



Member’s report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period July 2012 - October 2013

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Member type (Country / Organization):	Non-government organisation
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Martin Russell
<i>Organization:</i>	Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)
<i>Email:</i>	martinrussell99@gmail.com
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Yvonne Sadovy
<i>Organization:</i>	Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)
<i>Email:</i>	yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk
Last meeting attended:	Samoa
Related website(s)	www.SCRFA.org

2. Updates on your activities

- Fish Aggregation Database. A major update of the SCRFA global fish aggregation database has been undertaken. The database now has over 900 records available in table format or for visualisation using Google Earth. It contains information on fish aggregations, including biological and habitat characteristics, current status, management, traditional knowledge and exploitation history. The database has a unique record entering process whereby records can be entered via a drop down and multiple selection menus. These parameters have been developed to keep a consistent dataset that can be easily analysed. Newly entered records undergo quality checking before being made available on the searchable web database. The precise locations of aggregation sites are not made publically available to protect them from further exploitation.
- Methods Manual. SCRFA has published a very simple methods manual on understanding the biology and ecology of food fish species of special interest, or that may be particularly vulnerable to overfishing. This publication was funded by the Christensen Fund.
- Short film. Spawning For Survival. This two-minute film is about the importance of spawning aggregations and the need to manage them.
- Student Travel Award. This year SCRFA for the first time is sponsoring a Student Travel Award (US\$800) to a student working in the Caribbean Region to attend the next Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) meeting. GCFI was founded in 1947 to promote the exchange of current information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region. SCRFA has been actively engaged in GCFI meetings for many years.
- Fiji work. Completed 4 years of aggregation surveys, community work and capacity building at the Naiqoro Passage aggregation site in Kadavu, an island south of Suva, Fiji.
- Palau work. We revisited the protected Ebiil aggregation for which we established a baseline profile of species, numbers and timing in 2009 along with a monitoring protocol in collaboration with the Palau Conservation Society. We found that the numbers of three species of groupers appear to be similar to our original counts in 2009.
- Bahamas work. SCRFA revisited an aggregation site for Nassau grouper that was last surveyed in 1971 by C. Lavett Smith. He witnessed a massive gathering of 30,000 and 100,000 Nassau groupers about to spawn. Because Nassau grouper is currently being assessed

under the Endangered Species Act, in January 2013, SCRFA and Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) resurveyed the site; only 5 grouper were found over 6 days, none of which showed any evidence of spawning. Local fishermen commented that the aggregation had disappeared by the early 1980s. Even with protection there would seem to be little hope of recovery for this famous site.

- Campaign. SCRFA is also working together with the Wildlife Conservation Society and others in Fiji on a campaign led by SeaWeb to further understanding and appreciation of the importance of aggregations for fisheries in the country to better promote their protection.
- CTI. SCRFA provided data for The Nature Conservancy assessment in the Coral Triangle.
- Website. SCRFA continues to update its website to ensure relevant and useful information on fish aggregation issues is available. www.SCRFA.org

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. Community-based monitoring

Are you engaged in, or support community-based monitoring in your marine areas? If so, think about what works and what doesn't with it to be prepared for workshop discussions on this topic. The discussions will revolve around:

- The benefit of community-based monitoring for management and reporting
- Way forward and how countries could support each other through a network of persons involved in monitoring and an online database.

b. Co-management

Do you have co-management arrangements in place for your marine reserves? If so, start thinking about what they are, and what works for you in preparation for workshop and field trip discussions on this topic. There will be some interactive exercises to help guide your thinking and possible way forward.

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 relevant 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. 2013. Back to Basics; training module for the management and conservation of reef fishes important for food. Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA), California, USA. www.SCRFA.org. Pp. 60	Manual

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

2nd Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) October 2- 4 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica

17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-17), 14-18 October 2013 Montreal, Canada

2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Conference, 17-20 October 2013, Corsica, France

International Marine Protected Areas Congress, 21-27 October, Marseille, France

9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2-6 December, Suva, Fiji

Other:

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) annual meeting, Corpus Christie, Texas. Nov 2013. www.GCFI.org

World Parks Congress, Sydney, Nov 2014. <http://www.worldparkscongress.org/>