



*Oceanographic Center*

Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center  
National Coral Reef Institute  
8000 N. Ocean Drive  
Dania FL 33004

January 5, 2010

Monsieur Laurent Stefanini  
Ambassador for the Environment  
Secrétariat de l'Initiative Internationale pour les Récifs Coralliens  
C/O Secrétariat d'Etat l'Outre-Mer 27, rue Oudinot  
75007 Paris  
France

Dear Monsieur Stefanini:

The National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) wishes to formally apply for membership to ICRI.

Under the Organization and Management Procedures for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), NCRI qualifies for membership under Article I (v.) - any international, intergovernmental, or non-governmental organization with significant national, regional, or global coral reef programs or interests.

NCRI is a congressionally mandated coral reef research institute housed at and an integral part of Nova Southeastern University, based in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The primary goal of NCRI is to protect and preserve the nation's coral reefs through multidisciplinary basic and applied scientific research as well as via training and education. Assessing, monitoring, and restoring reefs are priorities, especially with regard to ecological processes, biodiversity, overall reef function, and reef recovery. NCRI develops and conducts management-based research, working with on a local, national and international scale, to provide information to and aid coral reef managers in the best available science to manage coral reef resources.

NCRI supports both the ICRI Renewed Call to Action and the Framework for Action and is committed to attending the annual ICRI General Meetings. Representatives from NCRI have attending the last four General Meetings of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) including the recent meeting in Thailand.

With similar goals and concerns, we believe that NCRI fits well into the ICRI organization and can contribute to general membership. We respectfully ask the ICRI Secretariat and Membership to accept this formal request for the National Coral Reef Institute for ICRI membership.

Please let me know if you need any further information or have any question.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Richard E. Dodge  
Executive Director  
National Coral Reef Institute  
Dean  
Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center