



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2006

The United States Departments of Commerce and Interior announce a public meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) Oct. 24-28 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Through the coordinated efforts of its members, including representatives of 12 federal agencies, the governors of seven states and territories, and the leaders of the Freely Associated States, the Task Force has helped lead U.S. efforts to protect and manage valuable coral reef ecosystems in the U.S. and internationally.

WHAT: The 16th biannual meeting of the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 27, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Marriot Frenchman's Reef Hotel, St. Thomas, USVI
NOTE: Advance registration is requested and is available on the Web at:
<http://www.coralreef.gov>

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS:

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Business Meeting

Agenda available on Web site: <http://www.coralreef.gov/>

Remarks by USVI Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull (tentative)
and USCRTF co-chairs Kameron Onley and Timothy Keeney.

Update on Federal Endangered Species Act "threatened" listing of
Acropora corals

Panel 1: Coral Bleaching and Ocean Acidification

Public Comment Session

Anyone intending to provide public comment is required to sign-up in advance at the reception desk in St. Thomas, or by e-mailing Beth.Dieveney@noaa.gov by October 13. Each speaker will be given three to five minutes.

Friday, Oct. 27, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Business Meeting

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Remarks by USVI Delegate Donna Christiansen and USCRTF co-chairs Kameron Onley and Timothy Keeney.

Keynote by Dr. Jeremy Jackson, Scripps Institution of Oceanography: "The changing state of Caribbean coral reef ecosystems"

Panel 2: State of Domestic Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystems

Special Session: U.S. Virgin Islands Students Making a Difference

Panel 3: State of International Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystems

USCRTF Member Updates

Discussion of Resolutions