



## Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Yvonne Sadovy

Reporting period January 2010 – November 2010

### 1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Non-Government Organisation
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Martin Russell</i>
<i>Organization:</i>	<i>SCRFA</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>Martin.Russell@environment.gov.au</i>
<b>Focal point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Yvonne Sadovy
<i>Organization:</i>	SCRFA
<i>Email:</i>	yjsadovy@hku.hk
Last meeting attended:	Monaco, January 2010
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Newsletter, website
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$300k, 2009/10

For countries only:

<b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	N/A
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	N/A
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	N/A
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	Yes
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Fiji, Palau, Bahamas, Great Barrier Reef projects. ICRI East Asia Regional Working Group Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute annual meetings

### 2. Updates on your activities (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members)

**SCRFA has a range of educational products about fish spawning aggregations. SCRFA also maintains the only global database on aggregations. [www.SCRFA.org](http://www.SCRFA.org)**

**SCRFA has key project in the following countries:**

**Fiji**

- Fisher interviews, data collection and under water visual surveys on spawning aggregations in an MPA over past three years has led to insights into timing of

spawning, which is a fundamental baseline for management assessment and increased knowledge in local communities.

- Training in research and assessment of spawning aggregations conducted with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community reached 11 Pacific Island countries.
- Evaluation through Masters study of relative (and substantial) importance of reef fishes that have the habit of aggregating to spawn in the overall coastal fishery of the country.

#### **Palau**

- Development of robust monitoring protocol at a spawning aggregation site in an MPA established a baseline for future monitoring and training.
- Produced a DVD and educational materials raising awareness about the importance of aggregations in coastal fisheries as well as highlighting the problems of overfishing and general absence of fishery management.

#### **Bahamas**

- Training in fisher interview techniques led to collection of information on history and current fishery condition of the Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*), which aggregates to spawn. These data will be used for management decisions and for an economic evaluation of the role of the aggregation in the overall fishery and thus to the country. This species is one of the most valuable finfishes in the Bahamas.

#### **Australia**

- Annual monitoring survey of two key spawning aggregation sites for coral trout on the Great Barrier Reef – this builds on the only long-term sampling initiative on aggregations in the country and one of the longest globally.

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. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

- a. Session on accidental releases of pollutants

Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing accidental pollutions and any projects/programs you are involved in. Do you have report or documents related to this topic?

N/A

- b. During the meeting, a full day will focus on the Pacific region. If you have any question about the region, ongoing projects in the region... please let us know.

***Would like to know about or have time to discuss the issues of poaching (IUU fishing) and night spearfishing as major problems in fishery and coral reef management in the Pacific?***

- c. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2010, has been made by your government/organization relative to i) Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar, World Heritage sites, and Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites designation containing coral reefs; ii) Policy changes; iii) Economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

**Policy: a no-trawling policy/regulation will be introduced in Hong Kong to expand protection of the marine environment. Outcome of a long campaign by many different groups.**

- d. We would also like to know if some of the recommendations or resolutions adopted during the last ICRI meeting (<http://icriforum.org/icrigm24>) have been taken forward by your country or organization

N/A

- e. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

**Fish Spawning Aggregations need to be routinely considered in coral reef management. Fishery management is urgently needed in most countries and capacity in fishery management skills needs to be substantially increased.**

- f. Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009;

SCRFA Newsletter Numbers 12-14 appear on our website ([www.scrfa.org](http://www.scrfa.org))

Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y. 2009. Biology and Ecology Considerations for the Fishery Manager. Chapter 2. In: A Fishery Manager's Guidebook. Second Edition. K. L. Cochrane and S. M. Garcia (eds.). FAO/Blackwell Publishing, UK. pp 21-51.

Claro, R., Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y., Lindeman, K. C. & Garcia-Cagide, A. R. 2009. Historical analysis of Cuban commercial fishing effort and the effects of management interventions on important reef fishes from 1960-2005. *Fisheries Research*. 99 (1):7-16.

Erisman, B., Mascarenas, I., Paredes, G., Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y., Aburto-Oropeza, O. and Hastings, P. 2010 Seasonal, annual, and long-term trends in commercial fisheries for aggregating reef fishes in the Gulf of California, Mexico. *Fisheries Research* 10. In press

Yeeting, B., Sadovy, Y., Batibasaga, A., and Veitayaki, J. 2010. A regional Pacific Islands workshop on monitoring and managing reef fish spawning aggregations for sustainability: A first attempt. SPC Live Reef Fisheries Bulletin No. 19 pp 17-18.

To be published in Science 2010: 'The impact of conservation on the status of the world's vertebrates' Hoffman et al. (mentions marine vertebrates)

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

**Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute – annual meeting, November 2010**

- **SCRFA is sponsoring a half day session on fish spawning aggregations, followed by a workshop on developing a Caribbean Outreach Strategy for getting more action on management and research of aggregations.**