achieving its goals
- To offer recommendations on how to improve impact and performance

Panel Feedback

- Panel provided feedback and recommendations including:
 - Reducing and sharpening objectives
 - Less assessing; More work to reduce stressors
 - Strengthening link between science and management
 - Engaging in more strategic partnerships
 - Improving leveraging of resources
 - Increasing international activities

Roadmap for the Future



Why a roadmap?

- CRCP response to program review and new leadership recommendations
- Set future direction of CRCP to improve program coordination and effectiveness
- Identifies all the moving pieces in one place

CRCP Direction

Mission:

To conserve coral reefs

Primary objective:

To address strategic coral reef management needs

CRCP Priorities

Understanding and addressing:

- Fishing impacts
- Land-based sources of pollution
- Climate change impacts

CRCP Principles

- Address coral reef management needs based on sound science
- Take an ecosystem-level approach, including human aspects
- Implement objectives through strong partnerships
- Leverage non-CRCP resources
- Include measurable objectives in all CRCP activities
- Have clear and transparent decision-making processes
- Funding will reflect CRCP priorities

Implementation Plans

- Strategic goals and objectives around 3 priority threats
- Identification of long term mapping, monitoring and data management needs. Workshops in Pacific and Caribbean/Atlantic
- Identification of place-based management priorities / Capacity assessments
- Re-evaluation of education and outreach activities
- Re-evaluation of international program
- Expanded U.S. Coral Reef Task Force partnerships

Advisory Panels for 3 Priority Threats

Charge to each Panel:

- Recommend long-term goals (20 years) for addressing threat
- Recommend objectives (5 years) for reaching goals
- Suggest performance measures for all objectives
- Prioritize goals and objectives

Advisory Panels for 3 Priority Threats

Panel composition:

- Representatives from each of 4 NOAA Line Offices
- 2 State and Territory members per panel (1 Caribbean, 1 Pacific) (+1 extra Pacific)
- Other federal agency representative(s) (incl. Councils)
- NGO representative(s)
- Non-State/Territorial manager(s)
- Academia representative(s)

Advisory Panels for 3 Priority Threats

Timeline:

- Advisory panel membership will be finalized by end of September and will begin work in October 2008
- Draft goals and objectives expected by end of March 2009; will be submitted for comment to coral reef community
- Revised final goals and objectives expected end of May 2009, which will inform the Fiscal Year 2010 CRCP Spend Plan
- Note: New funding decision-making process will not be fully operational until FY2011 planning

During and After Advisory Panels

- Pacific monitoring workshop in Honolulu in November
- Caribbean monitoring workshop in Spring 2009
- Jurisdictional strategic management priorities in early 2010
- Others: reassessment of grant programs, funding decision-making process, int'l program and E&O activities

We would like your help

How can the CRCP most effectively engage the USCRTF or individual members in the roadmap process?