CSI for Coral Reefs:
Investigative &
Enforcement Forensics
Field Training Workshop

A Five-Day Field Workshop for Coral Reef or MPA Managers, Enforcement Officers, Field Biologists & Interested Parties

The Coral Reef CSI training programme is a unique four-day field-based training workshop designed for coral reef and MPA resource managers, environmental assessment specialists, marine field investigators, students and litigators on conducting coral reef enforcement and natural resource investigations on a wide variety of anthropogenic events.

Taught in, around, and adjacent to, the nearshore coral reef waters at each location, the workshop will involve lectures and demonstrations related to the relatively new field of coral reef forensic investigations, along with hands-on field crime scene investigations guided by international professionals in wildlife enforcement, coral reef ecology, and marine natural resource investigation.

Regardless of region, most coral reef ecosystems around the world are under various levels of impact from illegal fishing, vessel groundings, destructive fishing, physical damage, coastal pollution and runoff, overfishing, illegal international trade, over-lapping (and often conflicting) use by various user groups, bleaching, chemical effects and endocrine disruption, alien species-associated phase shifts, and nutrient-associated phase shifts. Few areas have trained field investigators and well-developed natural resource programs to properly assess and handle the wide variety of anthropogenic events occurring; in most cases, such short-term human impact events often overwhelm the capabilities of resource managers to maximize prosecution, mitigation, negotiation, mediation, or litigation success. This takes on even greater significance relative to multi-country joint-investigations relative to shared coral reef impacts and illegal trafficking in coral reef products.
The five day training workshop would be organized as outlined below:

1. Background talks on investigative strategies, field risk management, ecological risk assessment, coral reef forensic techniques, treating data as evidence, incorporating local reef ecological issues and impacts into an investigation.
2. Practice field investigation sessions with staff evaluation.
3. Instruction on using various components of a coral reef investigative toolkit.

A key feature of the Training Workshop will be a number of marine-based “crime scenes” that the participants will investigate using the equipment and techniques learned during the workshop. The scenarios will be as realistic as possible and will involve actual field investigations and analysis by teams of workshop participants.

Instructional materials, reference materials and use of underwater investigative equipment will be provided, along with SCUBA tanks, dive gear, and boat transportation. Participants are responsible for their own meals, sunscreen, and having an open and curious attitude regarding conducting field investigations of coral reef injury events to support risk assessments, mitigation, litigation, mediation, or prosecution. Participants will be trained to work as investigative teams, using standardized marine CSI protocols and equipment to investigate a number of field coral reef event (i.e. crime scene) scenarios.

**Coral Reef CSI Workshop Details**

The four-day workshop will be field-intensive involving afternoons spent in the water solving a variety of coral reef impact scene scenarios. Participants should SCUBA-certified and able to dive comfortably in the ocean and conduct investigative activities under various environmental conditions.

**Some of the Major Topics to Be Covered:**
- Introduction to Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) on Coral Reefs
- Setting an Event Perimeter and Securing the Scene
- Coral Reef Investigation Field Kits
- Conducting Rapid Ecological Assessments (REAs) to Support Investigations
- Sampling for Coral Reef Laboratory Forensics
- Collecting Physical Evidence Underwater & Documenting Damage
- Chain-of-Custody Issues