



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations
 Yvonne Sadovy
 Reporting period January to December 2010

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The reports will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don’t hesitate to submit an incomplete report.

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	SCRFA / NGO
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Martin Russell
<i>Organization:</i>	SCRFA
<i>Email:</i>	Martin.Russell@environment.gov.au
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Yvonne Sadovy
<i>Organization:</i>	SCRFA
<i>Email:</i>	yjsadovy@hku.hk
Last meeting attended:	
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Newsletter and email
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	

Updates on your activities

- Workshop in Philippines on monitoring and data collection for the sustainable live reef food fish trade in Palawan
- Workshop in Fiji in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and by request of several Pacific island countries on identifying and managing reef fish spawning aggregations
- Development of field monitoring protocols and capacity to monitor aggregation sites within MPAs in Fiji and Palau. Establishment of baseline information on both sites for analysing fishery value of managing aggregations.
- Development of educational materials and other communication tools on spawning aggregations with the Palau Conservation Society.
- Ongoing development of generic guidelines for monitoring fisheries and for using spawning aggregations as indicators of reef fishery health.

Contribution to the ICRI GM

- a. **Fisheries Session:** please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing fisheries and any projects/programs you are involved in.

1. *Problem or challenge?* In relation to tropical reef fisheries, there is typically little fishery management or enforcement. Where there are active MPA programmes, government fishery departments often use these as their fishery management response and do little else. On the other hand, MPA development rarely specifically addresses fishery issues. This means that coral reef fisheries rarely receive meaningful management attention despite the declines that many are undergoing. Enforcement and monitoring of both fisheries regulations and MPAs is globally poor so the effectiveness or otherwise of interventions is rarely known. One of the major problems is lack of fishery science/management capacity in most countries in addition to a general lack of knowledge the economic value of coastal fisheries especially in relation to subsistence use and overall benefits of export fisheries. Threatened coral reef fishes are not receiving necessary conservation attention in most countries and there is a problem of illegal, unregulated and unmonitored (IUU) trade in many cases.
2. *What was done?* To address some of the above problems SCRFA projects seek to train fishery, NGO and others to sample and monitor their fisheries, both in the field and from market and fisherman samples by introducing simple and practical methods that are scientifically sound. Information was transmitted through workshops, by developing customized guidelines, talks and discussions with key personnel, including leaders and legislators, local NGOs and in communities local to the study sites. We also establish baseline profiles at demonstration field sites (aggregation sites of key commercial species) for future reference and analyses of the fishery. An improved method for assembling annual subsistence fishery information was developed because subsistence components of fisheries are not commonly determined. An economic valuation of luxury seafood items was conducted in one country and there is an ongoing project on identifying and mapping the IUU trade of a threatened species, the Napoleon fish, *Cheilinus undulatus*, in the international live reef food fish trade in SE Asia.
3. *How successful was the intervention? Lessons learned and recommendations.* The various interventions considerably raised awareness about the issues but, more than anything, reaffirmed what many people had already realized – declines in fisheries. Raising the fisheries issues and presenting results of projects led to discussions including a proposal to limit reef fish export in one country and spawning aggregation protection in another. Communities started to discuss what actions could be taken to address overfishing and particularly in relation to aggregating species. Recommendations are for priority to be given to conventional management controls, monitoring and enforcement. We learned that a focus on a particular threatened species or study site opened up opportunities to discuss a range of issues.
4. *References:* Sadovy de Mitcheson and Liu, 2009. Guidelines for monitoring the live reef food fish trade in Palawan, Philippines;
5. *Authors/contact* Yvonne Sadovy (yjsadovy@hku.hk)

- b. **The ICRI Secretariat is planning on revisiting/updating the ICRI ‘call to action’ and ‘framework to action’. Please provide any guidelines you think would be useful.** Much needed are guidelines in relation to sustainable fishery management
- c. **There will be a full day focus on the Caribbean. Any questions?** What ICRI initiatives address fishery management and IUU in the Caribbean?
- d. **There will be a presentation on Man and the Biosphere Programme’ - please list sites under the MAB programme.** None

- e. **What other initiatives, etc., since April 2009 have been made by SCRFA relative to MPAs, policy changes, economic valuation of reefs, etc. of interest to ICRI members** – valuation of subsistence component of Fiji's reef fish fisheries in collaboration with Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia; assessment of importance of aggregating fish species in Fiji's coastal fishery, guidelines for monitoring the live reef food fish trade in Palawan, Philippines.
- f. **List publications/reports released since April 2009:** SCRFA Newsletters 12 and 13. Also see item 4 above.