

8th Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
October 2-3, 2002
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Resolution 8-6: Response to the Ocean Commission

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force directs the Steering Committee to send the proceedings from October 2-3, 2002 CRTF meeting to the Commission, along with the CRTF summary and recommendations. Included will be the acknowledgement that these proceedings will be supplemented by individual member agencies responses to Dr. Mueller-Karger's points directly to the Commission.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force encourages the Steering Committee to regularly provide CRTF information to Commission.

All documents will be circulated to all CRTF members prior to submission to Commission.

Request to the Task Force by Dr. Mueller-Karger, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and University of South Florida College of Marine Science

As you know, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has been meeting around the country over the past 9 months collecting input from the public, academia, industry, and government on issues that need to be considered in updating our country's ocean policy. We have had meetings in Puerto Rico, Florida, Hawaii, and the Gulf area, and have heard substantial testimony on tropical coral reef issues from these areas and from representatives from the Virgin Islands and Guam, and from many public speakers.

An important objective of this public Commission is to study direct recommendations for policy options in the process in drafting the report due to the President and Congress in the first half of 2003. To date, we have had very few explicit, direct, concrete recommendations for policy directions for the Federal Government on the wide range of issues that affect or are related to coral reefs.

As a member of the Commission's Stewardship Working Group, I would like to request that the Coral Reef Task Force provide the Commission with a list of specific policy recommendations that we should consider in developing policy regarding coral reef environments. The more specific the recommendations, the better and more valuable to the Commission they will be. The Stewardship Working Group will be working with the other working groups in defining policy recommendations, including in areas relevant to "governance", "research, education, monitoring, and operations", and "investment and implementation", which are the focus of the other working groups of the Commission with those names.

As you know, background on our goals and mandate, background on Commissioners, and copies of testimony submitted to the Commission to date may be found on our web page: <http://oceancommission.gov>

I would urge you, others on the Task force, and any of our colleagues interested in providing input to the Commission, to review our draft "issues" and questions, posted on the web, and provide us with feedback. The feedback may come as comments on the document, or, again, as specific recommendations for policy options. This is a process in which we all have a chance to participate, and I welcome as much interaction with you and others interested as is possible.