

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including large, rounded, brain-like corals and smaller, more intricate structures. Several fish are visible, including a prominent yellow and black striped fish in the foreground, and several smaller, silver fish with dark spots. The water is clear and blue, with light filtering through from above, creating a bright and vibrant environment.

US Coral Reef Task Force Draft Handbook on Coral Reef Impacts

- Second Review Closed February 14th. 10 CRTF members commented.
 - Major Changes in new draft
 - Definitions
 - Planned events (two tiers)
 - Transplantation
 - Unplanned events-NRDA
 - Missing local jurisdictions
 - Functional vs Conditional Assessments
- Will follow up with all Members who have not responded.
- Comments received in the last couple days, preliminary review finds 4 categories of comments:
 - Editorial comments-no change in content
 - Change in content-ex. Unplanned events
 - Different interpretation between Agencies-ex. Transplantation
 - Suggested incorporation of desired practices

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including large, rounded, brain-like corals and smaller, more intricate structures. Several fish are visible, including a prominent striped surgeonfish in the lower left, and a school of smaller, spotted surgeonfish in the upper right. The water is clear, and the lighting is natural, highlighting the textures of the coral and the colors of the fish.

Coral Reef Mitigation Handbook

Next Steps and Timeline

1. Renew Champion Contract
2. Incorporate comments into draft with working group coordination.
3. Share Draft Final out with Member Agencies for 60 day Legal Review April 1, 2016.
4. Complete any legal caveats by July 30th. Submit Final document to Steering Committee for Adoptions at Fall 2016 CRTF.

Additional CRTF Considerations

- Members will need to assist in prompting timely Agency legal review
- If there are delays, because this document is so familiar to CRTF members can it be submitted for adoption later than 60 days in advance of Fall 2016 meeting if needed.
- Each agency and jurisdiction needs to identify who within their structure is going to sign off on the handbook
- This action is a NOP commitment. The working group will provide a strategy for engagement of the NOC and Congressional coordination after the Legal review is initiated.
- Working Group will develop a roll-out plan as part of the adoption package after adoption for how to deliver the Handbook to Member Agencies. This will likely involve Member agencies identifying a POC to coordinate a meeting time and place and then inviting an assigned briefing team with representatives from USEPA, USACE, USFWS, NOAA and a jurisdictional reps at a minimum. This will need to be basin specific with briefers from these areas.

After Adoption

Injury Mitigation Working Group Future Considerations :

1. Embark in efforts to develop an interim process for standardizing current coral reef compensatory mitigation/offset practices
2. Propose standardized model for current coral reef compensatory mitigation/offset practices
3. Develop applied practices for coral reef mitigation banking, in lieu fee programs and coral nursery applied practices.