



## [SCRFA] Member's report on activities to ICRI

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Reporting period: January to June 2008

### 1. General Information

Representation to ICRI	<b>Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)</b>
Focal Point 1	Martin Russell
Focal point 2	Yvonne Sadovy
Last meeting attended:	Washington DC January 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	News letter, email list
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities	\$300,000 (2007/2009)

### 2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:

#### Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems:

- a. Do you have examples of where economic valuation of coral reefs is being applied in practice? (e.g. in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation);
  - Collaboration between SCRFA and the University of British Columbia to evaluate the coral reef associated fisheries in Fiji. Work will be completed during 2008, including valuation and a methodology for the annual assessment of reef fishery value. Yvonne Sadovy will be working on this project in Fiji in July 08.

#### Sustainable Tourism:

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?
  - Preventing a reef ecosystem from being over-loved.
- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?
  - If a sustainable tourism proposal is to replace fishing, it must include clear economic benefits to local communities.
  - The importance of coastal tourism developments implementing best practices that would help protect inshore habitat and nursery areas.

#### **A. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities:**

1. SCRFA 2008 calendar, providing a unique selection of fish spawning aggregation photos and associated information on species aggregating behavior.
2. SCRFA is focusing on projects in Fiji and Palau to further promote and encourage the management of reef fish aggregations and sustainable use of coral reef fisheries. We are currently working in Palau with the Palau Conservation Society and the Coral Reef Research Foundation, and in Fiji with the Fisheries Department, developing a monitoring protocol and educational materials on spawning aggregations.

3. Yvonne Sadovy is co-organizing an Alliances Workshop at the IUCN WCC in Barcelona on "*Species information for managing marine protected areas; improving access and integration*".

## **B. Emerging Issues**

1. Strategic framework for management and science of fish spawning aggregations. There are considerable information gaps throughout the tropics on fish spawning aggregations. A strategic approach to managing aggregations to avoid over exploitation and to increase the resilience of fish stocks to withstand direct and indirect pressures such as over fishing and climate change.
2. There is a need for management of coral reef fisheries focusing on food security as the major driver rather than commercial use.
3. SCRFA is hosting a special session at the next Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) annual meeting in Guadeloupe in November 2008. The session is entitled "*Spawning Aggregation Conservation and Management*" - This special session is open to the membership to submit oral and posters. Special consideration will be given to papers that explore experiences with aggregation protection and the development of practical approaches and insights based on experiences. These can include outreach and educational components. There will be a panel session that draws on the talks and summarizes lessons learned, identifies gaps in science, and practical lessons learned.
4. With a gradual increase in focus on using spatial protection for fish stocks, we need to learn more about the transport of larvae from spawning aggregations, recruitment and catchment areas.

## **C. ICRI and Other Meetings**

- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-14 October
- Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) annual meeting, Guadeloupe, 10-14 November 2008
- ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop Ad Hoc Committee, Tokyo, 17-19 November 2008