

1 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting  
2 Pago Pago, American Samoa  
3 Approved August 23, 2007  
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6 **Resolution 18.2: Renew and Strengthen Support for the Local Action Strategy**  
7 **(LAS) Initiative**  
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9 **Point of Contact:** Steering Committee, and All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)  
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11 **Issue Statement:** This resolution re-affirms and strengthens support from the U.S. Coral  
12 Reef Task Force (USCRTF) for the continued implementation of existing LAS and the  
13 development of new LAS.  
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15 **Background:** In 2002, the USCRTF adopted the *National Action Strategy to Conserve*  
16 *Coral Reefs (Strategy)* which included 13 goals for coral reef conservation in the U.S. At  
17 the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the USCRTF held in Puerto Rico in 2002, the Task Force met to  
18 discuss how to increase translation of these broad national goals into on-the-ground  
19 management action in the states and territories, and how the USCRTF could better  
20 support implementation to reach these goals and objectives.  
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22 As a result, the USCRTF approved the “Puerto Rico” resolution which identified several  
23 key issues and solutions to increase implementation of the Strategy. One of the key  
24 issues was the need for increased inter-agency coordination and collaboration in planning  
25 and implementing actions in each region and jurisdiction that address the goals of the  
26 Strategy. To attend to this issue, the resolution called for “each state/territory and its  
27 federal partners work cooperatively to develop locally directed, action strategies for  
28 applicable focus areas giving due consideration to local priorities, federal agency  
29 mandates and contribution toward the goals of the NAS.”  
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31 Since then, all seven states and territories on the USCRTF (coral jurisdictions) have  
32 worked in conjunction with their local, state/territory, federal, and non-agency partners to  
33 develop and implement local action strategies (LAS) which address six priority threats:  
34 lack of public awareness, over fishing, land-based sources of pollution, recreational  
35 overuse and misuse, disease, and climate change and coral bleaching. Several  
36 jurisdictions identified additional priority threats to coral reefs such as population  
37 pressure, invasive species, and maritime industry/ coastal construction impacts and  
38 developed LAS to address those issues as well. The LAS initiative is in different stages  
39 with diverse approaches within each jurisdiction; sometimes with multiple LAS on  
40 different timelines.  
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42 Without active engagement and support for the recommendations within the LAS,  
43 including involvement in on-the-ground activities in each jurisdiction, it is difficult to  
44 complete or fully implement current LAS and or to initiate revisions to the LAS.  
45 It is crucial to the success of LAS in each jurisdiction to continue to receive support from  
46 the state, territorial, and federal partners to the communities and stakeholders in which

47 commitments have already been made and build any new LAS processes on those  
48 programs that have been initiated. Capacity to implement, manage and revise the LAS  
49 remains a key need.

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51 The 2007 USCRTF publication “Status of Local Action Strategies to Conserve and  
52 Protect Coral Reefs: 2002-2006” identifies the major accomplishments of this effort, the  
53 amount of funding and assistance provided to achieve these results, and a detailed  
54 lessons-learned section on how the LAS process can be improved. The coral jurisdictions  
55 and the Federal agency members of the USCRTF have also worked over the last 2 years  
56 to develop new LAS guidance for revising or developing new LAS as part of a new LAS  
57 planning and implementation cycle. The final guidance 2007 USCRTF Guidance on  
58 Coral Reef Local Action Strategies (attached) provides flexible, results-oriented steps  
59 which will help structure new LAS cycles within the unique context of each jurisdiction.  
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### 62 **Statement Decision:**

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64 To improve coordination and collaboration of on-the-ground action to implement the  
65 National Action Strategy to Conserve Coral Reefs as called for in the Puerto Rico  
66 Resolution (2002), the USCRTF:

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- 68 • Endorses the continued support for, and implementation and updating of existing  
69 LAS by state, territory, federal and non-government partners;
- 70 • Calls on jurisdictions, within the limits of their authorities, budgets and other  
71 resources (as appropriate), with support from federal USCRTF members, to  
72 update LAS, as necessary, to incorporate the key elements of the 2007 USCRTF  
73 Guidance on Coral Reef Local Action Strategies recognizing that:
  - 74 ○ New LAS may be developed and updated concurrently or staggered over  
75 a longer time period.
  - 76 ○ Implementation of existing LAS should continue while new LAS are  
77 brought on line.
- 78 • Calls on the Federal members of the USCRTF, within the limit of their agency  
79 authorities, missions and budgets to, as appropriate:
  - 80 ○ Reaffirm active participation by federal partners on LAS steering  
81 committees within each jurisdiction.
  - 82 ○ Provide technical assistance to the jurisdictions in both project  
83 implementation and LAS revisions (this includes assistance in  
84 development of performance measures, and implementation of LAS  
85 guidance.)
  - 86 ○ Provide funding and/or technical assistance to fully assess the capacity  
87 needs (including staff) within each jurisdiction to implement and update  
88 the LAS.
  - 89 ○ Assist local jurisdictions in identifying key grants that apply based on  
90 need, and provide assistance to the jurisdictions in grant writing, training  
and application processes.

- 91                   ○ Support or adopt projects within the LAS and work through the LAS  
92                   steering committees to coordinate one or more of the projects within each  
93                   jurisdiction.  
94                   ○ Encourage funding for LAS in federal budgets.
- 95                   ● Calls on NOAA and DOI to help facilitate consultation regarding the provision of  
96                   federal assistance with each coral jurisdiction (working with the U.S. All Islands  
97                   Coral Reef Committee and USCRTF Secretariat) on how they will assist  
98                   jurisdictions in implementing and developing existing and updating LAS.
  - 99                   ● Calls on NOAA and other USCRTF members to create and maintain a web-  
100                   based *Jurisdictional Coral Project Funding and Performance Database* to help  
101                   the USCRTF track the status of LAS projects, accomplishments, and funding  
102                   support from all sources.
  - 103                   ● Calls upon USCRTF members to provide periodic progress updates on LAS  
104                   implementation or support.
  - 105                   ● Recognizes that the LAS in and of themselves are not a complete solution to  
106                   coral reef conservation and management.