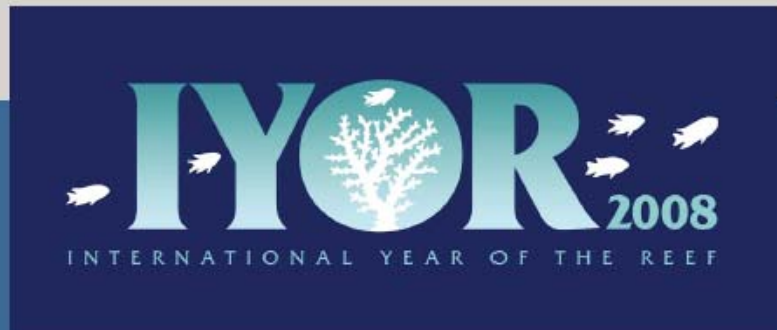




Coral Reef Ecosystem Management The Next Ten Years: Challenges; Key Priorities; and Innovative Solutions

*US Coral Reef Task Force
19th Meeting
Washington, DC*

Billy D. Causey, Ph.D.
SE Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



**Coral reefs enrich our health, our wealth,
our lives. The National Marine Sanctuary
System protects coral reef ecosystem for
this and future generations.**



In order to get a range of opinions, ideas and recommendations on the 3 topics:

Challenges

Key Priorities

Innovative Solutions

I queried 30 coral reef scientists and managers



International Year of the Reef



“We all know that there is currently a move toward the idea that we may have crossed the threshold, passed the tipping point, or whatever you wish to call it, and that it is already all over for coral reefs. That is both wrong and a terrible strategy for getting us and the public cranked up to save reefs. If it's game-over, then we might as well pack up and go home. An evolving hot-button issue for me as ISRS Pres. is combating that pernicious attitudeout there it is an injury internal to the community of coral reef scientists (and the managers and policy people), which needs to be cauterized immediately.”

Dr. Rich Aronson, President
International Society for Reef Studies



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International Year of the Reef



“At every step we are still bedeviled by our language. While we seem to be stuck with the term MPA, I much prefer ABM (Area-based management; not EBM!) as it more accurately describes what we actually do. Unless we shift the focus from MPA (and no-take marine reserves) to ABM I fear we won't be successful and bringing large areas under management, which is in my opinion the only way we will be ultimately successful.”

John C. Ogden, Ph.D.
Director
Florida Institute of Oceanography



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Challenges

- **MPA / Marine Reserve Management**
- **Historical Perspectives and Public Awareness of the Importance of Coral Reefs**
- **Future Funding for Coral Reef Conservation and Management**



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Challenges

- **Issues Affecting the Health of Coral Reef Ecosystems from the Global, Regional and Local Scales**
- **Global Issues Affecting the Health of Coral Reefs**
- **Overcoming Regulatory Red Tape**



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Key Priorities

- **MPA / Marine Reserve Management**
- **Apply Our Management at the Appropriate Spatial and Temporal Scales**
- **Historical Understanding and Awareness**



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Key Priorities

- Create Strong Partnerships and Cross-cutting Opportunities on the USCRTF**
- Improve Coral Reef Health through Local, Regional and Global Actions**



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Innovative Solutions

- **Develop Innovative Partnerships at Local, Regional and Global Scales**
- **Use the Membership of the USCRTF to Identify funding Opportunities**
- **Invest in the Remote Sensing Tools and Support their Use by Managers and Scientists**



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Innovative Solutions

- **Get in Front of the Problems Affecting Coral Reefs**
- **Understand the Genetic Time Span to Which Corals Respond**
- **Need to Utilize Innovative Ways to Reach the Public**
- **Support Innovative Approaches to Restoring Coral Health and Ecological Services**



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Conclusions

- Not a comprehensive list of Challenges, Key Priorities or Innovative Solutions.
- It is meant to be a *Living Document* that can be revisited periodically.
- We can revise this list as technology and/or research improves our understanding of coral reefs.





Let's Build on the Momentum



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