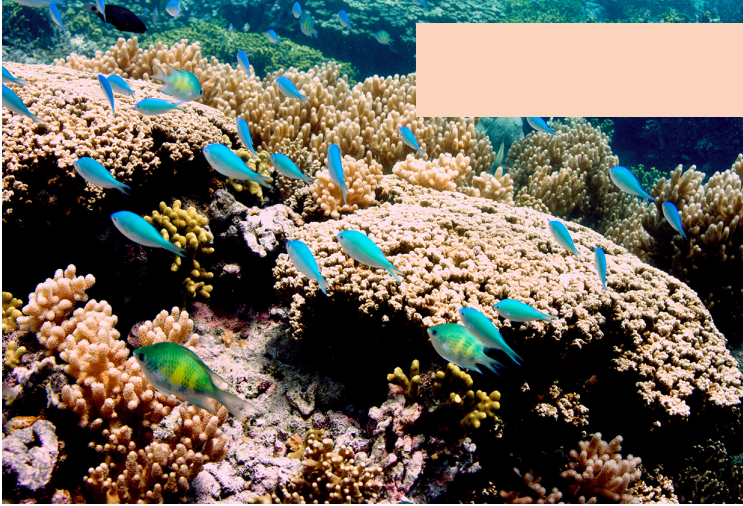


Meet the U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE



What we do

The United States Coral Reef Task Force was originally established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. The Task Force includes members from federal agencies, seven U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths, and three Freely Associated States. We help build partnerships, strategies, and support for on-the-ground action to conserve and restore coral reefs.

Understanding coral reef ecosystems

A better understanding of coral reef ecosystems will improve management and conservation of these valuable resources. To achieve this, we aim to conduct long-term monitoring and assessments of ecosystem conditions, support research and develop strategic management solutions to address the major threats to reefs, create comprehensive maps of coral reef habitat, and increase understanding of the social and economic factors affecting corals.



Reducing threats and adverse effects

Reducing threats from impacts of human activities is essential to conserving coral reef ecosystems. Threats include unsustainable fishing, climate change and associated coral bleaching, pollution, and disease. We aim to preserve and conserve healthy reefs, improve coral reef health, restore damaged reefs, enhance education and outreach, and improve coordination and accountability.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

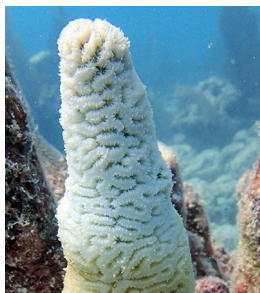


Diverse perspectives and active engagement strengthen the Task Force and enhance the quality of our work. You can join a working group if you are a Task Force member (federal agencies, U.S. coral reef jurisdictions, or freely associated states). The active working groups are coral disease, watershed, climate change, restoration, enforcement, fisheries, and communications. Email coralreefweb@noaa.gov for more information.



Fisheries and Ecosystem Working Group:

The Coral Reef Fisheries and Ecosystem Working Group focuses on coral reef fisheries management while balancing traditional and community use. The group conducts standardized surveys of fishery status and drafts action plans describing how federal agencies can support jurisdictional management of coral reef fisheries.



Coral Disease Working Group: The objectives of the Working Group are to facilitate effective collaboration and communication on coral disease status and response efforts among federal agencies and jurisdictions; build capacity for coral disease prevention, preparedness, and response; and prevent the transmission of stony coral tissue loss disease.



Watershed Partnership Initiative: The intent of the Watershed Partnership Initiative is to facilitate and enhance coordination, partnerships, and contributions of agency resources and expertise to implement geographically specific and integrated activities to reduce land-based sources of pollution impacting coral reef ecosystems.



Climate Change Working Group: The purpose of the Climate Change Working Group is to assist Task Force state, territory, commonwealth, federal, and local agencies, working groups, and partners in assessing vulnerabilities and developing adaptations to address the direct and interactive effects of climate change on coral reef ecosystems.

Task Force members

Co-chairs

U.S. Department of Commerce,
NOAA
U.S. Department of the Interior

Federal agency members

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Agency for International Development
Department of Agriculture
Department of Defense—Army
Department of Defense—Navy
Coast Guard
Department of Justice
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Science Foundation

State and territory members

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
State of Florida
State of Hawai'i
Territory of Guam
Territory of American Samoa
Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Freely Associated States

Federated States of Micronesia
Republic of Marshall Islands
Republic of Palau