

**CORAL REEF NEWS**  
Coral Reef Conservation Program  
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NOAA Coral Reef News is a monthly e-newsletter established to provide current information on the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and other relevant NOAA programs. The CRCP supports effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems. Back issues are available at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

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## OF SPECIAL NOTE

**NOAA Coordinates Successful Emergency Restoration Response to *Cape Flattery* Vessel Grounding.** On March 23, 2005, major coral cementing activities were completed in the emergency reef restoration response following the grounding and removal of the ship *Cape Flattery* at Barbers Point, Oahu, HI. Over 600 corals, from 1 cm (epiphytes) to 112 cm in diameter, have been stabilized in single and multiple colony cement aggregations that cover over 27 m<sup>2</sup> of cumulative substrate. Mapping and measurement of stabilized colonies and controls continues, as does damage assessment related to the grounding and ship recovery. The restoration is headed by the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), Habitat Conservation Division, which has received administrative and technical support from the NOAA Damage Assessment Center, NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and invaluable field assistance from the NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Division Marine Debris Program, the University of Hawai'i, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Hawai'i State Department of Aquatic Resources, Polaris Applied Sciences and Cates International. Visit PIRO at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir/>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FY2006 Request for Proposals on Management-Driven Coral Research Released for NURP, CCRI, and CRCP Research Grants Program** (*Clarification from March Newsletter*). The NOAA National Undersea Research Program's (NURP) Caribbean Marine Research Center has sent out a joint proposal announcing both NURP and CRCP FY2006 funds for management-driven coral research in the U.S. Caribbean; and the Caribbean Coral Reef Institute's (CCRI) first announcement of research funding opportunities in Puerto Rico. Details on these

opportunities can be found at [http://www.perryinstitute.org/funding\\_opportunities.htm](http://www.perryinstitute.org/funding_opportunities.htm) (click on "Request for Proposals – FY 2006").

**Latest Reef Check Newsletter Available.** The April issue of The Transect Line, news from the Reef Check global network, is now available at <http://www.reefcheck.org/news/newsletter.asp>. Of particular interest may be the news item entitled "New Tsunami Monitoring Protocol Available," which announces the release of new guidelines for rapid assessments and monitoring programs in the countries affected by the December 2004 tsunami, to be used by interested divers, marine managers and scientists. A long-time partner of the NOAA CRCP, Reef Check is a volunteer ocean conservation organization designed to save coral reefs globally.

**First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat Announced.** The 1st International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat will be held in Miami from Feb. 7-9, 2006. The intent of this symposium is to provide an oral and written forum for the exchange of ideas, approaches, methods and pertinent data on the linkages between mangrove forests and the fishes and fisheries associated with them. A core of international experts will be invited to lead discussion on the major issues and questions raised. For registration and abstract submission, visit <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/conference/mangrove-fish-habitat/> or contact [mangrovesasfishhabitat@noaa.gov](mailto:mangrovesasfishhabitat@noaa.gov).

## UPDATES

### *Atlantic*

**NOAA Fisheries Holds Workshops for Recreational and Commercial Fishers in Puerto Rico.** The NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division office in Puerto Rico recently hosted workshops for commercial and recreational fishers in Humacao, Fajardo, San Juan, Guayama, Ponce, Guánica, Cabo Rojo, Lajas, Arecibo, Aguadilla, Mayagüez, Culebra, and Vieques. The workshops focused primarily on the new Puerto Rico fishing regulations and the NOAA Fisheries highly migratory species regulations for both commercial and recreational fishers. Educational materials developed for the workshops included laminated hand-outs summarizing the commercial and recreational fishing regulations, guides to federal and Commonwealth fishing regulations for recreational fishers, and posters with photos of regulated species for commercial, recreational and aquarium trade fishers as well as restaurants. Learn more about the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/>.

