



Member Report

ICRI GM 27 - MR/SCRFA

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)
27th General Meeting
16 -19 June 2012 – Cairns, Australia

Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Martin Russell



SCRFA
SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF REEF FISH AGGREGATIONS

Reporting period January - July 2012

1. **General Information** (note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Non-Government Organisation
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Martin Russell
Organization:	Society for the Conservation of reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)
Email:	yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk
Focal point 2:	
Name:	Yvonne Sadovy
Organization:	SCRFA
Email:	yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk
Last meeting attended:	Samoa

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan or similar? If so please provide URL:	No
If you are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs, please indicate which ones:	

2. **Updates on your activities** (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

Assessment of spawning aggregations as indicators of reef fish health.

- A major update of the SCRFA global spawning aggregation database has been initiated and will be completed by mid 2012. This work updates and refines global information produced on spawning aggregations since 2004.
- Working with east Africa and the Seychelles on a modelling approach to assessing the vulnerability of spawning aggregations using an indicator-based framework.
- Information is being collected in the field which is/was fully or partially funded by SCRFA. This is allowing for collection of new data on aggregations and fisheries in regions where there are currently no data available. Examples include Fiji and Palau and, most recently, a study in the Laccadive Islands of India. These examples will be important for ensuring diversity of locations and regions for the indicator work.
- A new book on spawning aggregations, published this year, has amassed a substantial foundation of information from key workers in the field and is very valuable for the indicator work (Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y. J., & Colin, P. L. 2011. Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations: Biology, Research and Management. Pp. 621. Springer, London).

Continuation of grouper aggregation tagging and research in Fiji in collaboration with Fiji's Fisheries Research Division.

- Monitoring (underwater surveys) and acoustic tagging continued at spawning aggregation sites in Fiji.
- To increase interest and understanding of the Fiji aggregation work a blog was posted on the SCRFA website during the study period – it attracted some very positive comments (<http://fishspawning.wordpress.com/>).

Improving the understanding of spawning aggregations globally and the need for management and conservation

- The recently produced book on spawning aggregations by two co-founders of SCRFA (Yvonne Sadovy and Pat Colin) is the first of its kind and draws together all the information on their biology, conservation and management.
- Keynote addresses to a conservation congress in India, and at the Royal Geographical Society in Hong Kong on the live reef food fish trade and the vulnerability of spawning aggregations in the case of many of the commercially sought-after food fish species in this trade.
- Working with SeaWeb on an outreach campaign in the Pacific on spawning aggregations.
- The SCRFA website is a valued comprehensive information and research tool on reef fish aggregations globally.
- Developing education collaboration in Mexico on aggregations which will have wide dissemination in Mexico.
- SCRFA Newsletters with news items and publications from around the globe on aggregations.
- Collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society to audit the methods used in Belize to assess fish numbers in one of the largest remaining Nassau grouper aggregation sites.

3. Contribution to the ICRI GM

Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting.

a. Management effectiveness

Are you engaged in an assessment of management effectiveness in your marine areas? If so, the ICRI Secretariat invites members to provide a 5-minute presentation on a case study relative to assessing the management effectiveness of an MPA during the management effectiveness workshop that will be held on the Tuesday (17 July). The 5 minute presentation will provide an overview of:

- What kind of assessment was undertaken
- How the results of this assessment are being used.

The presentation can be illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation or not; if a PowerPoint is used than it should not exceed 5 slides.

Please indicate whether you would like to provide a presentation as described above:

YES NO

Is there any other aspect of management effectiveness you would like to share with ICRI members?

[Insert text here]

b. Community stewardship

Are there any activities or initiatives involving community engagement in coastal marine management that you are involved with?

[Insert text here]

4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate which topic and the reason why you would like to raise it:

[Insert text here]

5. Please list publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y. and Colin P.L. (Eds.). 2012. Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations: Biology, Research and Management. Fish & Fisheries Series 35, 371-404. Springer Science & Business Media.	Book

6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend

International Coral Reef Symposium, 9-13 July, Cairns, Australia

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 6-15 September 2012, Jeju

→ Are you planning to organise a side event? Please indicate:

[Insert text here]

11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity (COP-11), 8-19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India

Other: [Insert text here]