

Summary of Decisions-- First meeting of the United States Coral Reef Task Force

**Biscayne National Park, Florida
October 19-20, 1998**

- The Governors of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were invited to participate as full members of the Task Force.

- The Task Force established several Working Groups (WG) to develop immediate actions and longer-term strategies to fulfill requirements of Executive Order #13089 concerning protection of coral reefs. The Working Groups and lead agencies are listed below:

- a) Water and Air Quality (EPA lead);
- b) Coastal Uses (NOAA lead);
- c) Ecosystem Science and Conservation (DOI lead);
- d) Mapping and Information Synthesis (NASA lead); and
- e) International (State lead).

- All of the Task Force members, or their representatives, will be able to participate in any of the WGs. All WGs should address the following cross cutting themes:

- a) public education/outreach,
- b) management needs, and
- c) standard setting and enforcement.

- At the next meeting of the Task Force, the WGs will present an outline of the priority actions needed to address coral reef issues in their topic area. Action items should focus on immediate and long-term time scales. Specific workplans and budgets required for implementation of these actions to meet the goals of the Executive Order (E.O.) should also be developed.

- NOAA will host the next Task Force meeting in late February or early March 1999 in Hawaii.

- The Governors' representatives from the islands will develop a statement defining a sustainable use of coral reefs (Guam agreed to lead this effort).

- Prior to our next meeting, Task Force members will summarize the authorities of their agencies relevant to coral reef management and conservation. Please refer to the 1997 U.S. Coral Reef Initiative Strategy document (pp. 35-45) that was included in your Task Force Briefing Book.

- The Federal agency Task Force members will work with CEQ and OMB to develop a budget cross-cut for implementation of the E.O.