

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>.

IN THIS ISSUE:

OF SPECIAL NOTE (PAGE 2)

- **NOAA and the Republic of Palau Host Successful U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting.**
- **U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, International Coral Reef Initiative Call for Action to Address Unprecedented Caribbean Coral Bleaching Event.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (PAGE 3)

- **Caribbean Coral Videos Available Through NOAA Central Library Catalog (NOAALINC).**

UPDATES (PAGE 3)

Atlantic

- **NOAA Press Release on Caribbean Coral Bleaching Event Sparks Media Interest.**
- **NCCOS Continues Technology Transfer of Coral Reef Recovery Forecasting Tool.**

Pacific

- **Marine Debris Removal Cruise Returns From NWHI.**
- **Multibeam Mapping Cruise Completed at Maro Reef.**
- **New Genetic Fingerprinting Technique Improves Species-Level Identification of the Coral *Porities*, Reduces Chemical Waste.**

International

- **World Bank/Global Environmental Facility Hosts Presentation on Coral Reef Project.**
- **NOAA Conducts Satellite Training Workshops Through World Bank/GEF Coral Reef Targeted Research Program.**

National/Headquarters

- **NOAA Awards \$750,000 to Pacific Islands Consortium to Boost Student Enrollment in Environmental, Marine Sciences.**

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS (PAGE 5)

UPCOMING EVENTS (Page 11)

OF SPECIAL NOTE

NOAA and the Republic of Palau Host Successful U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting. NOAA and the Republic of Palau hosted the 14th biannual meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force on November 5th and 7th in Koror, Palau. The meeting centered on enhancing conservation effectiveness in Micronesia through a series of panel sessions and resolutions. The first panel session focused on building financial, human and technical capacity in the Pacific Islands, with expert panelists from U.S and international agencies and leading conservation organizations. The second session highlighted challenges and opportunities for building marine protected area networks in reef ecosystems in the Pacific Ocean. The Task Force passed a series of resolutions designed to focus agency action on a range of key coral reef threats and management needs, including: (1) a coordinated interagency response to the unprecedented Caribbean coral bleaching event now underway (see next item); (2) improvement of member agency capabilities to prevent and respond to major damage events in coral reef ecosystems, such as the damage caused by vessel groundings; (3) creation of collaborative partnerships to strengthen the effectiveness of existing marine protected areas, as well as technical assistance to help local officials better use and integrate science into the design and management of protected areas; and (4) increased agency capacity to carry out effective enforcement of environmental, marine and natural resource regulations, with an emphasis on training for regional staff and the development of written training guidebooks. More information on the meeting agenda is available at <http://www.coralreef.gov/taskforce/meetings/meet7.html>. A joint meeting with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a consortium of over 80 countries and non-governmental organizations, was held on

Nov. 3. This meeting focused on improving international cooperation in the Pacific Islands and on the identifying sustainable financing mechanisms for coral reef management and research.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, International Coral Reef Initiative Call for Action to Address Unprecedented Caribbean Coral Bleaching Event. NOAA scientists have confirmed that a massive coral bleaching event is underway in the Caribbean, which may result in unprecedented coral death in much of the region. At the recent U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in the Republic of Palau, the Task Force called on members to lead a coordinated interagency response to mobilize regional monitoring efforts aimed at assessing the extent of bleaching, mortality, coral recovery, and the ecological and sociological impacts of this bleaching event. The Task Force also called for improved U.S. capabilities to forecast thermal stress and its ecosystem impacts, and identified networks of marine protected areas as a primary mechanism for protecting coral reefs against the combined impact of a range of threats. Emphasis for such networks should focus on protecting stress-resistant corals that demonstrate high survival or recovery from past bleaching events, to help build resilient reef systems that can recover from large-scale damage events. Prior to the Task Force meeting, participants in the International Coral Reef Initiative meeting, also in Palau, passed a "Statement of Concern" on the bleaching events, calling for enhanced monitoring and protection of areas found to be resilient to bleaching during this event. To learn more about the bleaching event, read the Oct. 24th press release at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/oct05/noaa05-r499-04.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caribbean Coral Videos Available Through NOAA Central Library Catalog

(NOAALINC). The NOAA Central Library has added three digital videos from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation, Caribbean Field Office, to its catalog. They are: (1) Explorando los ecosistemas marinos de Puerto Rico (Exploring the marine ecosystems of Puerto Rico), a 17-minute tour of Puerto Rico's coastal and marine ecosystems; (2) Los corales y tu comunidad (Corals and your community), a 20-minute video that provides examples of how human actions damage coral reefs and associated systems; and (3) Programa de arrecifes de coral (Coral Reef Initiative Program), an 18-minute promotional video that describes the goals and interests of the Program. To see these digital videos, visit <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/> and click on NOAA Library Catalog (NOAALINC). In the keyword search box, type "digital video and CoRIS." The videos will soon be accessible from NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS).

