



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Martin Russell

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)
Focal Point 1:	Martin Russell
Focal point 2:	Yvonne Sadovy
Last meeting attended:	Washington, DC
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email list, Newsletters.
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$150,000 (2008/2009)

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:

- a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences of developing partnerships with the private sector that might be relevant to ICRI members?

SCRFA recently collaborated with NGOs and the Fiji Government on an economic valuation of the Fiji coastal reef food fish fishery. The project was funded by the private sector. Early discussions in the planning phase helped to identify the economic importance of luxury export marine species that have no food value for the source country.

- b. Are you aware of programmes or policies by your country/organization for implementing integrated ecosystem management from watershed to reef slope?

SCRFA is working with the Palau Conservation Society on the multi-year project on marine and terrestrial ecosystem based management for the island of Babeldaop. SCRFA’s work on spawning aggregations complements Palau’s marine ecosystem based management research, and includes an educational component for their ‘Ridge to Reef’ project.

- c. Are there any monitoring or research activities you are either involved in or aware of aimed at improving understanding of adaptive management of coral reefs and related ecosystems that may be of interest to ICRI members?

See item E

- d. Please indicate the effects of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade on your government/organization. Are you aware of any programs/policies in place to address these impacts?

Fish spawning aggregations are being increasingly targeted throughout Asia-Pacific by the LRFFT. This is a core component in the work SCRFA undertakes in the research and assistance to management of fish spawning aggregations.

*SCRFA is currently developing a work plan with WWF Philippines to collect biological data on the Palawan Island live fish export trade, the largest in the country. The objective is to work towards a sustainable export quota for the most important species, the coral trout, *Plectropomus leopardus*.*

- e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2008, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, integrated coastal zone management measures, policy changes influenced by economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

SCRFA has an MOU with the Palau Conservation Society (PCS) to assist, amongst other things, in the development of a robust sampling protocol for a protected fish spawning aggregation site. This was initiated in 2008 and continues. This feeds into the PCS EBM work noted in (b).

SCRFA has completed an economic analysis of Fiji's coastal reef fish fishery that will be presented at a workshop later this year. The study clearly demonstrates the value of coastal fisheries to Fiji, which are undervalued using current market sampling techniques. It is planned to use the study to improve the annual reef fish monitoring protocol.

In 2008, SCRFA started development of a robust sampling protocol in Fiji for a spawning aggregation in a protected area as a baseline for future monitoring and management. This work forms part of the Fiji Government work on fisheries in the Kadavu Island area, and ongoing MPA work involving the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas programme.

ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Perth, Australia, May-June 2009
 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, November, 2009
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