

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

Resolution 3-12 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers brought to the attention of the CRTF a Joint Memorandum for the Field, to be signed today (November 3, 1999), from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army (Civil Works), concerning “Special Emphasis Given to Coral Reef Protection under the Clean Water Act, Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and Federal Project Authorities.” Its conclusion reads as follows:

Coral reefs are widely recognized as highly productive, ecologically valuable, and economically important ecosystems that, because of their particular sensitivity to environmental changes, are experiencing a world-wide decline. The CWA, MPRSA, RHA, and Federal Projects conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, by statute and implementing regulations, give particular attention to protecting coral reefs as special aquatic sites from adverse chemical, biological, and physical impacts associated with discharges into the Nation’s waters, including marine waters. Projects that may directly or indirectly adversely affect coral reefs will be given the highest level of protection. This guidance reemphasizes the protections intended for coral reefs under the laws our agencies implement and should ensure that agency field staff are applying these regulations to ensure effective protection for these critical marine ecosystems.