Table 2. Key Actions to Reduce Threats to Coral Reefs

This table summarizes the relative importance (H = high, M = medium, L = low) of the 13 major goal areas outlined in the Strategy and National Action Plan in addressing key threats to coral reef ecosystems. A higher ranking suggests that activities under this goal are considered more important to addressing the threat. Lower rankings suggest that although activities under this goal may make significant contributions, they may currently be less important to addressing the threat. Rankings were provided by the United States Coral Reef Task Force Working Groups and other sources for use in this document. The actual importance of each goal to addressing threats to reefs will depend on location and other factors (see Tables 3 and 4 for regional comparisons).

KEY THREATS	GOALS												
	Understand Coral Reef Ecosystems				Reduce the Adverse Impacts of Human Activities on Reefs								
	Map All U.S. Coral Reefs	Assess and Monitor Reef Health	Conduct Strategic Research	Understand Social and Economic Factors	Improve Use of Marine Protected Areas	Reduce Impacts of Fishing	Reduce Impacts of Coastal Uses	Reduce Pollution	Restore Damaged Reefs	Improve Education and Outreach	Reduce Threats to International Reefs	Reduce Impacts from International Trade	Improve Coordination and Accountability
Global Warming/ Climate Change	M	H	H	H	M	L	M	H	L	H	H	L	H
Diseases	M	H	H	L	L	M	L	M	L	L	L	L	M
Hurricanes/ Typhoons	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L	L
Extreme Biotic Events	L	M	H	H	L	L	L	L	M	L	M	L	L
Overfishing	H	H	H	H	H	H	L	L	L	H	H	H	H
Destructive Fishing Practices	M	H	M	H	H	H	L	L	H	H	H	H	H
Habitat Destruction	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	L	H	H	H	M	H
Invasive Species	L	H	M	M	M	L	L	H	L	H	M	M	H
Coastal Development	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	H	L	H
Coastal Pollution	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	H	L	H	H	L	H
Sedimentation/ Runoff	M	H	H	H	M	L	H	H	L	H	H	L	H
Marine Debris	L	M	L	L	L	H	L	H	L	H	M	L	M
Overuse from Tourism or Recreation	M	H	M	H	H	M	H	L	L	H	H	M	L
Vessel Groundings	M	M	L	L	H	L	H	L	H	H	H	L	H
Vessel Discharges	L	M	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	H	H	L	H

H = High priority action needed to address threat
M = Medium priority action to address threat
L = Low priority action to address threat