

### Advanced training for Coral Reef Monitoring in Pohnpei, 2007

In 2005 and 2006, two prior courses were taught that laid a solid foundation in coral reef monitoring techniques and analysis for the Pohnpei coral monitoring team. Selino Maxin from Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Pelson Moses of Pohnpei Division of Marine Development, Dave Mathias and Scottie Malakia from the Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation all attended the prior courses held at Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC). The two courses outlined basic monitoring techniques, taxonomy of corals and fishes, developing skills in database management and fundamentals of statistical analysis.

Rather than assembling selected team members from each jurisdiction to PICRC, the third course was catered to the requirements of each jurisdiction by holding on-site workshops and trainings. In June 2007, Dr. Robert Van Woesik and Mr. Sebastian Marino conducted an advanced training for coral reef monitoring in Pohnpei.

Participants of the training were the entire Pohnpei coral reef monitoring team including the marine staff of CSP and the Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation. The advanced training covered: Review of coral taxonomy; Data preparation and pre-processing; Statistical analysis and reporting; and expanding the current monitoring program. The course successfully accelerated the monitoring team's coral taxonomy skills.

The monitoring team is currently conducting the second data collection of Pohnpei's coral reef monitoring. Using their new skills, they have modified their protocol by collecting genus names rather than coral forms and structures. The training was very successful and will leave the monitoring team with constructive knowledge and skills necessary to encourage and develop Pohnpei's coral reef monitoring program