**Field Work Completed for Fish and Habitat Surveys on the West Florida Shelf.** The Panama City, FL and Pascagoula, MS laboratories of NOAA Fisheries recently completed 2005 field work for the CRCP project, "Survey of habitat and fish assemblages in two marine reserves on the west Florida shelf." The research, conducted on the *R/V Caretta*, focused on the Madison-Swanson Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the Steamboat Lumps MPA, as well as Twin Ridges, an open-to-fishing control area. With favorable weather this year, more than double the number of stations was sampled (95) compared to 2004 (45). Preliminary results suggest an increase in the number of several reef fish species, particularly gag, scamp, red

grouper, Warsaw grouper, speckled hind, and red snapper. Complete analysis of the video data on fish and habitat is currently underway. View the locations of the surveyed MPAs at [http://mpa.gov/information\\_tools/archives/atlas/gom/gome.html](http://mpa.gov/information_tools/archives/atlas/gom/gome.html).

**Hurricane-Damaged Seagrass in Puerto Rico Recovers Faster Than Expected.** Seagrass beds damaged by small boats, dislodged and grounded near the Naval Station at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, by Hurricane Georges in September 1998, were shown by National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) to recover faster than expected. Upon grounding, the boats created unvegetated areas that, over months and years, migrated across the seagrass flats. The process strongly resembled naturally-occurring current-driven movement of unvegetated areas across seagrass flats, where erosion of sediment and seagrass occurs at the leading edge of the migrating void, and backfill and regrowth occurs at the trailing edge. Prediction accuracy for post-injury recovery rates could substantially improve if further study documents this mechanism. From February 18-27, scientists from NCCOS, Florida Wildlife Research Institute, and a Fulbright Fellow participated in a cruise (funded by NCCOS, NOAA Damage Assessment Center, and NOAA Fleet) aboard the NOAA Ship Nancy Foster to sample the damaged sites and determine habitat recovery rates for calibration of a seagrass injury and disturbance recovery model. Visit NCCOS at <http://www.nccos.noaa.gov/>.

**NCCOS Scientists Initiate an Integrated Biogeographic Assessment of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve.** National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) researchers have initiated an Integrated Assessment of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve (TER) aimed at synthesizing and integrating existing biological, habitat, and oceanographic datasets within a biogeographic assessment framework. Products

will include (1) a characterization of fish-habitat relationships inside and outside of MPAs; (2) comparative analyses of reef ecosystem studies in the TER and U.S. Caribbean; (3) assessments of MPA impacts on socio-economic and extractive human activities; and (4) assessments of data on contaminant, pathogen, and nutrient levels in the TER. Ultimately, this integrated assessment will provide resource managers and the public with a framework for assessing the future effectiveness of MPAs in coral reef ecosystems and the extent to which management of reef ecosystems is consistent with societal interests. Partnering institutions include NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center and several universities. Learn more about the TER at <http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/tortugas/>.

**NOAA Office of Coast Survey Establishes Two Working Groups for “Protecting Corals, Saving Ships” Project.** The NOAA Office of Coast Survey has recently taken two key steps towards accomplishing the goals of its NOAA CRCP-funded project, “Protecting Corals, Saving Ships,” which aims to protect coral reef habitats from physical destruction and pollution from ships by integrating data on coral, marine protected areas (MPA), and other pertinent environmental features and related information into electronic navigation safety systems and associated maritime technologies. First, in January 2005, a Technical Working Group was established to begin development of an environmental data layer format, which includes converting environmental data into a format suitable for use in Electronic Chart Systems in conjunction with other digital data. Second, on March 24, 2005, the Sanctuary Advisory Council of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary held a meeting of a Working Group specifically established to assist with this project. A total of 15 core stakeholders attended the meeting. This group provided direction on the type of vessels that should be the primary target, the environmental features

that are most heavily impacted and need most attention, the primary interests of mariners, and the appropriate level of detail that should be depicted. The first task of the group is to develop a “Classification Scheme,” starting with the identification of various regulatory zones. For background on the “Protecting Corals, Saving Ships” project, visit [http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG\\_HYD\\_COM/US\\_CHC/2005/Coral\\_Reef\\_EC\\_Initiative\\_USHydr05abstract.pdf](http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG_HYD_COM/US_CHC/2005/Coral_Reef_EC_Initiative_USHydr05abstract.pdf).

