

Recommendation for coral reef sustainable fisheries

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
25 and 26 May, 2000, Noumea (New-Caledonia)*

Recognizing that coral reef and related ecosystems provide important services which sustain the livelihoods of many people in Small Island Developing States and other countries;

Recognizing that both extractive and non-extractive uses of the natural resources of these sensitive ecosystems continue to intensify as a result of increasing economic and nutritional demands and that as a result many coral reef species are already stressed by a variety of local to global scale factors;

Recognizing that issues of destructive fishing practices have and will be raised in a number of fora, for example the upcoming International Society for Reef Studies Bali 2000 conference, APEC Marine Resources and Fisheries meeting as well as other regional initiatives;

Noting that several United Nations agencies have mandates which include responsibilities to help these countries in the sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources (FAO), the conservation of biological diversity in these sensitive coastal ecosystems (UNEP), and improving the understanding and management of the ocean environment (IOC/UNESCO);

The ICRI Partners

Invite FAO to become an ICRI partner ;

Suggest that FAO, in collaboration with UNEP, IOC/UNESCO and other UN agencies adopt as a common priority the sustainable management of coral reef and related ecosystems;

Request that FAO Committee on Fisheries work with other relevant bodies to undertake a technical analysis of sustainable and unsustainable fisheries associated with coral reef species that will provide a basis for governments to determine how to eliminate destructive fishing practices and promote sustainable fisheries;

Encourage FAO to monitor and assess the scale and status of subsistence fisheries for coral reef species;

Pledge to seek mechanisms and partnerships appropriate to the achievement of sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and maintain a consistent dialogue with the appropriate UN agencies, including the ACC sub-Committee on the Oceans and Coastal Areas to ensure that this remains a priority matter. For example, we encourage governments to provide FAO with appropriate and accurate statistics on coral reef fishery harvest.