UPDATES

Atlantic

NOAA Press Release on Caribbean Coral Bleaching Event Sparks Media Interest. In response to last month's NOAA press release on the massive Caribbean coral bleaching event, NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) scientists provided input to two news outlets and a live radio program. A short piece in *The Washington Post* addressed the bleaching event and the recent bleaching alerts issued by CRW. A longer article in *The Los Angeles Times* discussed these issues in greater detail, including information on current bleaching reports in the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico, and Grenada. In a live radio interview on BBC Radio's *Up All Night*, CRW's Dr. Mark Eakin

discussed the benefits of NOAA's automated bleaching alerts as well as the potential for coral survival and recovery. Read *The Los Angeles Times* article at <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-coral25oct25,0,1904338.story?coll=la-home-nation> and *The Washington Post* article at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/24/AR2005102401647.html>.

NCCOS Continues Technology Transfer of Coral Reef Recovery Forecasting Tool.

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) scientists shared a new tool to forecast coral reef recovery from vessel grounding damage at the conference, "Coral Reef Restoration: Scientific Frameworks for Rehabilitation," held October 18-19 in Miami, Florida. The forum was attended by staff from NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA General Counsel, and by other coastal managers and researchers. Accurate recovery forecasts are necessary for developing a cost basis for restoration and settlement in claims cases. The model, an extension of the NCCOS Seagrass Recovery Modeling tool, estimates a recovery trajectory for coral reef grounding injuries in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and is based on damage assessment reports, monitoring data from NOAA and non-NOAA entities, and data from the peer-reviewed literature. Read more about the restoration conference at http://www.tfilearning.com/tfi/c/portal_public/layout?p_1_id=27.26.

Pacific

Marine Debris Removal Cruise Returns From NWHI. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division's (CRED) marine debris team returned to Honolulu on November 13th aboard the NOAA charter vessel M/V *Freebird* after completing the second leg of the 2005

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) marine debris removal field season. Removal efforts were focused on French Frigate Shoals (FFS) during this second cruise, which departed Honolulu on September 19th. The marine debris team surveyed 21.4 km² of shallow-water (< 9.14 m) habitat at FFS using standard manta towboard protocols, covering the majority of habitat that was expected to retain marine debris. As predicted, FFS held less debris than other previously surveyed atolls in the NWHI. A total of 17,793 kg of debris was removed from FFS, with 2,120 kg of debris being removed from Tern, East, and Gin Islands. Learn more about CRED's marine debris removal efforts at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/mdr.php>.

Multibeam Mapping Cruise Completed at Maro Reef. Between October 11-31, eight scientists from the Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) and the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, University of Hawai'i, participated in a mapping cruise aboard the NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI. During 14 days of survey, approximately 516 sq. km. of multibeam data were collected at Maro Reef and at a seamount located between Nihoa and Ni'ihau Islands. The 25-ft multibeam survey launch, R/V AHI, was also used to collect data at Maro Reef on only seven days, due to late-fall wind and weather conditions in the North Pacific. In addition, one Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) buoy was replaced at Maro Reef, boats and equipment belonging to PIFSC's Protected Species Division were picked up at French Frigate Shoals (FFS) for delivery to Honolulu, and fresh food was delivered to the Marine Debris divers at FFS. Learn more about CRED's habitat mapping efforts at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/hmapping/>.

New Genetic Fingerprinting Technique Improves Species-Level Identification of the Coral *Porities*, Reduces Chemical Waste.

