

# The National Academies

Proposed Study:  
CORAL REEF SCIENCE &  
POLICY

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# Outline

- NAS and NRC – what we are, what we do
- Procedures for Starting a Study
- History of the Proposed Coral Reef Science and Policy Study
- Presentation of the NRC-Approved Task
- Next Steps

# National Research Council

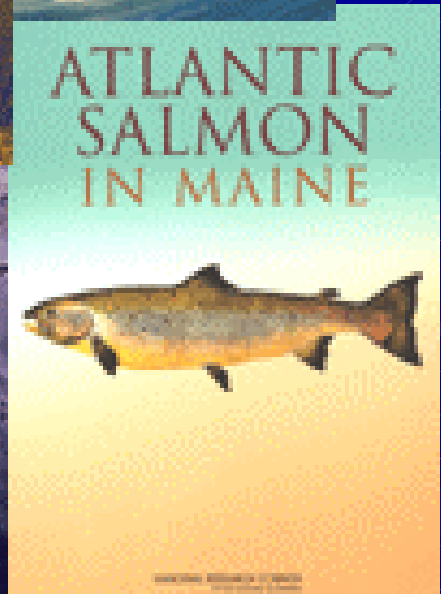
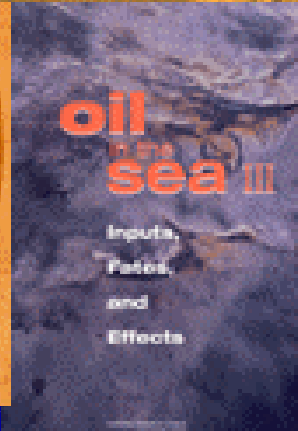
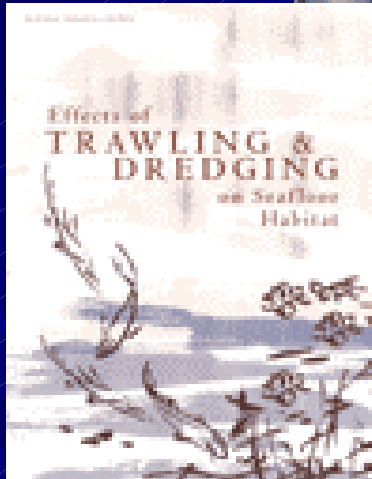
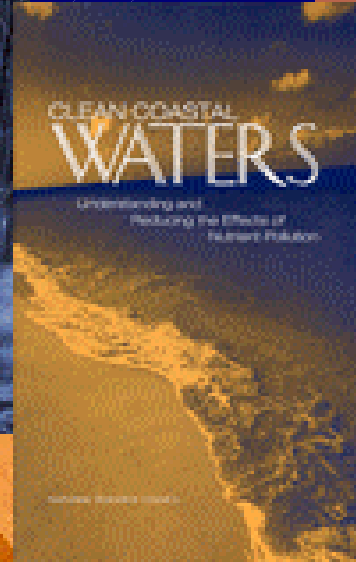
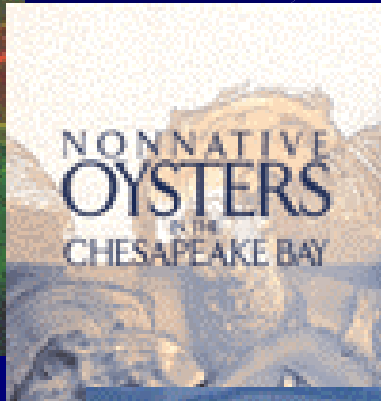
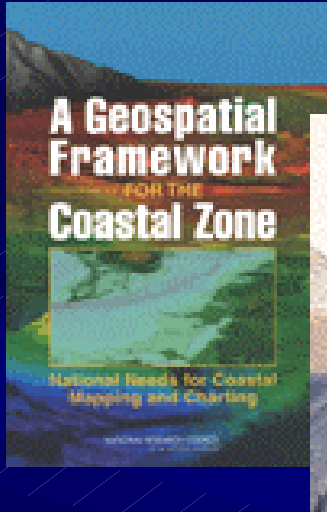
- National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was chartered by Congress in 1863.
- National Research Council (NRC) is the working arm of the NAS, created in 1916 to advise the federal government and advance science and technology.
- Sponsors are usually federal agencies, with contributions from state and local governments, industry, and nonprofit organizations.

# Why the Academies?

- Independence (non-profit, non-government)
- Balance (range of perspectives represented; report is based on consensus)
- Objectivity (conflict of interest procedures)
- Quality (NRC oversight, external peer review)

*Each activity is conducted by a group of volunteer experts, selected for that specific task, and overseen by the National Research Council.*

# Earlier OSB Work



# Before any OSB activity begins...

- ✓ The Ocean Studies Board must approve the activity,
- ✓ the NRC Governing Board must also approve it, and
  - **70% of funding must be received, with remainder promised.**



# Coral Reef Science and Policy

**NAS sponsored a one day workshop to determine if a study on coral resources would be useful for Congress, managers, and public education.**

## **The Result...**

**CRTF Resolution 7 from 8<sup>th</sup> CRTF Meeting (October, 2002)**

**“The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force acknowledges that the study charge presented by the National Academy of Sciences was developed in cooperation with members of the coral reef management, research, non-governmental organizations, and private foundation communities and supports the efforts of the NAS; and endorses the development of this study. ...”**

# Development and Revision of Task Statement

## Agencies Involved:

- NOAA
- FWS
- USGS
- NASA
- EPA
- USDA
- NSF



# Task Statement

To determine if management needs are being met and if critical gaps in knowledge are being adequately identified and addressed under present management and research practices, this study will provide an analysis of:

- 1) existing legislative authority,
- 2) federal management policies,
- 3) current scientific research priorities,
- 4) ongoing mitigation efforts, and
- 5) performance metrics pertaining to the management of U.S. tropical and subtropical shallow water coral reef ecosystems.

# Task Statement Continued...

**These objectives will be accomplished through the following actions:**

**Legislative Authority.** The study will assess current legislative authority to determine if there are any statutory barriers to the establishment of management policies and to interagency cooperation in the implementation of these policies.

# Task Statement Continued...

- **Management Policies**. The study will determine if current management policies are adequate for tackling the impact of the known existing ecosystem stressors.
- **Research Priorities**. The committee will describe current research efforts to address management needs and suggest mechanisms for improvement.

# Task Statement Continued...

- **Mitigation**. The committee will identify models for coral ecosystem management in the U.S. and abroad and examine their effectiveness with regard to the ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of coral reef protection and use.
- **Performance Metrics**. The committee will identify possible metrics for evaluation and suggest mechanisms for incorporation of those results into an adaptive management framework.

# Work Plan

- 24 month study
- 13 expert committee members including 2 non-US participants
- 5 Meetings
- \$520,000

# Action Needed

- ✓ NRC Approval to Undertake Study
- Determine CRTF Agency Interest
- Sponsorship