



Jurisdictions Perspective on Federal Support for Local Action Strategies (LAS)

November 3, 2009

US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

Puerto Rico

LAS History

- *Puerto Rico Resolution –varying levels of agreement*
- *Original Approach included:*
 - *Federal Navigators and Local Navigators*
 - *Threats: Land Base Sources of Pollution, Fisheries Management, Public Outreach and Education, Recreational Use and Misuse, Climate change, bleaching and disease*
 - *Jurisdiction treats- marine construction, invasive species, population pressure, increase development*
 - *3 year LAS for each Threat*
 - *Identify funding required and timelines*

LAS Implementation

- **Local Action Strategy Workshops held in each jurisdiction**
- **Federal and Local navigators identified**
 - **strong federal presence - federal navigators were identified and regularly participated**
 - **areas where not so strong federal presence navigators came from outside the jurisdiction – many difficulties including communication and commitment from Federal agencies**

Projects were going to be shopped around to federal agencies for support

LAS Implementation - success

- 100s of stakeholder meetings held in the jurisdictions
- Many projects were implemented
- Many, many presentations to the Task Force on the projects implemented from each jurisdiction
- Many partners including local agencies, federal agencies, universities, NGOs, private organizations



LAS Implementation – Success

- NOAA's Status of the Local Action Strategy – provides summary of the past LAS
- Jurisdictions received technical assistance, workshops, training, various in-kind contributions including participation in LAS meetings

LAS Implementation - challenges

- Some Federal Navigators were not able to commit to participation
- Jurisdiction's expectation – was it really SMART ???
- Issues related to lack of capacity, and funding
- Not all necessary local efforts were reflected in the LAS – legislative efforts, problems that needed immediate attention not listed in the LAS

LAS Implementation - Challenges

- Many projects are NOT funded or implemented
 - Partners not identified to fund projects
 - Projects do not fit into existing federal grants
- Many large scale projects that will have the biggest impact were not funded



What did the Jurisdiction do?

- During USCRTF meetings – provided testimony to support LAS with Congressional staff
- Participated in many presentations on LAS
- Recently – AIC visited several Federal Agencies including NOAA, USEPA, USDA and DOI
 - Direct communication and request for jurisdiction
 - Provided an opportunity to learn more about the various grant programs
 - AIC conduct a summit during the Winter 2010 meeting



Where do we go from here?

- Several Jurisdictions are going through development of new LAS
- Several jurisdictions are adding additional threats –Impacts from development
- Several jurisdiction are moving toward site base management – focus limited funding in a single watershed



LAS needs across jurisdictions

- Limited staff capacity in the local agencies
- Need for additional funding
 - especially for monitoring and research to inform management actions
- Interagency coordination
 - many projects require large budgets and cut across multiple agencies



What can Federal members do increase support for locally driven initiatives ?

- Work more closely among jurisdictions to share resources and experience
- Work with federal members of the USCRTF to address needs in the jurisdictions
- Focus on addressing unresolved issues and long-standing needs, including:
 - implementing USCRTF Climate Change Resolution
 - implementing USCRTF Framework for Action
 - Identify funds for infrastructure projects



What can Federal members do increase support for locally driven initiatives ?

- Request support for USDA's challenge
- Federal grants require LAS projects – put in the FFO
- Develop a Financial Sustainability Plan for major project – similar to a business plan
- Fund staff on the ground – PIRO, interns, coral fellows, etc...



Thank you...