Scientists with the Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative Research Program (HCRI-RP) have adapted a genetic fingerprinting method for an automated sequencing machine to identify the dominant reef building coral in Hawai'i (*Porities* spp.) to the species level. The plasticity or physical variation of *Porities* colonies makes species identification difficult in the field. This new taxonomic technique uses fluorescent detection to improve the accuracy of identifications, allowing scientists and managers to better understand the origins and relationships of *Porities* spp. Coral susceptibility to stress (i.e. disease and bleaching) varies by species, and improved species identification may improve our ability to predict coral response to, and recovery from, stress. The technique can rapidly and inexpensively detect sequence variation across a large number of samples, requiring very little tissue and no prior information about an organism's genome. This development provides a significant new tool to address population-level questions related to corals and genetic diversity. The research was supported by the HCRI-RP, which is sponsored by the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research. Learn more about HCRI at <http://www.hawaii.edu/ssri/hcri/>.

International

World Bank/Global Environmental Facility Hosts Presentation on Coral Reef Project.

The World Bank recently hosted a brown bag lunch presentation entitled "Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management" on the Global Environmental Facility project to support science-based management and policy decision-making for sustainable coral reef ecosystems. Scientists from NOAA's Coral Reef Watch serve on the Remote Sensing Working Group, one of six

Working Groups for the project. Representatives of an international network of scientists collaborating on this project from developed and developing countries discussed some of the cutting-edge research they are undertaking to bring science and technology to bear on improving management of the world's coral reef ecosystems. For more information, visit <http://gefcoral.org/>.

NOAA Conducts Satellite Training Workshops Through World Bank/GEF Coral Reef Targeted Research Program.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch scientists recently conducted the first two Remote Sensing Working Group training workshops for managers at the National University of Mexico's Marine Lab in Puerto Morelos, Mexico and the University of the Philippines in Manila, Philippines, respectively. These initial workshops are designed to build capacity with reef and park managers for the utilization of satellite remote sensing tools as they manage their local regions. As part of a 15-year World Bank/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Targeted Research effort for coral reefs at four super sites around the globe (Mexico, Zanzibar, Philippines, Great Barrier Reef), NOAA and other scientists will be seeking ways to improve reef managers' awareness and skills as they bring to their respective regions new tools to improve management techniques. For more information, see <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov>.

National/Headquarters

NOAA Awards \$750,000 to Pacific Islands Consortium to Boost Student Enrollment in Environmental, Marine Sciences. To enhance regional conservation and management efforts, NOAA announced a \$750,000 grant award for the Pacific Islands Educational Partnership Consortium (PIEPC), whose member institutions include the University of Guam, American Samoa Community College, the College of Micronesia, the College of the

Marshall Islands, Northern Marianas College and Palau Community College. The grant will support program enhancements designed to increase the number of students who train and graduate in the marine and environmental sciences, including curriculum development, teacher training, enhanced research capabilities, and direct support for high school through undergraduate students from the Pacific Island community. PIEPC works to strengthen existing regional capabilities to address ocean-related issues in a culturally-appropriate manner, while preparing students to pursue careers in ocean and climate-related sciences. Training and programs will focus on coral reefs, fisheries, marine biotechnology and ocean resource management. The grant was awarded through the NOAA Educational Partnership Program with additional funding support from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. A press release with more details on this grant award will soon be posted at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/>.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

Articles mentioning NOAA

“NOAA’s New Coral Reef Watch Satellite Bleaching Alerts Aiding Managers” – October 31, 2005 (*DiveNews.com*). “A major coral bleaching event is underway in the Caribbean, and may result in significant coral death in much of the region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists confirmed today.”

<http://www.divenews.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=4034>

“3 Ngunese attend marine protected area meeting in Australia” – November 1, 2005 (*Port Vila Presse, Vanuatu*). “...Only this month the US national oceanic and atmospheric

administration (NOAA) announced they will provide funds under their coral reef initiative chapter for a thorough evaluation of the Nguna-Pele MPA management effectiveness.”

<http://www.news.vu/en/news/environment/051101-Ni-vanuatu-attend-marine-protected-area-meeting.shtml>

“Caribbean reefs bleached by warm water” – November 2, 2005 (*The Associated Press in the Grand Forks Herald, ND and approx. 70 other outlets*). “... ‘This is probably the most severe bleaching event that Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands has ever recorded,’ said Andy Bruckner, a scientist with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”

<http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/entertainment/13063057.htm>

“Growing int’l support for Marine Protected Areas” – November 3, 2005 (*Saipan Tribune, CNMI*). “Last week, nearly 800 delegates from over 70 countries, including the CNMI and Guam, gathered near Melbourne, Australia to discuss one of the hottest topics in natural resource management: marine protected areas.”

