

U.S. ALL ISLANDS CORAL REEF COMMITTEE



T. Scanlan

The **U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)** has been an integral part of coral reef conservation and management in the U.S. for over 25 years. Founded in 1996, the AIC consists of **seven U.S. states and territories** (member jurisdictions), **three Freely Associated States (FAS)** (affiliate members), and the **AIC Secretariat** (two advisors and an executive director).

PACIFIC MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands
Hawai'i
Guam

ATLANTIC/CARIBBEAN MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

Florida
Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands

AFFILIATE MEMBERS (FAS)

Federated States of
Micronesia
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Palau

The seven Governor-appointed voting members and three non-voting affiliate FAS members in the AIC serve as the **Coral Reef Points of Contact (POCs)** for each jurisdiction. Most POCs hold management or administrative positions within their state or territory's lead coral reef management agency. The AIC operates via **consensus-based decision-making**, and every two years, the AIC elects two POCs to serve as AIC Chair and Vice-chair.

MISSION

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

VISION

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

C. Morales

ALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE

PRIORITIES



N. Durgadeen

The AIC prioritizes **collaborative efforts** that maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of coral reef management while seeking to **address three broad challenges**:

- 1) **Limited coral reef management capacity** within local governments;
- 2) A need for **adequate and sustained funding** for coral reef management efforts in the U.S. and FAS; and,
- 3) Improved **integration of jurisdictional needs** into federal policies, plans, and decision making.

The AIC aims to **represent jurisdictional coral reef management issues and priorities** within the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) while **constructively engaging in federal and national processes** related to coral reef conservation. The AIC, as a group, is not directly involved in local coral reef management decisions, although it can **support the development of national policies** and/or actions that impact local management and serve as an **advisory body to the USCRTF** on jurisdictional coral reef issues.

CURRENT AIC PRIORITIES (APRIL 2024)

- Strengthen **AIC-federal partnerships** and increase **responsiveness to jurisdictional needs** under the newly reauthorized U.S. Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Improve **integration of jurisdictional priorities** into efforts of the USCRTF Working Groups
- Secure sustainable financing for the **Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship**
- Support establishment and enforcement of **water quality standards** that promote coral reef health
- Advance **resilience-based management** practices in the U.S. and Freely Associated States to help reefs resist and recover from **climate change impacts**
- Scale up **coral reef restoration** efforts and **streamline permitting** for restoration
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of **disturbance response activities** related to coral diseases (e.g., SCTLD), bleaching events, vessel groundings, and hurricanes/typhoons
- Build capacity for effective and sustainable **management of coral reef fisheries**