

# *Meet the* **U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**



## **What we do**

The United States Coral Reef Task Force was established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order and codified into law in 2022 to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. The Task Force includes members from federal agencies, seven U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths, three Freely Associated States, and four fishery management councils. We help build partnerships, strategies, and support for on-the-ground action to conserve and restore coral reefs.

## **Understanding coral reef ecosystems**

A better understanding of coral reef ecosystems will improve conservation and management of these valuable resources. To achieve this, we aim to conduct long-term monitoring and assessments of ecosystem conditions, support research and develop strategic management solutions to address the major threats to reefs, increase understanding of the social and economic factors affecting corals, and bring together management and policy experts across the United States.



## **Reducing threats and adverse effects**

Reducing threats from impacts of human activities is essential to conserving coral reef ecosystems. Threats include pollution, disease, disturbance (storms, invasive species), fishing impacts, and coral bleaching. We aim to conserve healthy coral reef ecosystems, improve fisheries management, restore damaged reefs, enhance education and outreach, and improve coordination and accountability.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP



Active engagement and diverse perspectives from our members strengthen the Task Force and enhance the quality of our work. You can join a working group if you are a Task Force member. Active working groups are coral disease and disturbance, watershed, coral bleaching, restoration, enforcement, fisheries, and communications. Email [coralreefweb@noaa.gov](mailto:coralreefweb@noaa.gov) for more information.



**Coral Disease and Disturbance Working Group:** The objectives of this group are to facilitate effective collaboration and communication on coral disease and disturbance status and response efforts among federal agencies and jurisdictions; build capacity for coral disease and disturbance prevention, preparedness, and response; and prevent the transmission of stony coral tissue loss disease.



**Watershed Working Group:** The working group aims to improve watershed management through strategic planning, leveraged resources, and information exchange, and it spearheads the Watershed Partnership Initiative (WPI). The WPI facilitates and enhances coordination, partnerships, resources, and expertise to implement place-based and integrated activities to reduce land-based sources of pollution.



**Communications Working Group:** This working group acts as a resource for the other members of the Task Force and aids in all communication needs. The group develops content such as newsletters, social media, and other outreach materials to help promote the Task Force and engage new members, managers, and the general public. It also supports the other working groups with their communication needs.

## Task Force members

### Co-chairs

U.S. Department of Commerce,  
NOAA

U.S. Department of the Interior

### Federal agency members

Federal Emergency Management  
Agency

Agency for International  
Development

Department of Agriculture

Department of Defense—Army

Department of Defense—Navy

Coast Guard

Department of Justice

Department of State

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

National Aeronautics and Space

Administration

National Science Foundation

### State and territory members

Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

State of Florida

State of Hawai'i

Territory of Guam

Territory of American Samoa

Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands

### Freely Associated States

Federated States of Micronesia

Republic of Marshall Islands

Republic of Palau

### Fishery Management Councils

South Atlantic

Caribbean

Gulf

Western Pacific