

Chair's Report

August 2017 Florida

U.S. Coral Reef Jurisdictions and Freely Associated States PRIORITIES and UPDATES

AIC CHAIR'S REPORT

 38^{TH} U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting Florida | August 5-11, 2017

AIC Vision

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

AIC Mission

To be a unified voice for the effective management of coral reef ecosystems in the U.S. and Freely Associated States.

Cover photo courtesy of Florida.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	3
Federal-Jurisdiction Integration	2
Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program:	3
American Samoa	3
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	4
Florida	5
Guam	6
Hawai'i	7
Puerto Rico	8
U.S. Virgin Islands	9
Federated States of Micronesia	9
Republic of the Marshall Islands	10
Republic of Palau	11
AIC Points of Contact and Secretariat	12
Secretariat	12
Points of Contact	12
Affiliate Members	12



FROM THE CHAIR

Hafa adai, Talofa, Aloha, Hola, and Hello,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC), to present this report on our activities, accomplishments, and emerging issues since our last meeting in Washington D.C. earlier this year. We would like to welcome our members and points of contact, and extend our sincere thanks to Governor Rick Scott, agency staff, and the people of the Florida for hosting us at this meeting.

In the six months since we last met, we have continued local efforts to conserve and manage our precious coral reef ecosystems in the face of, often times, daunting circumstances. Florida continues to deal with an unprecedented coral disease outbreak. And, in other jurisdictions, coral bleaching is having major effects on coral reef health, in addition to impacts from grounded vessels, invasive species, and land-based pollution.

Despite the challenges, local communities are engaged and active in preserving coral reefs. The *Our Florida Reefs* initiative is an excellent example of how stakeholders can push for positive change. Local and Federal Agency collaborations, like the Watershed Partnership Initiative, continue to provide essential leadership and support for these efforts to ensure our reefs can support local economies, communities and cultures.

We strongly hope that, as a Task Force, we will continue on this path towards effective coral reef ecosystem management, federal-jurisdiction integration, and resource-focused outcomes.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that we continue to work together, as federal agencies and jurisdictions, to make a positive difference for our coral reefs.

We are excited to participate in this 38th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and share with you all the coral reef-related efforts and endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol AIC Chair



AIC UPDATES

At this meeting, we focused on the progress of priority projects identified in the AIC Strategic Plan and Action Plan. Additionally, the AIC discussed multiple issues to bring to the forefront to support effective Coral Reef Management across the jurisdictions, in cooperation with the USCRTF.

Additionally, AIC members voted Jean-Pierre Oriol to be the new AIC Chair.

AIC PRIORITIES

Federal-Jurisdiction Integration



A strong, integrated partnership between the AIC/jurisdictions and the federal agencies of the Task Force is critical to the effective management and conservations of our coral reefs. The Task Force itself is an opportunity to share information, strengthen partnerships, increase integration, and leverage opportunities to work towards more effective conservation and management of our coral reef ecosystems.

We greatly appreciate the increased communication and efforts to not only reach out to and engage the

AIC and individual jurisdictions, but the increased collaboration that has resulted. Here are just a few of the many examples:

- Once-a-month catch-up calls between the AIC Secretariat Executive Director and USCRTF Secretariat and Steering Committee Co-chairs.
- Invited Federal staff from DOI and NOAA to present at the AIC meetings held earlier this week to improve relationships and communications.
 - The AIC will be reaching out to additional federal agencies to present on AIC calls, or to join us at future USCRTF Meetings.

We are very open to suggestions of what we (AIC and jurisdictions) can do to increase our outreach to and engagement of federal agencies and the greater Task Force.

MAIN POINTS: We greatly appreciate the increased communication and efforts to reach out to and engage jurisdictions. They have led to very fruitful collaborations. We are also very open to suggestions on ways that we (AIC and jurisdictions) can also increase our outreach and engagement of our Task Force federal agency partners.

Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program:



The 2016-2017 Fellows at a training in Hawaii in ealy 2017. Credit: Wendy Wood-Derrer, NOVA

We would again like to extend our sincere thanks to the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Nova Southeastern University, and our own agencies' leadership for their continued support of this capacity building program.

The current fellows are doing great work in the jurisdictions, and the applicants for the next round of fellows are highly competitive and show great promise. We continue to work to find additional resources to ensure this essential capacity building program continues.

