



International Coral Reef Initiative meeting discusses fish spawning aggregations

Yvonne Sadovy¹

The most recent General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) was held in Monaco, 12–15 January 2010. One of the sessions, organised by Éric Clua of Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP), was on fisheries. Topics covered included climate change and its potential impact on coral reef-associated fisheries (Philip Munday, James Cook University), sharks as vulnerable species (Éric Clua), and a summary of the live reef food fish trade workshop that took place recently in Hong Kong (Kelly Milton, United States government). The vulnerability of reef fish spawning aggregations to unmanaged fishing and the problem of threatened species were addressed by Yvonne Sadovy (Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations – SCRFA – and the University of Hong Kong).

The need for a greater focus on managing coral reef-associated fisheries was highlighted and an ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee on Fisheries was established at

the meeting. While such fisheries are immensely important for livelihoods and food security around the tropics, they receive very little effective management attention from either governments or non-governmental organisations, and few are covered by regional fishery management authorities.

One aspect of coral reef-associated fisheries that is particularly in need of management attention is their spawning aggregations. These are formed by many commercial fishes, some of them also naturally vulnerable to fishing. Despite their importance, they are rarely managed effectively, risking loss of the fish populations that form them. For information and news on fish spawning aggregations and their management, please see SCRFA newsletters, which are available online at: <http://www.scrfa.org/index.php/education-and-outreach/newsletter.html>. Articles for the next newsletter are welcome. Please contact me at yjsadovy@hku.hk.



Coral Triangle Initiative tackles live reef fish trade reform

Michael Abbey² and Geoffrey Muldoon³

The Coral Triangle covers 1.6% of the planet's oceanic area but is home to about 76% of all known coral species, 37% of all known coral reef fish species, 33% of the world's coral reefs, the greatest extent of mangrove forests in the world, and spawning and juvenile growth areas for the world's largest tuna fishery. These resources directly support the livelihoods of more than 120 million people. The leaders of the Coral Triangle countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste — (or "CT6") signed a joint declaration known as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) in May 2009 to protect these resources.

The US government, with funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State, supports the CTI through the US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program (USCTI). This program is jointly implemented by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) – a consortium led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), with Conservation International (CI) and The Nature Conservancy – and the "Program Integrator" (PI), an institutional contractor (ARD, a TetraTech Company) supporting coordination and communication across all US government partners.

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