**NOAA NGS Innovation Helps Scientists Monitor Underwater Environment in Biscayne Bay.** The National Geodetic Survey’s (NGS) Shallow Water Positioning System (SWaPS) was recently put to work again in the waters of Florida’s south Biscayne Bay. An NGS employee joined researchers from the University of Miami in a fiberglass-bottom boat, specially outfitted with SWaPS technology, to study the habitat of the bay. SWaPS allows researchers to track changes to the bottom of the bay with amazing precision, by utilizing a refined GPS system that makes corrections for wave action and other factors. Charting current conditions in the bay is critical for future assessment of the large-scale Everglades restoration that is currently underway. For more info on SWaPS, visit <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/News/SWAPS/>.

### *Pacific*

**NOAA Monitoring Coral Transplants in American Samoa.** A team of five NOAA biologists is returning to American Samoa this week to assess the growth and survival of corals transplanted to restore natural resources injured by nine fishing vessels that grounded on the reef flats during a 1991 hurricane. In Fall 2000, more than 370 corals in danger of injury or destruction by vessel removal efforts were moved to nearby “holding areas” and reattached in the grounding sites following the response actions. The location of each

transplanted coral was marked, mapped, and photo documented to facilitate long-term monitoring. In August 2001, a team of NOAA divers surveyed the transplanted corals, finding high survival rates. NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (ORR) is using the monitoring as an opportunity to evaluate monitoring methods and protocols for derelict vessels grounded on coral reef and other benthic habitats. Visit ORR at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>.

**Census of Marine Life Project Receives Grant to Develop a Global Census of Coral Reef Ecosystems.** The Census of Marine Life project (CoML), led by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in partnership with the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center/Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, has been awarded a two-year grant from the Sloan Foundation to develop, manage, and integrate the global census of coral reef ecosystems. The grant will include funding to hire a coordinator for the Hawai'i/Pacific component of the CoML project to arrange for Pacific workshops, and to lead outreach and education activities for the broader CoML international effort, including website development, coordination with national and international media, and fund-raising for other CoML workshop efforts around the globe. Learn more about the CoML project at <http://www.coml.org/>.

**NOAA CRCP Supports Community Fisheries Workshop in American Samoa.** The NOAA CRCP recently supported the American Samoa (AS) Community Coral Reef Fisheries Workshop, organized by the AS government in partnership with local NOAA staff. The Workshop provided a forum for public input on what should be done to manage local coastal fisheries. During March 22-24, 2005, three successful public meetings were

held in three different villages around the island of Tutuila. The meetings consisted of presentations on the status of fisheries in local waters by local and Western Samoan fishery experts, followed by periods of public participation and comment. There was a general public consensus that the reef fish are smaller and fewer than they used to be, recognition of the need to set up protected areas to restore fish populations, and concern over the potential economic and cultural implications of designating these marine protected areas. NOAA is working with local officials to continue the momentum of the workshop.

#### *Headquarters*

**Collaboration is Focus in 3rd Annual Meeting of CSCOR Coral Reef Ecosystems Research Programs.** The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) administers coral reef ecosystem research programs in Florida, Hawai'i, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean. On March 23-24, 2005, CSCOR held its 3rd Coral Program Review meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, to continue promoting communication and collaboration between its programs. Attendees included representatives from NCCOS and other NOAA programs in the southeast region including the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, two National Undersea Research Program centers, the Caribbean Marine Research Center based in Jupiter, FL and the National Underwater Research Center based out of Wilmington, NC. In addition to hearing program presentations, participants discussed timely topics such as the impact of coral species listings under the Endangered Species Act on NOAA research, the development of a rapid response team to look at coral disease outbreaks, and the creation of a joint publication highlighting the impact that CSCOR coral programs have had on

developing effective management strategies. Learn more about CSCOR at <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/>.

**NCRI Presents Results to NOAA and Local Managers.** On Tuesday, March 22, 2005, prior to Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) Coral Program Review meeting, scientists from the CSCOR-sponsored National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) provided detailed presentations about their research and its management relevance to National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science representatives and others from the NOAA and Florida science community. The meeting provided a succinct and focused opportunity for NOAA and the local coral reef science and management community to learn the most up-to-date information on NCRI programs and understand how NCRI project results are translated into sound coral reef management. Visit NCRI at <http://www.nova.edu/ocean/ncri/>.

