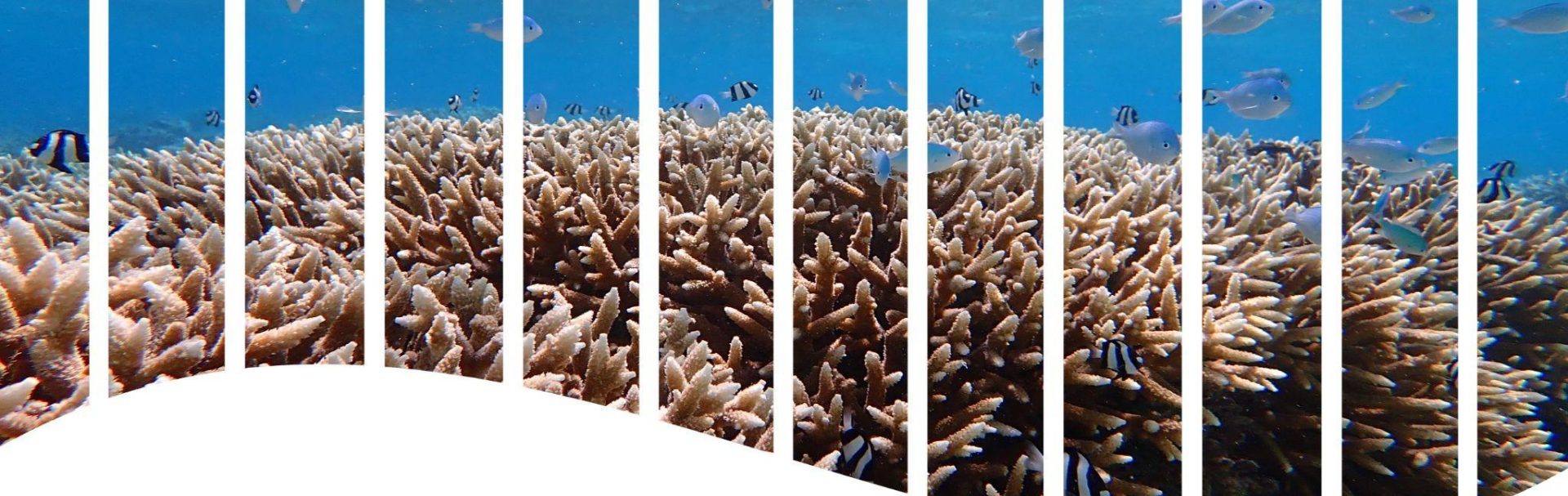




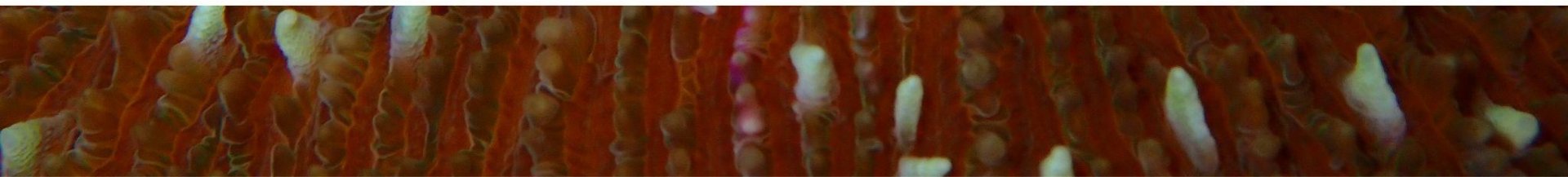
AIC CHAIR'S REPORT to the USCRTF



Jean-Pierre Oriol, Chair
U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee
May 15th, 2025 – Washington, D.C.
50th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting



PRIORITIES



**CRCA
Reauthorization**

**USCRTF
Working
Groups**

**Coral Reef
Management
Fellowship**

**Water
Quality**

**Resilience-
based
Management**

**Coral Reef
Restoration**

**Disturbance
Response**

**Fisheries
Management**



1. CRCA Reauthorization

Strengthen AIC-federal partnerships and increase responsiveness to jurisdictional needs under the reauthorized Coral Reef Conservation Act

Integrate AIC and jurisdictional priorities into implementation of National Strategy and C-RAPS with input from all Task Force agencies



Ensure that regional Coral Reef Research Coordination Institutes prioritize management-driven research based on needs of jurisdictions