MAIN POINTS: We continue to look for *in* and *out of the box* ways to sustainably support this important program for the long term. Additionally, we look forward to working with the Task Force in building local capacity through a formalized and sustained Fellowship Program and really appreciate the commitment of our co-chairs to moving this forward.

AIC MEMBER PRIORITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This and the following section contains information and updates from each of the U.S. coral reef jurisdictions and Freely Associated States, including:

- Top 1-3 coral reef management-related priorities;
- Top 1-3 most notable coral-related accomplishments or successes; and
- Notable challenges, issues, or needs that Task Force members should know about.

American Samoa



Coral reef monitoring technician Motusaga Vaeoso conducting a fish survey as part of the ridge to reef project. *Credit: Coral Reef Advisory Group*

Priorities

- 1) Ridge to Reef Integrated Coral Reef Management: Improving watershed and island-scale resilience through a quantitative priority-setting management framework and partnership with local and federal government agencies. Work is ongoing with additional funds from US EPA through 2019.
- **2) Integrating Climate Resiliency:** Integrating climate resiliency into village based planning processes including MPA management plans, watershed management plans, etc., using outreach and education and follow-through with communities and government agencies.
- **3) Improving monitoring and analysis:** Comprehensive reef ecosystem monitoring, analyzing, and reporting including trends in fish populations, crown of thorns starfish, and coral bleaching.

Accomplishments & Successes

- **1) Anniversary of oldest Coral Transect**: Held celebration of world's oldest continually monitored transect in Aua (1917-2017). Provided outreach and education. Trends show that while coral has decreased, there is also promise of potential for reef reliance.
- **2)** Effective partnership for Ridge to Reef Management: Water quality and reef ecosystem survey data is being collected, in collaboration with multiple local agencies, with the goal of watershed-scale coral reef conservation. Additionally two rain gardens have been installed in this time frame.
- **3)** Enforcement and Education Capacity Enhancement: Marine enforcement officer training, STEM summit to prepare youth for coral reef related careers, DMWR summer course, island wide science fairs, QUEST, and training of teachers to include marine and environmental science in curriculum for middle school and high school.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

No progress has been made in **removing grounded vessel F/V Seahawk** after 2 years. It continues to shift across the reef during weather events and potentially leach chemicals. A **large section of reef has been killed** and is now becoming dominated with algae and/or turned to rubble. **Funding and technical assistance is desperately needed.**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Priorities

- 1) Climate Change Monitoring: The Long-Term Marine Monitoring Program has begun to monitor metrics of carbonate chemistry and temperature across multiple spatial and temporal scales, as well as environmental regimes.
- **2)** Sea grass Resiliency: A study is underway that aims to pinpoint resilient seagrass beds within the Saipan Lagoon and highlight their importance towards ecosystem maintenance.
- **3) Priority Watersheds**: Work continues in priority watersheds addressing land-based sources of pollution. The effectiveness of these management actions at priority watersheds are gauged by monitoring adjacent coral reef environments.



Fourth grade students from Garapan Elementary School gather for a photo after planting native trees at the Laolao Revegetation Site as part of the CNMI's Coral Reef Initiative's Watershed Warrior's Program. Laolao Bay, Saipan Credit: Jihan Buniag, CNMI Coral Reef Initiative

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) Talakhay Revegetation Project: The planting season for the Talakhaya Watershed logged in approximately 4,614 volunteer hours with 37,342 vetiver plants and native trees planted to cover 1.26 acres of previously barren land.
- **2) Summer Capacity Building Internships:** The Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship will complete its 13th year of providing hands-on experience in marine related fields.
- **3) Elementary School Outreach:** Targeting 4th graders, the Watershed Warriors program completed its 5th year of lessons and hands-on activities that emphasized the concept of "Ridge to Reef."

Florida



Coral disease tissue sampling in Broward County, FL.. Credit: Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

Priorities

- 1) Management Plan and Regulatory Review: State co-management partners are working with Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to plan the release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement the first comprehensive stakeholder review since 1997.
- **2)** Florida Coral Reef Protection Act: Multiple cases being pursued, including first in the Florida Keys, for groundings and anchor-related injuries on Florida's coral reefs.
- **3) Coral Disease Outbreak Response Continues**: Understanding the disease boundary, rate of progression, means of transmission, and causes of this disease are priorities in order to enact effective management interventions.