**Recent Data Addition to CoRIS.** Benthic photographs for the Pacific Remote Island Areas of Kingman Atoll, Palmyra and Jarvis Islands were recently added to the Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS). These photographs are a result of mapping efforts led by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center/Coral Reef Ecosystem Division. There are presently 884 metadata records in CoRIS that provide access to 10,756 coral products. View metadata for the photograph products at <http://coris.noaa.gov/metadata/list/VisualImagesBiology.html>.

**CoRIS Use Rises Significantly Over the Past Year.** Since February of 2004, Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) visitor sessions have soared 88%, and the amount of downloaded material has climbed 71%. Links to CoRIS from non-NOAA sites contribute to this increased number of users accessing CoRIS. Over 2,500 websites currently link to CoRIS, including those of the New England

Fishery Management Council, Greenpeace, and the Librarians' Index to the Internet, which was developed as point of access for reliable, trustworthy, librarian-selected Internet resources to serve the globe. Visit CoRIS at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/>.

**NOAA and Australians Collaborate to Study Great Barrier Reef.** From March 9-21, 2005, representatives from the NOAA Satellites and Information/Office of Research and Applications had numerous planning meetings at the University of Queensland's (UQ) Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), James Cook University (JCU), and UQ personnel awaiting the delayed arrival of *R/V Lady Basten*. Instrument deployments and redeployments all went as planned in the island area of the Capricorn Bunker Group that has Heron Island at the center. These *in situ* data collections of currents, temperatures and salinities will underpin the first high-resolution 3-dimensional hydrodynamic model for this coastal region of the southernmost Great Barrier Reef. When integrated with satellite data and high frequency radar (coastal waves and winds), this project aims to deliver a prototype for coastal prediction for coral ecosystem health (e.g. bleaching). HIRS is considered one of the best-equipped research stations in the world for coral reef research. Learn more about HIRS at <http://www.marine.uq.edu.au/hirs/>.

## CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

### Articles mentioning NOAA

**“Bush administration looks into using Gulf oil platforms for fish farms” – April 3, 2005 (Associated Press in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel and about 70 other publications).**

“NEW ORLEANS -- Thousands of oil and natural gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico could be converted into deep-sea fish farms raising red snapper, mahi mahi, yellow fin tuna and flounder, under a plan backed by the Bush administration.” [http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-fishfarm03\\_0\\_5558362.story?coll=sfla-home-headlines](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-fishfarm03_0_5558362.story?coll=sfla-home-headlines)

**“Coral shows life after first aid” – April 3, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser).** “The emergency reconstruction of the ocean floor off Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor, where the ship Cape Flattery ran aground in February, has gone smoothly —except for one incident in which a moray eel attacked a diver's hand.” <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Apr/03/ln/ln01p.html>

**“Invasive species response squad sworn to protect native marine life” – April 6, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser).** “The state is establishing a kind of SWAT team of trained divers to attack alien marine organisms that can overwhelm Hawai'i's native nearshore ecosystems.” <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Apr/06/ln/ln08p.html>

**“Reef relief” – April 8, 2005 (St. Petersburg Times, FL).** “In Ruskin, farmers are raising...coral, which they hope will head to open water to inspire fish and tourists.” [http://www.sptimes.com/2005/04/08/Citytimes/Reef\\_relief.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/04/08/Citytimes/Reef_relief.shtml)

**“NOAA Scientists Battle Ocean Ghostnets” – April 29, 2005 (NOAA Magazine).** “Thousands of miles from any human habitation, fishing nets hundreds of meters long and balls of net tens of meters across, lost or abandoned by their former owners but still an environmental hazard, foul huge swaths of the Pacific Ocean.” <http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2429.htm>

### Other articles

**“Commercial Fishing ‘Unsustainable’ Says New UN Report” – April 2, 2005 (Vanuatu Online).** “The United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report released today calls capture fisheries ‘unsustainable’ and calls for the expansion in Marine Protected Areas with flexible no-take zones that contribute to the economy.” <http://www.news.vu/en/business/CommercialFishing/050402-Commercial-Fishing-Unsustainable-Says-New-UN-Report.shtml>

**“Keys’ largest artificial reef may be sunk” – April 3, 2005 (Associated Press on Tallahassee.com, FL and about 10 other publications).** “It sounds like a simple proposition: Bring a new artificial reef to one of the nation's top diving and tourism destinations.” [http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/news/breaking\\_news/11301743.htm](http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/news/breaking_news/11301743.htm)

**“An (ecological) origin of species for tropical reef fish” – April 6, 2005 (EurekaAlert!).** “Dealing a new blow to the dominant evolutionary paradigm, Luiz Rocha and colleagues from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Harvard University the University of Florida and the University of Hawai'i, report coral reef fish from neighboring habitats may differ more from one another than from fish thousands of miles away.”