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=1&newsID=51926>

“NMI delegate to MPA congress returns” – November 4, 2005 (*Saipan Tribune, CNMI*). “Dr. Teny Topalian, who represents the Pacific Island Regional Office of NOAA and has an office in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, just returned to Saipan after attending the 1st International Marine Protected Areas Congress, which was held in Geelong, Australia on Oct. 23-28, 2005.”

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=1&newsID=51929>

“Coral Reef Task Force conference meets in Palau” – November 9, 2005 (*Saipan Tribune, CNMI*). “For the first time, the annual Coral Reef Task Force Conference was held outside

the continental United States, bringing the meeting to the Republic of Palau.”

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=1&newsID=52067>

“Hawaii Fishing Groups Seek Federal Probe of Wespac Management Council” – November 9, 2005 (*Environment News Service*). “Two Hawaii fishing organizations are asking the United States Department of Commerce Inspector General for an investigation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Wespac).”

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/nov2005/2005-11-09-09.asp#anchor2>

“2 fishing clubs allege violations by council” – November 9, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “Two Oahu fishing clubs are asking for a federal investigation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council over how the council is handling proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands fishing regulations.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/11/09/news/story08.html>

“Sports-fishing clubs request probe of regulatory council” – November 9, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “Two O’ahu-based sports-fishing clubs are asking for a federal investigation of the agency in charge of managing fisheries throughout the Hawaiian Islands, to see whose interests the agency is representing.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Nov/09/ln/FP511090358.html>

“Sport fishermen seek review of Western Pacific fisheries council” – November 9, 2005 (*The Associated Press in the San Diego Union-Tribune*). “Two Oahu sport fishing groups are calling for a federal investigation of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council.”

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/outdoors/20051109-0937-wst-fisheriesreview.html>

“Agency rebuts claims of sport-fishing clubs” – November 11, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “A request by two O'ahu-based sport-fishing clubs for a federal investigation of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council for its stand on certain kinds of fishing in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is based on ‘factual errors, general empty claims and fundamental misunderstanding’ of the agency's responsibilities and authority, the council said yesterday.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Nov/11/In/FP511110365.html>

“Fishery Council Moves Forward with Fishery Ecosystem Plans, Northwestern and Main Hawaiian Island Fisheries Management Changes” – November 14, 2005 (Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Press Release). “The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council on Friday concluded a four-day meeting on Guam to address management of fisheries in federal waters (generally 3-200 miles offshore) surrounding Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and several U.S. small remote island areas.”

<http://www.wpcouncil.org/>

“Summer internship open to applicants” – November 22, 2005 (*Saipan Tribune, CNMI*). “The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force announced yesterday the 3rd Annual Governor Tause P.F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Summer Internship Award, in recognition of the late Governor's outstanding leadership in and contribution to the conservation U.S. coral reef ecosystems.”

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=1&newsID=52436>

“Important reef takes a pounding from Rita” – November 27, 2005 (*The Galveston County Daily News*). “...Storm damage is a natural occurrence that might not otherwise cause lasting harm to the banks. But Rita coincided with another, more disturbing development that might bode ill for the reefs' future.”

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=bcf7cc558578ab71>

“Sea debris: Cleanup efforts on the Big Island and Northwestern Hawaiian Isles mark progress against stray nets and plastic that threaten ocean life” – November 27, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “International law prohibits dumping plastics in the ocean. But you couldn't tell that from the items volunteer Kathy Frost found during a marine debris cleanup Nov. 19 on the Big Island: laundry baskets, dish soap bottles, pieces of plastic buoys, nets, ropes, fish traps from California, packing crates from Japan.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/11/28/news/story01.html>

Other articles

“Greenpeace to pay fine for damaging Philippine reef” – November 1, 2005 (*Reuters, UK and approx. 20 other outlets*).

“Greenpeace said on Tuesday it will pay nearly \$7,000 in damages after the environmental group's flagship, the Rainbow Warrior II, hit a coral reef at a world heritage site in the southern Philippines.”

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B752596.htm>

“New Species Found in Fiji's Great Sea Reef, WWF Survey Reveals” – November 3, 2005 (WWF Press Release, *U.S. Newswire*).

“The first ever comprehensive survey of Fiji's largely uncharted Great Sea Reef, the world's third longest barrier reef, has revealed a staggering array of life, including a new species

of reef fish, World Wildlife Fund announced today.”