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) Report on Stakeholder Engagement Process: Report completed detailing the steps of the Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process which resulted in 68 Recommended Management Actions for southeast Florida's reefs.
- **2) Florida Legislative Funding**: One Million dollars was appropriated for coral reef water quality monitoring and coral disease response coordination for the Florida Reef Tract.
- **3) Miami Commercial Vessel Anchorage**: After 10 years of partner effort, the US Coast Guard issued its final rule to re-configure the Miami Anchorage to reduce over 600 acres of direct coral reef impact.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

South Florida's coral reefs and seagrasses exist next to a highly urbanized area with over 6 million residents and 38 million annual visitors. Many coastal communities use septic systems; however, in some instances wastewater infrastructure may not have kept up with population growth and sea level rise, and the existing sewer systems may be close to, or exceeding, their expected life spans. Failing systems will likely become inundated with seawater so reuse could be considerably more expensive or cost prohibitive. Due to the porous nature of south Florida's limestone geology, it is likely these sources are impacting our coastal ecosystems. Legislation was passed in 2008 to phase out ocean outfalls - pipes discharging approximately 536 million gallons per day of secondarily-treated wastewater effluent within the coastal waters of mainland southeast Florida - by 2025; however, there are concerns of delay due to local infrastructure costs. Significant financial and technical support is needed to protect the ecologically and economically valuable coastal ecosystems.

Guam

Priorities

- **1) Manell-Geus Watershed Restoration**: Multi-agency partners and local community members focus on firebreak maintenance to protect the reforestation project in the watershed during dry (fire) season.
- **2) Inter-Agency Cooperation:** Members participating in the NOAA MARAMP expedition, Guam Coral Reef Rapid Response team bleaching response/recovery and vessel grounding efforts, and staghorn mortality and recovery assessments.
- **3) Guam's Coral Reef Response Team:** Restoration efforts to address a vessel grounding on Jade Shoals in Apra Harbor that occurred in May.

Accomplishments & Successes

- **1) Coral Bleaching Response Plan:** The Guam Coral Bleaching Response Plan was finalized. Available online: http://bsp.guam.gov/guam-coral-reef-response-plan.
- **2) Coral Reef Monitoring:** Long Term Monitoring Program completed benthic data collection in Tumon Bay site and began collection of fish community data; also began data collection in East Agana Bay site.
- **3) Reef Research Geodatabase:** Development of Guam coral reef research and assessment geodatabase in progress, in which the locations of hundreds of historical studies and reports will be stored and the type of data presented in each report is described.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

Local managers continue to focus on **enhancing the resilience of reefs** in the face of catastrophic climate change impacts. The Coral Reef Response Team responded to **two separate ship groundings** over the last six months, assessing and stabilizing the damaged areas. These incidents highlight the need for funding specifically dedicated to these types of emergency situations. Guam managers are also preparing for (another) predicted coral bleaching event in the next few weeks. Focus on **minimizing key local stressors**, such as severely impaired water quality and over-harvesting of large herbivores, continues to be high priority. Streambed stabilization and reforestation projects in the south are ongoing, and have continued to gain community support. Increased funds to expand these projects would be significant in limiting erosion effects on the reefs. Enforcement continues to be a challenge. Lack of capacity to enforce existing regulations – erosion and storm-water control and Marine Preserve regulations – challenge managers in addressing water quality issues. **Increased funds towards Conservation Officers** would improve the capacity to limit illegal fishing practices.



Damage at Jade Shoals caused by grounding of a French military landing craft unit in May. Corals need removal and/or stabilization. *Credit:Whitney Hoot*

Hawai'i



Sediment accumulation of six inches in four months in front of first line of vetiver in treatment train in Honokowai watershed. *Credit: West Maui R2R*

Priorities

- 1) Spatial Planning: To develop the 5-year aquatic management plan, DAR will coordinate with its resource managers and research partners to design rules and standards for coral health and fish abundance that will define effective management.
- **2) King Tides**: Hawaii experienced "king tides" (high tides, combined with high waves and sea level rise). These tides exacerbate coastal erosion, generate additional source of fine sediment, create reoccurring high turbidity events, and negatively impacting near shore reefs. Support is needed to address this issue
- **3) South Kohala:** Partners began fencing around a 500 acre parcel in Honokoa Watershed to keep ungulates out. A collaborative project to fence and restore another 8,500 acres is seeking funding.