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2005-04/si-ao040505.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2005-04/si-ao040505.php)

**“DPNR to gather public input on fisheries plan this week” – April 6, 2005** (*The Virgin Islands Daily News*). “The V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Division will hold public meetings beginning Thursday on a draft conservation management plan for the fisheries and marine resources of the Virgin Islands.”

[http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article\\_home?id=4233533](http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home?id=4233533)

**“Homeward Sound” – April 8, 2005** (*Science*). “Despite spending weeks at sea as larvae, potentially scattered over many kilometers, young coral reef fish find suitable settlement habitat and in some cases return to their natal reefs. We report that some dominant families of larval reef fish use the sounds made by fish and shrimp resident on reefs to help them locate and settle on reefs and that some fish groups use specific components of the reef sound to guide their behavior. These findings could offer potential for active management of reef fisheries.”

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/308/5719/221>

See related articles in [Scotsman.com](http://www.scotsman.com), [Nature](http://www.nature.com), [Discovery Channel](http://www.discovery.com), [National Geographic](http://www.nationalgeographic.com), [BBC News](http://www.bbc.com), [Scientific American](http://www.scientificamerican.com), and [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com).

**“Coral reef rescue underway in Thailand” – April 8, 2005** (*Inter Press Service in the Asia Times, Hong Kong*). “Racha Yai Island, Thailand - On a beach alive with tropical delights and smooth, white sand washed by calm, turquoise waters, Bas Toeter cuts an odd figure in a T-shirt, shorts and wide-brimmed hat.”

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/GD08Ae04.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/GD08Ae04.html)

**“Research Shows Overfishing Of Sharks Key Factor In Coral Reef Decline” – April 11, 2005** (*University of California, San Diego press release*). “Their position at the pinnacle of the marine food chain is legendary.”

[http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/science/Sala\\_Basc\\_FoodWebs\\_PNAS.asp](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/science/Sala_Basc_FoodWebs_PNAS.asp)

**“Marine Life Complicates Removal of Old Oil Rigs” – April 11, 2005** (*The Washington Post*). “Charlotte Harbor, Fla. -- A rusting oil rig perched on the muddy bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, notorious for its vast "dead zone" off the Mississippi Delta, might seem an unlikely setting for a thriving ecosystem.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42189-2005Apr10.html>

**“Coral survived tsunami battering” – April 12, 2005** (*Nature*). “Coral buffeted by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December last year withstood the onslaught, according to an investigation of reefs in the Andaman Sea.”

<http://www.nature.com/news/2005/050411/full/050411-3.html>

**“Coral Clues to Rapid Sea-Level Change” – April 15, 2005** (*Science*). “Like coffee in your morning mug, or beer in your evening pint, the level at which the sea rests is controlled both by the shape of the vessel and by the volume of liquid it contains. Ocean basins change shape only slowly, but on page 401 of this issue, Thompson and Goldstein show that the amount of seawater they contain changes more frequently than previously thought.”

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/308/5720/361>

**“Patrols boosted to protect unique coral reef” – April 16, 2005** (*Stuart News in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel*). “...As captain of the primary patrol boat on the rare, protected Oculina reef bank stretching from Fort Pierce to Cape Canaveral, Thomas has to have a keen eye for fishermen and trawlers who might be



destroying the fragile ecosystem.”

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-poculina16apr16.0,5193827.story?coll=sfla-news-palm>

**“Tourism, scuba diving destroying Phuket’s coral reefs” – April 21, 2005 (Cyber Diver News Network).** “PHUKET, Thailand – Beneath the windex-blue Andaman Sea, coral reefs are going to ruin.”