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=56116>

“Fiji Chiefs Create Marine Sanctuaries on World’s Third Largest Reef” – November 4, 2005 (Environment News Service). “Local chiefs of Fiji’s Great Sea Reef have established the first of a series of Marine Protected Areas that will form one of the world’s largest networks of marine sanctuaries.”

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/nov2005/2005-11-04-07.asp>

“Mexico coral reef set back 100 years by Wilma” – November 4, 2005 (Reuters, UK and approx. 10 other outlets). “A fragile coral reef off the coast of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula could take more than a century to recover from a thrashing by Hurricane Wilma last month, the government said on Friday.”

http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2005-11-04T215545Z_01_FOR478919_RTRIDST_0_SCIENCE-ENVIRONMENT-MEXICO-REEFS-DC.XML

“Reef video available” – November 4, 2005 (The Maui News, HI). “...Wednesday night, an attempt to educate both tourists and island schoolchildren about how the reef should be treated was unveiled for a small group of marine environmentalists.”

<http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=13935>

“Scientists watching V.I. corals to gauge survivals from severe bleaching event” – November 7, 2005 (The Virgin Islands Daily News). “One of the most severe coral bleaching events ever recorded in the Virgin Islands seems to be abating, and while some of the corals are beginning to recover, scientists monitoring the reef say others have already died.”

http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home?id=10406572

“Humans worse than tsunami on reefs” – November 7, 2005 (Australian Associated Press in The Australian and approx. 20 other outlets). “HUMANS have made more of an impact on coral reefs in Indonesia’s Aceh province than the devastating Boxing Day tsunami, researchers have discovered.”

http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,17178399%255E1702,00.html

“95% of RP reefs ruined, says group” – November 14, 2005 (Philippine Daily Inquirer in INQ7 Interactive, Inc.).

“ANILAO, BATANGAS-Philippine coral reefs, renowned for being home to amazing marine resources, are in terrible condition, according to the world’s biggest reef conservation organization.”

http://news.inq7.net/nation/index.php?index=1&story_id=56445

“Coral reefs decimated by 2050, Great Barrier Reef’s coral 95% dead” – November 17, 2005 (Mongabay.com). “Australia’s Great Barrier Reef could lose 95 percent of its living coral by 2050 should ocean temperatures increase by the 1.5 degrees Celsius projected by climate scientists.”

<http://news.mongabay.com/2005/1117-corals.html>

“Atoll as laboratory: Hawaii and mainland scientists head to Palmyra to study a coral ecosystem still largely untouched” – November 17, 2005 (Honolulu Star-Bulletin).

“DOZENS of top scientists are launching cooperative research on remote Palmyra Atoll that could provide new insights into climate change, disappearing coral reefs and other global environmental issues.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/11/17/news/story08.html>

“Hawaii Scientists to Study Palmyra Atoll” – November 18, 2005 (*The Associated Press in The Los Angeles Times* and approx. 60 other outlets). “Dozens of scientists from Hawaii and the mainland are launching a cooperative research project at Palmyra Atoll to study the remote area's pristine coral ecosystem.”
<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/wire/sns-ap-palmyra-study,1,2343659.story?coll=sns-ap-science-headlines>

“Curangon’s dead corals spawn life” – November 18, 2005 (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*). “NINETY PERCENT OF THE MARINE REEFS IN at least 19 coastal areas of the Bicol region has been considerably destroyed, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.”
http://www.inq7.net/globalnation/sec_phe/2005/oct/20-02.htm

“Mexican divers try to fix storm-wracked coral reef” – November 18, 2005 (*Reuters*). “Mexican scuba divers are struggling in surging seas to repair one of the world's biggest coral reefs after it was badly damaged by Hurricane Wilma last month.”
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N17431359.htm>

“Palmyra research station opens” – November 20, 2005 (*The Honolulu Advertiser*). “The Nature Conservancy has built a \$1.5 million research station at isolated Palmyra Atoll to serve a research consortium that will study climate change, coral reefs, and invasive species and other environmental threats.”
<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051120/NEWS14/511200359/1025/NEWS>

