



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 29, 2009

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, 2009 in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

NOAA will host the 22nd meeting of U.S. Coral Reef Task Force from Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, 2009 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The meeting will emphasize the importance of coral reef conservation, highlight conservation strategies and successes, such as no-take reserves, and promote an enhanced vision for how the task force and its members can meet the challenges facing coral reefs and local communities.

Key topics of discussion include an evaluation of the Local Action Strategies initiative, update on the Honolulu Declaration on Ocean Acidification and Reef Management, presentation from the Guanica Bay Watershed panel, and sessions highlighting current issues in the Caribbean region and land-based sources of pollution.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force is co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and of the Interior, and includes leaders of 12 federal agencies, seven U.S. states and territories, and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. The mission is to lead, coordinate, and strengthen U.S. government actions to better preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems.

**WHAT:** U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting  
Journalists welcomed at all public sessions and at Nov. 4 field trips: 1) Trip to Jobos and Guanica Watersheds, 6:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 2) Water-based field trip to Tres Culebras, 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Oct. 31 workshops (see agenda) open to public, advance registration required.  
Public meetings: Nov. 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**AGENDA:** Available online: <http://coralreef.gov/>  
Task Force Members: <http://coralreef.gov/about/members.html>

**WHEN:** Friday, October 30 - Thursday, November 5, 2009

**WHERE:** Caribe Hilton, 1 San Geronimo Street, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902

**WHO:**

- Togiola T.A. Tulafono, governor, American Samoa
- John Percy de Jongh, governor, U.S. Virgin Islands
- Daniel Galan Kercadó, secretary, Puerto Rico Dept. Natural and Environmental Resources
- Andrew Winer, director of external affairs, NOAA
- Anthony Babauta, assistant secretary for insular affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Ann Mills, deputy under secretary of natural resources and environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Kacky Andrews, director, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program
- Mark Eakin, Ph.D., oceanographer, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

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