



# AIC Chair's Report

Jean-Pierre Oriol  
Chair, U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)

---

38<sup>th</sup> U.S. Coral Reef Task Force  
August 11, 2017 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL



*Good Morning and welcome*

# AIC Updates

---

# AIC Updates

We would like to welcome our newest POCs:

- Janice Castro (CNMI)
- Lola Leon Guerrero (Guam)
- Emma Kibua-Tibon (RMI)

We would like to thank previous POC's for their hard work and contributions:

- Fran Castro (CNMI), AIC Chair
- Wil Castro (Guam)
- Don Hess (RMI)

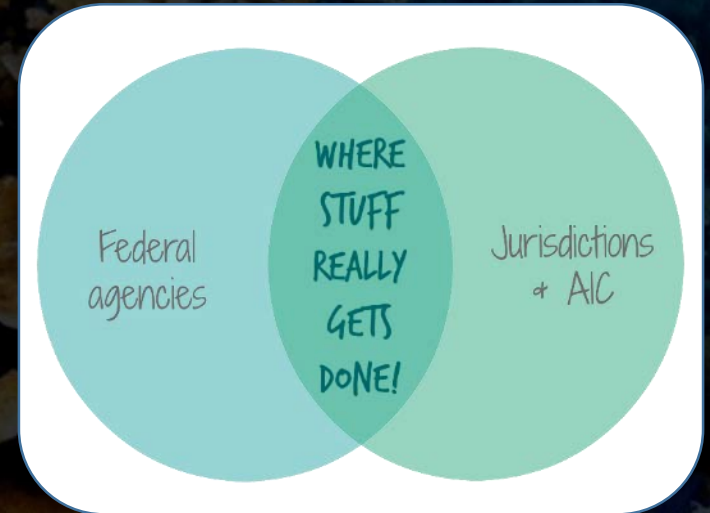
# AIC Priorities

---

# AIC Priorities

## Federal-Jurisdiction Integration

- Critical to the effective management and conservation of our coral reefs.
- Task Force = OPPORTUNITY
- Increased communication & outreach → increased collaboration
- **SUGGESTIONS?** What can we do to increase our outreach to and engagement of federal agencies and the greater Task Force?



# AIC Priorities

## Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program

- Main coral reef management needs in the jurisdictions
- USCRTF target issue (Strategy, Resolution 34.1)
- Benefits for all Task Force members
- Benefits to coral reef resources
- Updates in AIC Chair's Report
- *In and out of the box* ways to sustain this program long term
- Look forward to working with Task Force + appreciate co-chair commitment to moving forward



Puerto Rico's Coral Fellow, Mariana León, presenting her work and preliminary results at the Priorities and Recommendations Workshop. (DNER)

# AIC Priorities

## Watershed Partnership Initiative Graduation Planning

- Successful example of Local & Federal Partnership
- Adopted WPI Strategy in 2016
- Moving forward with Graduation planning
  - Implementation Plans
  - Sustainability Plans



Removal of Bamboo is an essential component of restoring watersheds in Guam. *A. Simeon.*



# AIC Priorities

## New Priority -- Restoration

- Given the frequency and severity of the extreme events impacting coral reefs, the AIC is considering what we can do. We are putting together a plan, which we will be presenting to the Steering Committee in the coming months.
- We look forward to working with all our federal partners to ensure healthy coral reefs which support thriving communities.

# Jurisdictional Updates

---

# Member Updates

## American Samoa

- 100 year Anniversary of Aua Coral Reef Transect (1917-2017)
- Innovative Integrated Ridge to Reef Monitoring
- Needs: Funding and technical support for derelict vessel removal

Waters sampling efforts, as part of the ridge to reef monitoring program. CRAG



## CNMI

- Integration of Long Term Climate Change monitoring on Reefs
- 1.26 acres of land revegetated in Talakhayan Watershed,
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders trained to be “Watershed Warriors”



Snorkelers pose for a photo as part of a Ridge to Reef Camp on Tinian Island in June. M. Muna

# Member Updates

## Florida

- Co-management efforts moving forward
- Coral Reef Protection Act implementation
- 68 Recommended management actions from Our Florida Reefs Planning Process



The Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process resulted in 68 Recommended Management Actions for southeast Florida's reefs.. FDEP



Guam EPA divers collect dislodged coral fragments to be relocated to a sandy area near Jade Shoals. *W. Hoot*

## Guam

- Coral Reef Response Team responded to 2 grounded vessel incidents
- Coral Bleaching Response Plan Finalized
- Needs: Water quality and enforcement assistance

# Member Updates

## Hawaii

- Developing 5 year statewide Aquatic management plan to support resiliency
- West Maui: Installed Vetiver, volunteer water quality monitoring team
- Needs: Funding for additional fencing and restoration in South Kohala



A diver counts a school of *Naso hexacanthus* (unicornfish) during a survey of the newly designated 3.6 mile marine rest area at Ka'upulehu. *C. Couch*



Derelict vessels being removed from the Fajardo coast as part of activities funded under NOAA Marine Debris Program grant. *PRDNER*

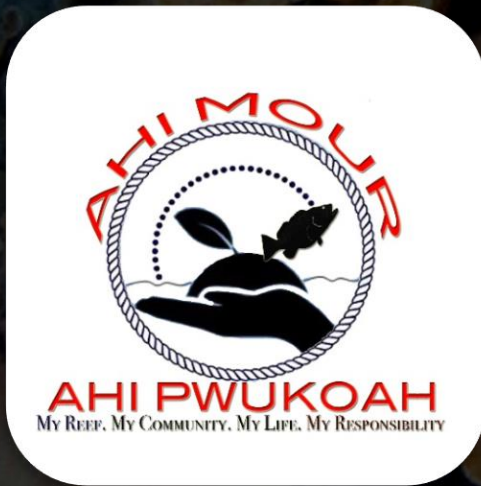
## Puerto Rico

- Capacity Training for Enforcement Officers
- Removal of derelict vessels in Fajardo:
- Needs: Funding for enforcement, and to enhance the effectiveness of management actions

# Member Updates

## U.S. Virgin Islands

- Assessing MPA Health
- Increasing Enforcement Effectiveness
- Beach plastic recycling established
- Updates to Visitor Center at St. Croix East End Marine Park complete



Logo. Pohnpei State Fisheries Working Group

## Federated States of Micronesia

- Rapid population assessment and stakeholder meetings on Sea Cucumbers
- Building science to management network
- Needs: Technical Assistance for developing Bio-security regulations

# Member Updates

## Republic of the Marshall Islands

- 1<sup>st</sup> National Ocean Symposium held, including community and government stakeholders
- Giant Clam Aquaculture
- Community Based management continues via Reimaanlok



Women trainees from Majuro Atoll measuring wire mesh to fit in a giant clam cage for aquaculture. *MIMRA*



xxx

## Republic of Palau

- Fisheries Independent Surveys complete
- Socio-Economic Monitoring Expanded
- Coral Recruitment and Reproductive Studies continue to support management

# Acknowledgements

- Task Force co-chairs Leboeuf and Buckner
- Task Force members & member agencies
- State of Florida, Florida DEP Staff
- AIC Secretariat



Photo: Joe Marin



# Questions?