“NEAFC fail to protect deepwater fish and corals’ environmental organisations claim” – November 22, 2005 (*Fishupdate.com*, UK). “AFTER a week of negotiations, NEAFC the

intergovernmental commission responsible for managing deep-water fishing in the North East Atlantic agreed to include long-term conservation of fish stocks and ecosystems as part of its remit.”
http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/3385/NEAFC_fail_to_protect_deepwater_fish_and_corals_environmental_organisations_claim.html

“Coral reefs may be adjusting to climate change” – November 23, 2005 (*ABC Online, Australia*). “A coral bleaching expert says there are signs that some coral reefs are adapting to climate change.”
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1514675.htm>

“Sunday oil spill threatens coastal coral” – November 23, 2005 (*Bangkok Post, Thailand*). “Crude oil slicks from the oil spill on Sunday near the main beach resort of Pattaya have threatened coral reefs and tourism, and suggested that Thai Oil Plc was too early and too optimistic in announcing the spill was contained, official Thai News Agency reported.”
http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=63878

“University Of Oregon Scientists Reveal How Coral Reefs Got The Blues” – November 24, 2005 (*ScienceDaily*). “University of Oregon scientists report their discovery of the basis for the blue coloration found in many coral reef formations in an article published Aug. 22 by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.”
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/11/051124113441.htm>

“Reef ball project to boost marine life” – November 24, 2005 (*New Straits Times, Malaysia*). “The coral reefs in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park devastated by the Storm Greg in 1997 will hopefully be

rehabilitated with the planting of 200 reef balls in the area.”

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Friday/National/20051125080034/Article/indexb.html

“Governor’s panels split on gill net ban” – November 25, 2005 (*The Maui News*). “The Maui Governor’s Council of Advisors is recommending that Gov. Linda Lingle impose a ban on gill net fishing in Maui waters and restrict the collection of aquarium fish only to those with permits.”

<http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=14612>

“Chart Thai party to propose legislation to protect marine environment” – November 27, 2005 (*Thai News Agency MCOT, Thailand*). “Concerns over protection of the marine environment have prompted the opposition Chart Thai Party to prepare a draft law which will enable the authorities to punish

shipowners who have released oil or toxic chemicals into Thai territorial waters, a senior party member said on Sunday.”

<http://etna.mcot.net/query.php?nid=4746>

“\$600k to tackle crown-of-thorns coral killer” – November 27, 2005 (*NEWS.com.au, Australia, and approx. 7 other outlets*).

“THE curse of the Great Barrier Reef, the crown-of-thorns starfish, is about to be targeted in a new \$600,000 control program.”

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17388689-421,00.html>

“Reef could be dead in 50yrs: expert” – November 29, 2005 (*NEWS.com.au, Australia, and approx. 10 other outlets*).

“THE Great Barrier Reef could be wiped out by global warming in less than 50 years, sounding the death knell for Queensland’s booming tourism industry, an expert has warned.”

<http://finance.news.com.au/story/0,10166,17403408-31037,00.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events you would like listed in future newsletters, please contact coralreef@noaa.gov.

November 2005

28 – Dec. 2: **Third International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals**. Miami, FL.
<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/coral>

February 2006

13 – 16: **4th International Conference for the Marine Ornamental Community – Marine Ornamentals 2006**. Las Vegas, NV. Abstracts due Nov. 1, 2005.

<http://www.hawaiiacquaculture.org/marineornamentals06.html>

16 – 20: **AAAS Annual Meeting**. St. Louis, MO.

http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/

20 – 24: **13th Ocean Sciences Meeting**. Honolulu, HI. <http://www.agu.org/meetings/os06/>

March 2006

6 – 10: **World Maritime Technology Conference**. London, England. Note Technical Programme on Reefs of the World. <http://www.wmtc2006.com/technical/rw/>

April 2006

6 – 9: **NSTA 54th National Conference on Science Education**. Anaheim, CA.

http://www.nsta.org/conventiondetail&Meeting_Code=2006ANA

19 – 21: **First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat**. Miami, FL.

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

May 2006

4 – 5: **15th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Dates tentative.

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

14 – 17: **The Coastal Society 20th Biennial Conference, Charting a New Course: Shaping Solutions for the Coast**. St. Pete Beach, FL. <http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs20/>

June 2006

24 – 28: **Society for Conservation Biology: 20th Annual Meeting – Conservation Without Borders**. Abstracts due Oct. 15, 2005. San Jose, CA. <http://www.conbio.org/2006/>

Questions, comments?

Contact 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>.