International Year of the Reef 2008

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U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
Historical Overview: 1997 IYOR

- **Primary goal:** To raise global awareness of the value of coral reefs and the challenges they face
- Prompted by the scientific community and supported by governments and organizations around the world
- Intended to promote and pursue the goals of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- General examples of IYOR activities:
  - reef clean ups, volunteer monitoring (Reef Check ‘97), protected area designations, creation of coral reef guides, coral reef workshops for teachers, photo competitions/exhibitions, etc.
Momentum for a 10-yr Anniversary of IYOR

- **Ongoing discussions** by international ad hoc group
- **Resolutions** to move forward with 2008 IYOR:
  - ICRI Nov 2005 Decision (recurring Day of the Reef)
  - USCRTF Nov. 2005 Resolution (scoping)
  - USCRTF May 2006 Resolution (endorsement)
  - ITMEMS: Int’l Discussion Workshops
  - ICRI Oct. 2006 Resolution (endorsement)
ITMEMS and ICRI

- **ITMEMS:**
  - Two IYOR workshops
  - ITMEMS Action Statement including six IYOR recommendations

- **ICRI General Meeting:**
  - 2008 IYOR Resolution and discussion
  - IYOR Terms of Reference for “ad hoc committee”
Key Events Taking Place in 2008

- U.S. and Mexico to serve as co-chairs of ICRI Secretariat – 2007 to 2009
- 10th Anniversary of the establishment of GCRMN, Reef Check network, and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
- International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) – July 2008
- Release of Global and U.S. ‘State of Reef’ reports
- Opening of Smithsonian Oceans Hall Coral Reef Exhibit (30M visitors/yr)
- Others?
The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force:

- **Reaffirms its support and endorsement** of the 2008 International Year of the Reef.
- **Encourages its members to actively participate** in the IYOR Working Group through their designated POC, and to consider in detail the role of their agency or jurisdiction in IYOR.
2008 IYOR Decision Item

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force:

• Encourages its members to support IYOR through financial contributions, staff time, and/or content development for coral reef related events, announcements, products and initiatives for 2008.

• Requests that its members report on their initial levels of support for IYOR during the Spring 2007 CRTF meeting.

• Requests that the Working Group present their IYOR plan of action during the Spring 2007 CRTF meeting.
CRTF IYOR Side Meeting

• October 26: 5:00pm – 7:30pm

• Provide detailed update on IYOR efforts (including ITMEMS, ICRI)

• Discuss proposed outline of U.S. IYOR Plan of Action