

Minutes
National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research (NCORE)
Internal Advisory Committee Meeting (IAC)
March 7, 2005

Members present: Peter Swart (Chair) (PS), John McManus (JM), Jay Blaire (JB), Joseph Serafy (JS), Michael Schmale (MS), Robert Ginsburg (RG).

Meeting started 9:05 a.m.

1. NCORE Symposium

The NCORE IAC members who attended the NCORE symposium agreed that it went well, however PS noted that there was not enough time for discussions. JS commented that there were more presentations on matters peripheral to coral reefs e.g. fisheries related presentations.

PS stated that the committee now needed to look at where to go from here. PS referred to the following ideas that came out of the symposium:

a. Coral rearing/aquaculture

PS advised that Chris Langdon and Thomas Capo had written a proposal to set up an aquaculture facility for rearing.

b. Deep Diving/Deep Sea Coral Reef

The meeting discussed at length the issue of deep diving. Members expressed the view that the study of coral reefs at deeper sea levels could be frontier area of study. The members stated that it was important to press for additional help for the diving area so that a group of divers could be specially trained to dive below 200 feet. JS however pointed out that Rick Gomez, the school's dive master, had been very clear that these divers would have to be in excellent physical conditions to cope with the strains of deep diving and it was likely that few scientists would be able to do this.

MS was concerned about possible liability to the school and emphasized that though it was important that the scientists have the opportunity to study coral reefs at that depth, there were other issues that the committee should look at before making such a recommendation. He suggested that the committee first identify the school's strengths and the coral reef opportunities and then come up with a coherent proposal with a comprehensive rationale.

Other issues

PS stated that it was important to organize focus groups to follow up and make proposal concerning the major ideas from the symposium.

2. NCORE Vision Statement

JM stated that the Scientific Advisory Committee had recommended that NCORE formulate a mission statement. This would be a good time to solicit views and encourage person to contribute towards the direction of NCORE.

3. Deep Sea Coral Reef Forum

PS advised the meeting that he received an email from Nancy Voss concerning the Deep-Sea Coral Science and Management 3rd International Symposium, November 28-December 2 at Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. However he was unsure of the extent of the school's involvement.

4. Representative from National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

MS suggested that a NOAA representative be invited to sit on the NCORE Internal Advisory Committee. Dr. Margaret Miller was suggested.

5. Meeting adjourned 10:15 a.m.

