



# U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)

Fran Castro, Chair  
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# Coral Reef Ecosystem Importance



Thriving coral reef ecosystems, effectively managed to protect their ecological, social, and economic value for future generations. (AIC vision)

- The AIC jurisdictions are home to much of our nation's shallow-water tropical coral reefs.
- Coral reefs are critically important to the jurisdictions and FAS
- Provide economic, cultural, and ecological services to millions of people as valuable areas of natural beauty, cultural significance, sources of food, jobs and revenues, recreation and tourism, shoreline protection, and much more

# Background

The islands and the AIC are an integral part of the history of coral reef conservation in the U.S. and helped to create much of what guides coral reef conservation today.

- **1994:** U.S. announced International Coral Reef Initiative & U.S. Pacific Islands workshop held to develop the 1<sup>st</sup> regional Coral Reef Initiative Work Plan. *AIC members involved.*
- **1996:** AIC was established.
- **1998:** EO 13089 / USCRTF formed – AIC recognized as a key element of the overall U.S. Coral Reef Initiative
- **2000:** Coral Reef Conservation Act





# What is the AIC?

The **combined voice of the coral reef jurisdictions** of the U.S. and Freely Associated States.

- Strengthen jurisdiction voices in the federal process to conserve coral reefs
- Share common experiences, successes, and failures

The AIC



# Who is the AIC?

## Members

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** – Fran Castro, Chair

**U.S. Virgin Islands** – Jean-Pierre Oriol, Vice Chair

**American Samoa** – Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, PhD

**Florida** – Joanna Walczak

**Guam** – Lorilee Crisostomo

**Hawai'i** – Emma Anders

**Puerto Rico** – Damaris Delgado

## Affiliate Members

**Federated States of Micronesia** – Alissa Takesy

**Republic of the Marshall Islands** – Don Hess

**Republic of Palau** – Umiich Sengebau

## AIC Secretariat

Carey Morishige Martinez – Executive Director

Gerry Davis – Resource Management Advisor

Michael Hamnett, PhD – Policy Advisor

Robert Richmond, PhD – Science Advisor





# How does the AIC work?



# AIC and the Task Force



The **USCRTF** provides the **invaluable opportunity** for jurisdiction and federal managers to interact at a national level.

## **Opportunities:**

- Convey and discuss AIC priority issues
- Conduit for federal agencies to reach all 7 jurisdictions and FAS
- Share information, views
- Portal for partnership and collaboration

AIC jurisdictions = Governors

FAS = Principals / POCs



# AIC Overarching Priorities

- Achievable and shared resource-focused outcomes
- Integrated and strengthened federal-local partnership





# Questions?



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