<http://www.cdmn.info/news/eco/e050421.html>

**“Huge Australian Coral Reef System Found” – April 22, 2005 (Discovery Channel).** “Australian scientists on Friday said they had discovered new coral reefs stretching 100 kilometers (62 miles) in the remote Gulf of Carpentaria off the country's rugged north coast.”

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/afp/20050418/newreef.html>

**“Shortest-Lived Vertebrate Lives on Reefs” – April 25, 2005 (Discovery Channel).** “‘Live fast, die young’ holds true for the coral-reef pygmy goby *Eviota sigillata*, which has just been identified as the shortest-living vertebrate.”

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20050425/vertebrate.html>

**“Group: One fifth world’s reefs destroyed” – April 25, 2005 (Reuters on CNN.com).** “The demise of the world's coral reefs could threaten coastal communities as global fish stocks fall,

an international conservation group said on Monday.”

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/science/04/25/seychelles.coral.reut/>

**“Indian Coral Relocation Offers Hope for Reefs” – April 27, 2005 (Reuters).**

“Ahmehabad, India – Indian marine biologists have successfully relocated more than 300 coral reefs in a creek in the Arabian Sea, raising hopes of more transplants of the threatened species, officials said.”

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=8312873>

**“New method for detecting cyanide in marine fish” – April 28, 2005 (Practical Fishkeeping).**

“Chinese scientists have reported a new method for detecting the presence of cyanide in marine fishes caught for both the aquarium and food trades.”

<http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/item.php?news=625>

**“Tsunami Proofing: Where to Put Walls, Why to Keep Trees” – April 28, 2005 (National Geographic News).** “...According to the WWF, the conservation nonprofit, areas that had healthy coral reefs and intact mangrove forests were less severely impacted by the Indian Ocean tsunami than areas where the reefs had been damaged and the mangroves removed.”

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/04/0428\\_050428\\_tsunamibuildings.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/04/0428_050428_tsunamibuildings.html)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events you would like listed in future newsletters please contact [coralreef@noaa.gov](mailto:coralreef@noaa.gov).

### May 2005

8 – 11: **Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference**. Charleston, SC.

<http://www.asce.org/conferences/cd05/>

17 – 19: **MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting**. New England.

[http://mpa.gov/fac/fac\\_meetings.html](http://mpa.gov/fac/fac_meetings.html)

### June 2005

8 – 9: **Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2005**. Washington, DC. [www.nmsfocean.org/](http://www.nmsfocean.org/)

13 – 17: **32<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC)**. Abstracts due April 1, 2005. Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. [http://www.amlc-carib.org/en/future\\_meetings/2005\\_scientific\\_meeting\\_curacao/about\\_the\\_meeting/](http://www.amlc-carib.org/en/future_meetings/2005_scientific_meeting_curacao/about_the_meeting/)

19 – 24: **American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Summer Meeting**. Abstracts due Feb. 1, 2005. Santiago de Compostela, Spain. <http://aslo.org/santiago2005/>

### July 2005

11 – 16: **National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference**. Maui, HI.

<http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05.html>

17 – 21: **Coastal Zone 2005**. New Orleans, LA. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>

### August 2005

13 – 19: **8<sup>th</sup> International Phycological Congress**. Durban, South Africa.

<http://www.ipc8.org.za/>

### September 2005

19 – 23: **Marine Technology Society and IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Oceans**

**Conference 2005**. Abstracts due Feb. 15, 2005. Washington, DC. <http://www.oceans2005.org/>

### October 2005

23 – 27: **The First International Congress on Marine Protected Areas**. Geelong, Australia.

[www.impacongress.org](http://www.impacongress.org)

31 – Nov. 2: **Sustainable Beaches Conference 2005**. St. Petersburg, FL.

<http://www.cleanbeaches.org/events/summit/2005/>

### November 2005

3 – 5: **14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Palau.

<http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings/announcements.html>

28 – Dec. 2: **Third International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals**. Miami, FL.

<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/coral>

*February 2006*

7 – 9: **First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat.** Miami, FL.

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/conference/mangrove-fish-habitat/>

**Questions, comments?**

Contact [coralreef@noaa.gov](mailto:coralreef@noaa.gov), NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Access to NOAA's coral reef data and information is provided through NOAA's Coral Reef Information System at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov>. Current news on NOAA's coral reef activities can be found on the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Web site, <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