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) West Maui Accomplishments: Partners established nine additional vetiver erosion control sites, obtained valid water quality monitoring data from a trained voluntary team, and began working with coastal properties to develop mitigation measures to reduce polluted storm water discharge leaving base yard areas.
- **2) South Kohala Accomplishments**: Partners expanded marine monitoring to include a coast-wide water quality and coral health assessment. Individual hotels have also begun to fund highly rigorous water quality assessments adjacent to their property.
- **3)** Environmental Court Judge's Training: NOAA's CRCP helped provide education and training to Hawaii environmental court judges, which focused on the science behind coral reef protection laws, enforcement challenges, Native Hawaiian rights, and new alternative sentencing options for marine resource violations.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is using the recently completed Coral Reef Bleaching Plan to outline next steps to help promote coral recovery following bleaching events in 2014 and 2015. They are also developing a **comprehensive 5-year statewide aquatic management plan** to improve coral reef resilience and work towards Governor Ige's commitment to effectively manage 30% of Hawaii's nearshore waters by 2030. This forward-looking plan aims to **improve the coral ecosystem** through **effective management practices** including supporting sustainable fisheries and a network of marine managed areas.

In the priority sites of West Maui and South Kohala, partners are working on projects such as fencing out ungulates, in-stream restoration, and potential retrofits to sediment dams. Moving forward, navigating the permitting processes is a need as well as funding for these larger projects.

Puerto Rico

Priorities

- 1) Strengthening interagency and stakeholder collaboration: Over 25 representatives from local and federal agencies, the Municipality of Fajardo and others, participated at the field visit to Río Fajardo Watershed at the NOAA HFA, to highlight erosion and sedimentation control practices. Additional pollution control needs and opportunities for collaboration were identified.
- **2) Improving Enforcement:** Legal trainings of PRDNER enforcement officers on updated laws and regulations, boating laws and fish identification techniques, and vessel grounding response, as part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Rangers Corps.
- **3) New Education and Outreach Approach:** The PR Coral Reef Program website is continuously updated, PSA spots are being produced, as well as the planning for the 2017 Coral Reef Week.



Rangers from the PRDNER Marine Operations Unit participating at the practical component of the workshop on fisheries applicable laws and regulations. Credit: Tania Metz, DNER.

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) Outreach with marine recreation and tour operators: A series of focus groups and workshops were conducted to identify areas where marine recreation and recreational practices take place. Promotion of sustainable practices among PR Northeast marine recreation operators.
- **2)** Removal of Derelict Vessels in Fajardo: With the support from the NOAA Marine Debris Program, five derelict/abandoned vessels were removed from the coast of Fajardo, an integral part of the HFA. This project includes 12 marine debris surveys that were conducted with the help of volunteers from the PR Coral Reef Program.
- **3) New Publication:** Publishing of NOAA report *Mapping Ecological Priorities and Human Impacts to Support Land-Sea Management of Puerto Rico's Northeast Marine Corridor.* This report describes a spatial characterization conducted to support the development of an integrated strategic plan for Puerto Rico's Northeast Marine Corridor.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

Puerto Rico's Coral Reef Monitoring Program documented a recent reduction in coral reef coverage at the Maria Langa 3m site in Guayanilla. This reef had a 13% coral live coverage in 2016 but by 2017 this was reduced to less than 5%. This drastic change and monitoring observations in the area are consistent with exceptionally high wave action, such as that associated with hurricanes. Although hurricane Matthew did not directly hit Puerto Rico in 2016, the effect of its wave action reached the south coast and could have been responsible for such impacts on Maria Langa Reef, as well as in Cayo Aurora, Guánica.

In addition, the Government's fiscal austerity measures compromise opportunities to enhance MPA and coral reef management effectiveness. DNER has **increased collaboration** with partners and **established co-management agreements** with local communities and NGOs; however, **limited funding and human resources** constitute a generalized obstacle for effective management.

