U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)

Fran Castro, Chair
18 February 2015
Washington D.C.
Coral Reef Ecosystem Importance

Thriving coral reef ecosystems, effectively managed to protect their ecological, social, and economic value for future generations. (AIC vision)

• The AIC jurisdictions are home to much of our nation’s shallow-water tropical coral reefs.

• Coral reefs are critically important to the jurisdictions and FAS

• Provide economic, cultural, and ecological services to millions of people as valuable areas of natural beauty, cultural significance, sources of food, jobs and revenues, recreation and tourism, shoreline protection, and much more
The islands and the AIC are an integral part of the history of coral reef conservation in the U.S. and helped to create much of what guides coral reef conservation today.

- **1996:** AIC was established.
- **1998:** EO 13089 / USCRTF formed – AIC recognized as a key element of the overall U.S. Coral Reef Initiative
- **2000:** Coral Reef Conservation Act
What is the AIC?

The **combined voice of the coral reef jurisdictions** of the U.S. and Freely Associated States.

- Strengthen jurisdiction voices in the federal process to conserve coral reefs
- Share common experiences, successes, and failures
**Who is the AIC?**

### Members
- **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** – Fran Castro, Chair
- **U.S. Virgin Islands** – Jean-Pierre Oriol, Vice Chair
- **American Samoa** – Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, PhD
- **Florida** – Joanna Walczak
- **Guam** – Lorilee Crisostomo
- **Hawai’i** – Emma Anders
- **Puerto Rico** – Damaris Delgado

### Affiliate Members
- **Federated States of Micronesia** – Alissa Takesy
- **Republic of the Marshall Islands** – Don Hess
- **Republic of Palau** – Umiich Sengebau

### AIC Secretariat
- Carey Morishige Martinez – Executive Director
- Gerry Davis – Resource Management Advisor
- Michael Hamnett, PhD – Policy Advisor
- Robert Richmond, PhD – Science Advisor

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How does the AIC work?

**Points of Contact**
- AIC Chair
- AIC Vice Chair
- Governor-appointed coral reef Points of Contact (Voting members)
- Representatives of Freely Associated States (Non-voting/Affiliate members)

**Guidance Support Coordination**

**AIC Secretariat**
- AIC Secretariat Executive Director
- AIC Advisors (Resource management, policy, and science)

**Decision-making is via Consensus of voting members.**

*Consensus is fundamental agreement and does not have to be unanimous.*

**Guided by...**
- AIC Charter
- Strategic Plan
- AIC Communications Plan
AIC and the Task Force

The **USCRTF provides the invaluable opportunity** for jurisdiction and federal managers to interact at a national level.

**Opportunities:**
- Convey and discuss AIC priority issues
- Conduit for federal agencies to reach all 7 jurisdictions and FAS
- Share information, views
- Portal for partnership and collaboration

AIC jurisdictions = Governors

FAS = Principals / POCs
AIC Overarching Priorities

- Achievable and shared resource-focused outcomes
- Integrated and strengthened federal-local partnership
Questions?