



Coral Reef Biocriteria in the Pacific Islands

Part I: Overview

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Part II: Biocriteria in CNMI and AS

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EPA Workshop in Guam: Recommendations

- Biocriteria concept well received
 - Standardize monitoring
 - Improve protection of coral reefs
- Immediate steps
 - Add narrative coral language to WQS, e.g. to protect spawning
 - Develop standardized coral bioassessment methods/QA & formalize as policy
- Share info among jurisdictions



Key barriers to developing/adopting numeric coral biocriteria:

- Opposition from regulated community
- Natural variability of “reference” sites
- Lack of funding & capacity to conduct new monitoring programs



Status of coral biocriteria in Pacific Islands

CNMI and AS:

- ✓ New narrative criteria to protect corals
- ✓ Baseline surveys completed
- ✓ Numeric criteria calculated
- Adopt numeric criteria into WQS

Hawaii

- UH group interested in using existing CRAMP database; Agencies not yet engaged

Guam

- Interested in biocriteria but no plan