U.S. Virgin Islands



Local researchers conduct benthic measurements for the National Coral Reef Monitoring Program. St. Croix June 2017. *Credit: Leslie Henderson*

Priorities

- 1) MPA Health and Effectiveness: There has been a renewed focus on the Salt River watershed and marine ecosystem, including scoping for a watershed management plan and research projects such as fish movement tracking.
- **2)** Increasing Environmental Enforcement Effectiveness: Emphasis has been placed on identifying weaknesses in environmental enforcement capacity in the USVI. An outside contractor completed an initial site visit in the development of a 5-year strategic plan for the Division of Enforcement.
- **3)** Beach Plastics Recycling Program: Coastal Zone Management has established a partnership with Terracycle and Proctor and Gamble to ship all hard plastics collected during beach cleanups off island to be recycled.

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) St. Croix East End Marine Park Visitor Center: The first phase of the St. Croix East End Marine Park Visitor Center installation was completed. The Visitor Center will be used to highlight the importance of St. Croix's natural resources to residents and visitors.
- **2) Reducing Land Based Pollution:** A raingarden was installed in Coral Bay, St. John, one of the VI's priority watersheds. The rain garden hopes to offset an estimated 20% of the problematic sediment input from running directly into the marine ecosystem.
- **3) Collaborative Coral Reef Monitoring:** Local representatives from the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the National Park Service participated in the USVI 2017 National Coral Reef Monitoring Program fish and benthic surveys.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

The USVI continues to struggle with addressing large influxes of *sargassum* on beaches and nearshore areas. Negative impacts from these events are poorly understood and effective management actions have not been identified. In addition, recent monitoring reports have shown a significant increase in the red algae *Ramicrusta*, which is thought to overgrow living coral tissue at alarming rates, monopolize available space on the reef, and increase bioerosion of coral skeletons.

AIC AFFILIATE MEMBER PRIORITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Federated States of Micronesia

Priorities

- **1) Building Capacity In Monitoring and Management:** Program to incorporate data into a science-to-management network and provide actionable information to advance the goals of the Micronesia Challenge.
- **2) Sea Cucumber Rapid Assessment:** Facilitated a technical mission to conduct a rapid assessment of sea cucumber around Pohnpei Island and Ant Atoll Biosphere in May 2017 to provide technical recommendations on marine invertebrate management and fisheries policy.



Staff conducting the Sea Cucumber Rapid Assessment on Pohnpei Island. *Credit: FSM Dept. of Resources and Development*

3) Sea Cucumber Stakeholder Engagement: The Pohnpei State Sea Cucumber Stakeholders Meeting presented preliminary survey results on the current status of sea cucumbers and discussed potential sea cucumber harvest, management and monitoring strategies.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

FSM Congress passed our Biosecurity Act (CB 19-102) on April 5, 2017 and the FSM Department of R&D is tasked to **develop** marine-related regulations. This exercise is a major undertaking involving local and national stakeholders and seeking technical assistance from regional/international partners to manage over 600 islands and regulate an exclusive economic zone of over 1 million square miles.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Priorities

- 1) RMI's 1st National Ocean Symposium: An event initiated by President Hilda Heine to gather stakeholders from all levels of government and civil society to inform the National Leadership on priorities, key areas of concern, and desired outcomes arising from RMI's participation in international ocean and marine-related meetings.
- 2) Reimaanlok Step 3 (building commitment) and Step 4 (Collecting and managing information) for Maloelap Atoll and Wotje Atoll: MIMRA to assist 2 new sites in community-based resource management planning by implementing the 8-step process under Reimaanlok.
- **3) Giant Clam Farming:** On-going project supporting economic development in local communities as well as reducing pressure on coral reefs from clam extraction activities.



Group photo during RMI National Ocean Symposium with President Hilda Heine, US Ambassador to the Marshall Islands Karen B. Stewart, mayors, government officials, partners and friends. *Credit: Martin Romain (College of the Marshall Islands)*

Accomplishments & Successes

- **1) Outcomes from the RMI National Oceans Symposium (NOS)** A "National Guiding Principles to Sustain and be Sustained by Our Ocean and Coral Reefs" was developed, which provide a set of policy directives to the national government and communicate RMI's priorities and activities at the international level. An implementation plan for the NOS outcomes is being drafted with key partners and stakeholders.
- **2)** Awareness raising activities with communities: Via Reimaanlok, activities were conducted on both Maloelap and Wotje atolls including data collection via socio-economic household surveys to gather information that will feed into their resource management plan (RMP). Additionally, a local resource committee was established on Wotje Atoll as the focus group for the RMP drafting.
- **3) Established Aquaculture Association:** A group of local farmers received training on giant clam farming in Likiep Atoll. Additional activities such as giant clam stock enhancement in the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) will be conducted later on in the year.

