

Coral Reefs, Climate Change and Coral Bleaching

**(a) Developing Partnerships for Science and Management
June 18-20, 2003, Oahu, Hawai'i**

Section 1.02 Purpose

The workshop aims to develop an interdisciplinary partnership among state, territorial, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, and other stakeholders to advance the science and tools for management of coral reefs in the context of climate change and increasing insults from coral bleaching events.

Workshop themes include:

- 1) Information-sharing: overview of all stakeholder activities in the areas of coral reef science, monitoring, modeling and management for climate change and bleaching, with discussion of opportunities for collaboration and identification of knowledge gaps
- 2) Management toolkit: compilation of all available strategies, techniques, and programs for adaptive management of coral reefs in a changing climate, for inclusion in an information toolkit that can be shared with field managers in all regions
- 3) Program planning: develop a framework for an integrated research program to improve our understanding of local and system-wide responses to climate change and establish partnerships that enhance our ability to develop management responses

Article II. Background

At its meeting in October 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) passed two resolutions highlighting the impacts of climate change and coral bleaching on coral reefs. The first resolution on "Coral Reefs and Climate Change" calls for an interagency, public/private partnership to advance understanding and management of this issue. A second resolution identifies climate change and coral bleaching as one of six priority threats to U.S. reefs and encourages development of local action strategies by state/territory and federal partners to outline a local management response. In response to these resolutions, the Department of Commerce (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of the Interior (DoI) are organizing this workshop and inviting USCRTF members and other stakeholders to join them as hosts and participants in the workshop.

Article III. Participants

The Workshop Organizing Committee seeks participation and commitment from federal, state and territorial government, NGOs, academic researchers, and other stakeholders currently active in understanding and managing coral reefs in a changing climate. Areas of interest currently identified include:

- 1) bleaching management practices
- 2) monitoring efforts (biological and physical)

- 3) state of scientific understanding about coral bleaching
- 4) other important stressors related to the bleaching story
- 5) current and future programs to address bleaching issues
- 6) scientific gap analysis
- 7) future management tools and practices
- 8) recovery from bleaching events
- 9) adaptation and resilience to bleaching events