

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 2009  
Business Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, November 3**

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|-------------|---|
| 8:00-9:00   | Registration  |
| 9:00-9:15   | Opening Remarks- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) Co-Chairs  |
| 9:15-9:25   | Member Introductions  |
| 9:25-9:40   | Puerto Rico Welcome- Daniel J. Galán Kercadó, Secretary of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources  |
| 9:40-9:50   | USCRTF Governor Remarks- Governor Togiola Tulafono, American Samoa  |
| 9:50--10:05 | USCRTF Steering Committee Update- Mr. Randy Bowman and Dr. Steven Thur  |
| 10:05-10:20 | All Islands Committee (AIC) Update- Ms. Evangeline Lujan, AIC Chair   |
| 10:20-10:40 | Update on the Success of No-Take Reserves<br><i>Results or early trends from creation of no-take coral reef reserves in Florida, USVI and Puerto Rico will be presented via monitoring of fish populations and coral reefs, using standard indicators.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Billy Causey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</li><li>• Ms. Aida Rosario, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)</li></ul>  |
| 10:40-10:50 | Report Out on USCRTF Climate Change Working Group Response to the Honolulu Declaration on Ocean Acidification and Reef Management - Dr. Mark Eakin, NOAA, USCRTF Climate Change Working Group Co-Chair  |
| 10:50-11:10 | BREAK   |
| 11:10-12:10 | Special Session: Report on Local Action Strategies & Jurisdiction Management Priorities<br><i>Local Action Strategies (LAS) are a USCRTF led initiative to identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats to valuable coral reef resources in each U.S. coral reef jurisdiction. At the 21st meeting of the USCRTF, the co-chairs requested that the steering committee include a discussion on involvement of the federal government agencies in the LAS initiative on the agenda of the 22nd meeting. In preparation for this discussion, a survey was developed and completed by all seven state and territory members and many of the federal members of the USCRTF. The objective of</i> |

*this survey was to both assess levels and mechanisms of federal agency support for LAS and to identify ways in which USCRTF members can work together to better support coral reef conservation at the local level.*

- Ms. Kacky Andrews, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program
- Mr. Howard Hankin, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Ms. Evangeline Lujan, AIC Chair, Guam

12:10-2:00

LUNCH

2:00-3:00

Public Comment

3:00-3:20

Workshop Report Outs

- Recreational Stewardship- Dr. Rick MacPherson, Coral Reef Alliance
- Using Socioeconomic Information for Management in the US Caribbean- Dr. Manuel Valdés Pizzini, University of Puerto Rico
- Watersheds and Partnerships- Mr. Howard Hankin, USDA NRCS
- Restoration: Montastrea and Acropora- Ms. Aida Rosario, Puerto Rico DNER

3:20-3:40

BREAK

3:40-5:10

Special Session- Caribbean Region Highlights

*The Caribbean region has experienced a variety of stressors to coral reefs. Bleaching events, Acropora die offs, invasive lionfish, and marine debris all threaten the health of coral reef ecosystems. However, steps have been taken to address these stressors, and through initiatives like the Caribbean Challenge, the Caribbean region continues to fight for healthy coral reef ecosystems. The presentations will convey where Federal agencies and jurisdictions came together as partners to address stressors in the Caribbean, where challenges still exist and how the USCRTF as an effective partnering body can come together to address these challenges and craft next steps.*

- Marine Debris- Dr. Holly Bamford, NOAA Marine Debris Program
- Acropora Recovery Plan- Ms. Jennifer Moore, NOAA
- Lionfish: Invasive in the Caribbean- Mr. Lad Akins, Reef Environmental Education Foundation
- Caribbean Challenge Update- Mr. Aaron Hutchins, The Nature Conservancy
- Vessel Groundings- Mr. Tom Moore, NOAA Restoration Center

5:10-5:15

Closing

**Thursday, November 5**

9:00-9:10	Opening
9:10-10:30	<p>Special Session- The USCRTF and Watersheds: Partnering Against Land- Based Sources of Pollution</p> <p><i>The Kona declaration identified land-based sources of pollution as a key threat to coral reef ecosystems. This session will increase awareness of how several Federal and local agencies are partnering to address land based sources of pollution. Several successful partnerships will be highlighted, including their structure, how the partnerships have addressed management gaps, and how their successes can be used as examples to assist jurisdictions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction – Mr. Paul Sturm, Center for Watershed Protection</li> <li>• Coral Reefs of Molokai, Hawaii – Dr. Michael Field, US Geological Survey</li> <li>• La Parguera: Coral Reef Ecosystem Study – Dr. Richard Appledoorn, University of Puerto Rico</li> <li>• Jobos Bay – Mr. Jose Castro, USDA NRCS</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45-11:00	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds for Coral- Dr. Steven Thur, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program
11:00-11:10	NGO Partnership Funding Initiative- Ms. Ann Mills, Deputy Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, USDA
11:10-12:00	<p>Coral Threat Mitigation Panel</p> <p><i>This panel will address the regulations issued jointly by the Corps of Engineers and EPA in 2008 to address compensatory mitigation for dredge and fill of wetlands or harbors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. George Young, US Army Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• Dr. Wendy Wiltse, US Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Mr. Gerry Davis, NOAA</li> <li>• Mr. Dwayne Milton, US Fish and Wildlife Service</li> </ul>
12:00-12:30	Member Discussion and Decision Items
12:30-12:45	Closing