Notable Challenges, Issues, & Needs

RMI has become one of the busiest trans-shipment ports in all the Northern Pacific, with many fishing vessels, carriers, container ships, bunkers and yachts visiting our Majuro Lagoon Port each year. There is **poor monitoring, compliance, and surveillance** to control marine pollution and other illegal activities (i.e. IUU) due to our geography and limited institutional and resource capacity (human and finance). Additionally, we continue to experience **king tides** resulting in coastal inundation, salt-water intrusion and washing up of debris. These are just a few of many other challenges in supporting our ocean and coral reef conservation and management efforts as highlighted during our recent National Oceans Symposium (NOS). Because we rely heavily on our marine resources as much as those who rely on us to provide them with access to our resources, RMI made a voluntary commitment during the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017 to implement the outcomes from our NOS. As such, **we seek support to deepen engagement with existing partnerships such as the Task Force and garner new partnership with others to help achieve progress**.

Republic of Palau



M. Victor Nestor, PICRC researcher, surveying fish population on the outer reefs of Palau using stereo video system in May 2017.

Credit: PICRC

Priorities

- 1) Fisheries Independent Surveys: Field surveys at the scale of Palau archipelago (~100 sites covering major reef habitats) recording the abundance and size of commercially-targeted fish species was completed using stereo-video techniques.
- **2) Socio-Economic Baseline Study:** Socio-economic surveys were completed at an additional site (Ngatpang) to continue monitoring efforts on the perception of local communities on protective management in Palau.
- **3) Eastern Reef Recovery**: 2 years' research project (including a coral recruitment study) to characterize the recovery potential of the eastern reefs of Palau following the two sequential typhoons in 2012 and 2013.

Accomplishments & Successes

- 1) Fish Data Collection: PICRC has now implemented both dependent (fish markets) and independent (underwater) surveys into its monitoring protocol to document status and trends of food fish over time.
- **2) Socio-Economic Studies:** Socio-economic studies continue with the aim of surveying two additional sites within the next 6 months and have baseline data for all states of Palau that have a marine PAN (protected area network) site by the end of 2018.
- **3) Science to support Effective Management:** Coral reproduction and recruitment studies continue, to deepen our understanding on spawning timing, larval dispersal, and post settlement success of young corals that have major implications in the recovery of damaged reefs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thank you to the State of Florida and Governor Scott, for hosting this important and successful meeting.
- To our Governors and member representatives, thank you for your ongoing support of the AIC and local coral reef management and conservation.
- To our Acting Task Force co-chairs Leboeuf and Buckner, thank you for your leadership of the Task Force. We hope to continue to work with you.
- To Task Force member agencies -- thank you for your continued support and partnership over the years. We look forward to continued collaboration and cooperation.
- Thank you to Florida Department of Environmental Protection Staff, specifically Joanna Walczak, Meghan Balling, Lindsay Guthrie, Karen Bohnsak, Francisco Pagan, Patricia Rose and everyone on the Local Planning Committee who helped put this meeting together.
- Last, but not least, thank you to our Executive Director, Kristine Bucchianeri, and our three
 Advisors, Gerry Davis, Mike Hamnett, and Bob Richmond, for providing guidance and advice to
 promote jurisdictional priorities that help ensure a future for our coral reefs.

AIC POINTS OF CONTACT AND SECRETARIAT

Points of Contact

Jean-Pierre Oriol, Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, AIC Chair
Va'amua Henry Sesepasara, Territory of American Samoa Janice Castro, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Joanna Walczak, State of Florida
Lola E. Leon Guerrero, Territory of Guam
Ray Uchimura, State of Hawai'i (interim POC)
Ernesto Diaz, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Affiliate Members

Emma Kabua-Tibon, Republic of the Marshall Islands Alissa Takesy, Federated States of Micronesia Yimnang Golbuu, PhD, Republic of Palau

Secretariat

Gerry Davis, AIC Resource Advisor Robert Richmond, PhD, AIC Science Advisor Michael Hamnett, PhD, AIC Policy Advisor Kristine Bucchianeri, Executive Director

