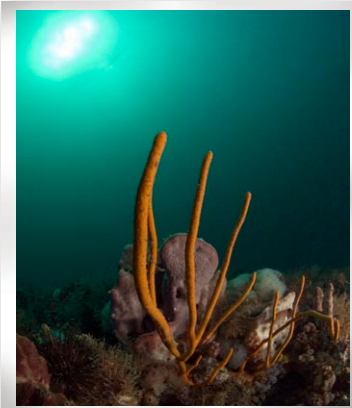


# GRAY'S REEF

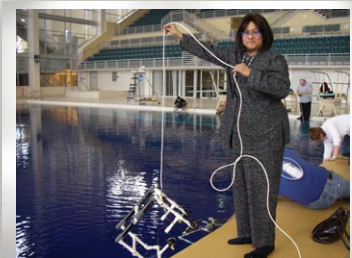
## 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is home to a rich assortment of abundant marine life. Photo: NOAA*



*Researchers prepare to collect data from the Nancy Foster. Photo: NOAA*



*A teacher demonstrates the use of an ROV at a regional competition. Photo: NOAA*

### **New Regulations Add to Enforcement**

Enforcement aimed at protecting marine resources in Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary got a boost when new regulations went into effect in February 2007. The regulations prohibit anchoring and discharge, and require the use of certain types of fishing gear in the sanctuary. Under these regulations, which stem from a revised June 2007 management plan for the sanctuary, NOAA will work with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Law Enforcement and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to ensure compliance. A law enforcement working group of the sanctuary's advisory council has been formed, and enforcement reporting is now a regular part of the council's quarterly meetings.

### **Science Team Maps Ocean Bottom**

Gray's Reef sanctuary staff completed two cruises aimed at mapping areas of deepwater coral and golden crab habitats off the coast of Florida, and the shelf-edge spawning grounds of reef fishes off South Carolina and Georgia. Working from the NOAA ship *Nancy Foster*, researchers with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and other cooperating agencies gathered information to identify areas for further protection. During a separate leg of the *Foster* cruise, several ancient paleochannels — ancient river and stream beds — were discovered meandering through the sanctuary, some cutting down to 20 meters below the sea floor. Divers collected ancient scallop shells thought to be more than 30,000 years old from paleochannels near the sanctuary. One of the primary goals of the expedition was to identify and describe the sediment and rock layers found within the sanctuary and surrounding areas to reveal more about the area's geologic history.

### **Marine Debris Cleanup Efforts Continue**

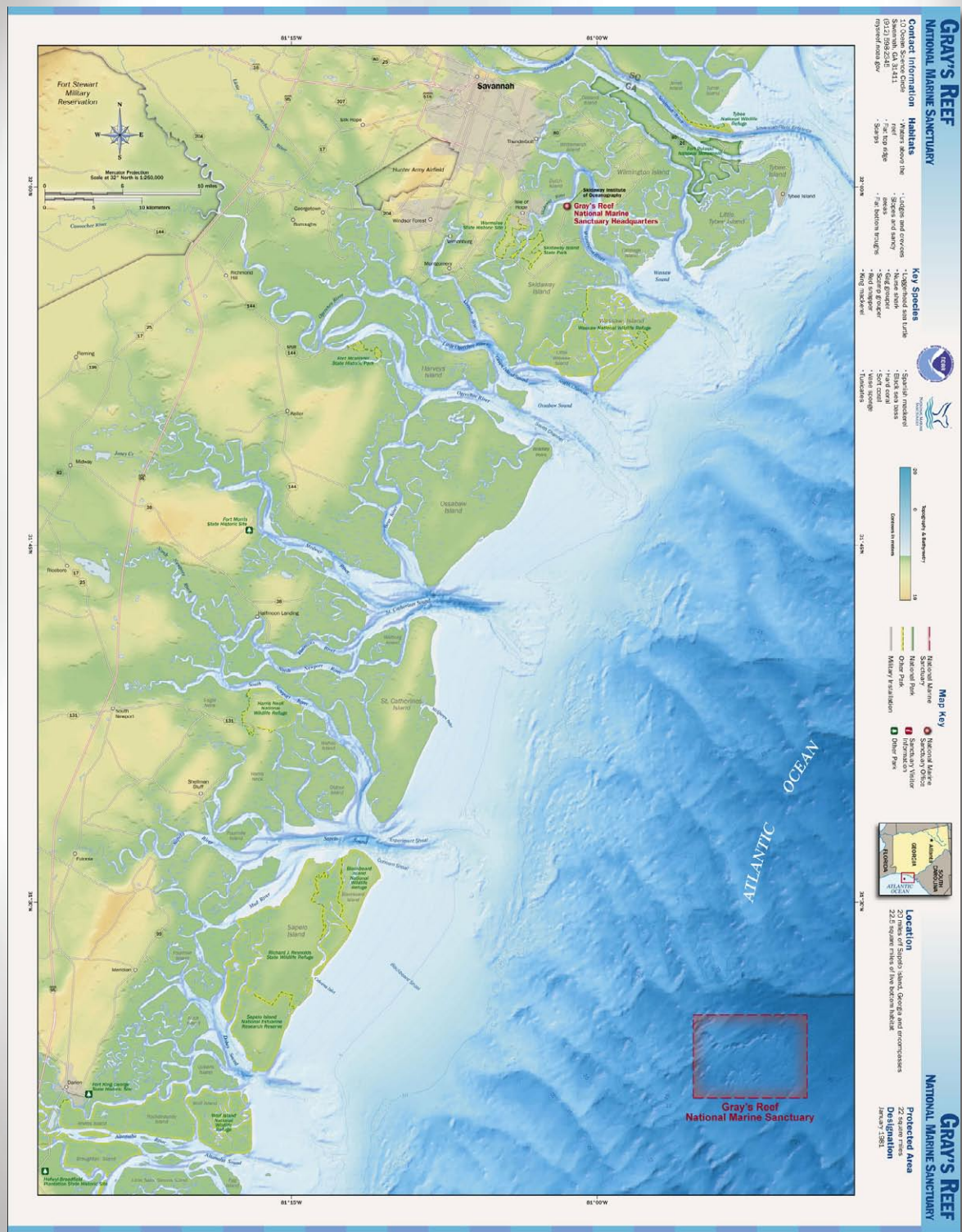
Gray's Reef sanctuary staff, with the help of a grant from the NOAA Marine Debris Program, supported a marine debris survey by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Biogeography Team. The work is valuable for resource protection, management and enforcement. The grant will also be used to support and train a volunteer diver corps to aid in marine debris surveys and removal. As part of the initiative, a marine debris presentation was developed for use at community outreach events. The sanctuary again supported a beach debris clean up in honor of World Ocean Day.

### **Sanctuary Staff Sponsor ROV Workshops**

A team of student remotely operated vehicle (ROV) builders from Pickens High School in Pickens County, Ga., traveled to St. John's, Newfoundland, for the International ROV Competition. The team won the second annual Southeastern Region ROV Competition held in April 2007 after participating in a Gray's Reef sanctuary-sponsored ROV building workshop. Gray's Reef sponsors the workshop and regional competition to promote marine science awareness at the high school level.

<http://graysreef.noaa.gov>





Sanctuary maps available at [sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit [sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