2. USCRTF Working Groups

Improve integration of jurisdictional priorities into efforts of the USCRTF Working Groups

WG activities to be determined based on jurisdictional needs, with opportunities for AIC input throughout development of WG products



AIC commits to increasing jurisdictional participation in and leadership of USCRTF Working Groups

3. Coral Fellowship

Secure dedicated long-term funding for the Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship

Support from USCRTF agencies for long-term, dedicated funding for the Coral Fellowship and increased salaries to attract most qualified candidates



AIC will continue recruiting from local communities in jurisdictions to build capacity for conservation and management

4. Water Quality

Continue to support establishment and enforcement of water quality standards that address impacts to coral reef health

Requesting support from EPA and other USCRTF agencies to identify key water quality parameters and appropriate thresholds for sublethal impacts



Jurisdictions need funding and guidance for long-term water quality monitoring programs that protect reef health

5. Resilience-based Management

Advance resilience-based management (RBM) practices in the U.S. and Freely Associated States

**RBM approaches
should be integrated
in all USCRTF plans
and products to help
reefs resist, recover
from, and adapt to
changing ocean
conditions**



**Need support to
enhance local
capacity for effective,
science-driven RBM
across the
jurisdictions**

6. Coral Reef Restoration

Facilitate implementation of jurisdictional reef restoration plans, foster innovation in restoration efforts, and streamline permitting

Need access to novel techniques, increased funding, strengthened partnerships, and enhanced capacity for restoration at ecosystem scales



AIC requests streamlined processes for permitting for restoration activities across the jurisdictions

7. Disturbance Response

Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of disturbance response activities related to coral diseases, bleaching events, invasive species, vessel groundings, and storms

**Support for SCLTD
response in
Caribbean, prevention
of transmission to
Pacific basin, pulse
coral mitigation in PR
and HI, and bleaching
response across all
jurisdictions**



**Technical assistance
for response
planning and efficient
access to funds for
timely response to
emergency events**

8. Fisheries Management

Build capacity for effective and sustainable management of coral reef fisheries

**Support
implementation of
Coral Reef Fisheries
Management Action
Plans developed
through the Fisheries
and Ecosystem
Management WG**



**Improved
enforcement of
fisheries regulations
within and outside of
marine preserves**

JURISDICTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FLORIDA

KRISTIN JACOBS CORAL AQUATIC PRESERVE
DEP Coral Program, agency partners, and stakeholders are collaborating to develop management plan for this new preserve



RESTORATION STRATEGIES
DEP partnering with NOAA, TNC, and other agencies to develop coral reef restoration strategies; Tier 1 finalized and Tier 2 in progress

PUERTO RICO

RESTORATION PLANNING

**Finalized Coral Reef Restoration Plan
to guide efforts for next 5-10 years**

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

**Completed two-year effort to collect
water quality data at 42 long-term
coral monitoring sites across PR**



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

CORAL REEF WEEK OUTREACH

Over 700 locals engaged through 14 events on St. Thomas for Coral Reef Week – field trips, mangrove tours, etc.

INCREASED LOCAL CAPACITY

New DPNR staff members hired, including STXEEMP Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Interpretive Park Ranger, and Legal Counsel for DPNR-CZM



AMERICAN SAMOA

GIANT CLAM SURVEYS

**Assessed giant clam populations
at over 20 sites at Rose Atoll;
data analysis in progress**

MALALOA CORAL TRANSPLANTATION

**Assessment completed for re-location
of coral colonies to support port
infrastructure expansion**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

49TH USCRTF MEETING

**Over 200 federal, jurisdictional, and
local participants met on Saipan in
November 2024**

RESTORATION TRAINING

**Held the fourth restoration skills training
with TNC-Micronesia for 15 participants
from local agencies, NGOs, and college
students over two days**



