

*11th Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
February 24-25, 2004
Washington, D.C.*

Resolution 11-1: Progress Report on Implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy

Background

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) was established in 1998 to lead and coordinate U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. In 2000, the Task Force adopted the first U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (NAPlan), a comprehensive road map for federal, state, territorial, and local action to reverse the decline of coral reef ecosystems. The NAPlan established 13 major goals and outlined key actions to address them.

In 2001, the CRTF developed a 2002-2003 National Coral Reef Action Strategy (NAStrategy) to assist in implementing the NAPlan and fulfill requirements of the Coral Reef Conservation Act. The NAStrategy included:

1. An assessment of accomplishments towards the 13 NAPlan goals;
2. Information on federal funding directly related to coral reef conservation in 1999-2001; and
3. Priority actions for implementation in 2002-2003 to help address the 13 NAPlan goals.

In 2002, the CRTF identified a number of barriers to implementation of the NAStrategy, including the need to better assess performance and track progress towards the 13 NAPlan goals.

The Coral Reef Conservation Act requires submission of an “effectiveness report” every two years on progress to implement the NAStrategy. The first “effectiveness report” is due in the summer of 2004. This proposal suggests that all Task Force members fully assist and participate in the development and production of an “effectiveness report” to evaluate progress to implement the NAStrategy.

Resolution 11-1: Task Force members will fully assist and participate in the development and production of an effectiveness report on all activities undertaken to implement the National Action Strategy.

Rationale:

- Implementing the U.S. National Action Plan requires periodic evaluation of progress towards the goals and objectives.
- The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 requires a report to Congress “describing all activities undertaken to implement the strategy, including a description of the funds obligated each fiscal year to advance coral reef conservation”.

- Producing a results-oriented report on progress to implement the NA Strategy would help address needs identified by the Task Force to improve assessment and tracking of performance.

Actions and Timeline:

- Task Force members will fully assist and participate in the development and production of an effectiveness report on all activities undertaken to implement the National Action Strategy.
- To assist in fulfilling this resolution, the CRTF Steering Committee will:
 1. Design a process and a report that fulfills (but is not limited to) the reporting requirements identified in the Coral Reef Conservation Act (e.g., descriptions of all activities undertaken to implement the NA Strategy and a description of the funds obligated each fiscal year to advance coral reef conservation);
 2. Identify and compile information needed to complete the report.
 3. Use the information compiled for the CRTF 2002-2003 Accomplishments Report as an initial source of information to build on.
 4. Evaluate existing performance metrics, and recommend changes to improve evaluation and tracking of progress towards each of the 13 goals;
 5. Deliver a final draft report to the Task Force for review, approval and submission to the Congress by September 1.