



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)

Reporting period November 2016 – November 2017

1. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.

Theme 5: "Progress via education"

- Goal 5-1: prepare for the 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR)

Question: Would you like to report on one of your activities during the ICRI GM meeting?

Yes

Theme 2: "Meet international requirements regarding coral reefs"

Goal 2: help to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular those relating to Goal 14 ("Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources")

- During the *The Ocean Conference* in New York 2017, the Fiji Government presented the need for protection of grouper and coral trout spawning aggregation sites across Fijian reef systems. This helps to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular those relating to Goal 14 ("Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources")
- SCRFA worked with Fiji to develop a commitment to protect fish aggregations for local food security and to better manage the fishery. This commitment has local Fiji community support. This is timely and directly relevant to SDG 14, and is the outcome of over a decade of collaboration between Fiji government and SCRFA along with other collaborators, including Wildlife Conservation Society and SeaWeb.
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14327>

2. Publications.

- Report:
Grouper Spawning Site and Trade Study, July 2015: Northern Fishery Division, Fiji.
Completion Report <https://www.scrfa.org/about-aggregations/country-case-studies/fiji.html>
- Blog Report:
"The problem is simple: too much fishing and too little management. We must find a balance so that we have our fish – and their aggregations – treated in a sustainable way."
<https://www.virgin.com/virgin-unite/most-fatal-fish-attraction>
- News Announcement:
"Fiji Fisheries Minister Semi Koroilavesau announced last week that fishing, selling and purchase of grouper such as Donu and Kawakawa will be illegal in Fiji during June to

September 2018 to protect spawning aggregations.”

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?ref=archive&id=415596>

3. General Information.

- Since releasing the “*Status Report – World’s Fish Aggregations 2014*”, SCRFA has updated the Global Database on Fish Aggregations. It now contains over 1000 records. This increases our knowledge base on aggregations. However, the status of the world’s fish aggregations has not changed; 4% are gone and 25% are decreasing.
- We have developed an informative brochure and an infographic (available on www.SCRFA.org) regarding the need for and importance of fish spawning aggregation management.
- SCRFA presented at two meetings of the Marine Stewardship Council on the need to consider management of exploited fishes that aggregate to spawn and a letter was submitted for consideration by the scientific committee.
- SCRFA provides science and management information on marine fish aggregations.
- Board of Directors: Martin Russell (Australia); Yvonne Sadovy (Hong Kong); Jan Robinson (Seychelles); Brad Erisman (USA); Rick Nemeth (US Virgin Islands).
- We work in international committees, meetings and workshops to promote responsible stewardship of fish aggregations.
- We help with researching and managing fish aggregations globally, with recent projects in Asia-Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Caribbean.

Member type (Country / Organization):	Organisation
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