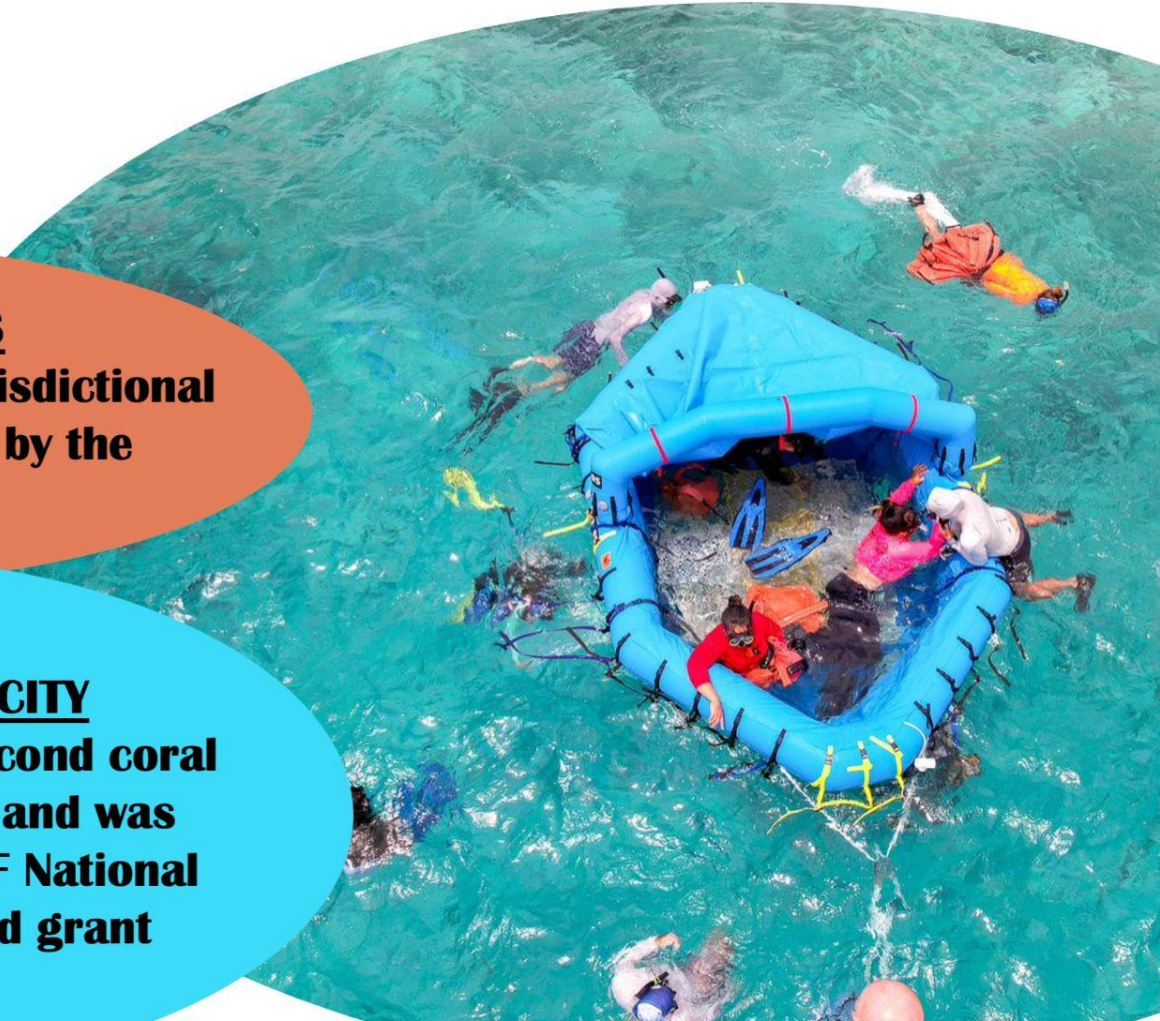
GUAM

REPORT TO CONGRESS

Guam submitted first annual jurisdictional report to Congress required by the reauthorized CRCA

RESTORATION CAPACITY

DOAG's GCRI launched second coral nursery in Apra Harbor and was awarded \$2 million NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund grant



HAWAI'I



PERMITTING FRAMEWORK

**DAR developed Special Activity
Permit Coral Restoration
Framework with tool, guidelines,
and supporting documents**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

**DAR held two workshops on facilitation
and strategic communication in
partnership with Pacific Center for
Collaboration and Reef Resilience Network**

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



FISHERY DATA APP

Fisheries officers from all four FSM states met on Pohnpei for training on the Ikasavea app, which collects real-time data on fish sold at markets

PALAU

GROUNDING RESPONSE

PICRC is assessing damage from fishing vessel grounding in March; results will be used to calculate cost of impacts

CORAL SPAWNING & RESTORATION

PICRC spawned and settled *Acropora digitifera* larvae in March and will outplant juvenile colonies during workshop for practitioners in July



THANK

YOU!

**For more information, contact
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