

CORAL REEF NEWS
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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

Details Available for March 2005 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting. The 13th Biannual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting and associated events will be held March 3 – 4, 2005 at the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington, DC. The public business meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd, preceded by a reception on Capitol Hill on the evening of March 2nd. While there is no charge to attend either event, all those planning to be present should register in advance at <http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings/announcements.html>. The agenda for the business meeting, the reception invitation, hotel details and exhibitor guidelines are also available at this Web address. Exhibitors should register as early as possible with the Department of Interior following the guidelines on the website, as space is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Public Dialogue on the Development of a National System of Marine Protected Areas to be Held on March 7, 2005. The National Marine Protected Areas Center is developing the framework for the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs), as directed by MPA Executive Order 13158. A main step in this process will be to engage the nation in a participatory dialogue. Gathering input and recommendations from stakeholders, agencies, authorities, and the MPA Federal Advisory Committee is critical to the development of this guiding document. The framework will describe in straightforward terms the rationale, goals, and components of the national system, as well as the processes for designing and implementing it based on sound science and broad stakeholder input. The first in a series of regional public dialogues will be held March 7, 2005, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at

Hotel Washington, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. Please RSVP to mpa.comments@noaa.gov. Visit http://mpa.gov/national_system/ for more information on the development of the national system of MPAs.

New Online Encyclopedia for Flora and Fauna of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve now has an online encyclopedia to showcase the amazing flora and fauna that inhabit the region. The encyclopedia features over 130 NWHI plants and animals, complete with stunning imagery and some video. For each organism, a short description is given along with information on status, distribution, habitat, quick facts and more. The encyclopedia, funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the National Marine Sanctuary Program, is an excellent online resource for teachers, students and the general public. The encyclopedia may be viewed at: <http://noaa.stage.webthink.com/onms/Park/Park.s/?pID=12>.

New Publication on Designing Coral Reef Marine Reserves. With CRCP support, scientists at the University of Miami have developed and published a new approach for designing marine reserves for fishery management. Their approach allows managers to design marine reserves that best satisfy multiple, often conflicting criteria of disparate resource user groups. A simulation model is used to analyze various proposed plans and assess the effects of reserve size and shape on select reef fish populations under dynamic spatial and temporal conditions. The model is being tested in the Florida Keys using monitoring data on coral reef fish abundance and distribution. Visit <http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1014476.1014480> to read an abstract of the publication.

UPDATES

Atlantic

BackReef II Workshop: The Importance of Back Reef Habitats to the Sustainability of Coral Reef Ecosystems. NOAA Fisheries and The Perry Institute for Marine Science – Caribbean Marine Research Center recently hosted the BackReef II Workshop from January 23 – 28, 2005, at Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas. The objective of this workshop was to build upon the success of the original workshop, BackReef I (2002), and focus on preparing a synthesis of the function of back reef habitats within the overall coral reef ecosystem. During the workshop, a group of 30 experts in coral reef science provided feedback and suggestions on draft papers prepared prior to the meeting. The four draft papers focused on the following topic areas: *nursery value function, stressors, geospatial issues, and variability*. One of the major outcomes of this workshop will be a group of peer-reviewed articles highlighting the key research and management needs for back reef systems. A second product will include a summary of recommendations tailored to the management community. The BackReef workshops are intended to complement other efforts of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, the CRCP, and the Coral Disease and Health Consortium. For more information on the workshop, visit <http://www.perryinstitute.org/backreef.htm>.

Changes in North Carolina Reefs Indicate Possible Warming Trend. According to scientists at NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science/Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR), numbers of invasive tropical lionfish are growing. At the same time, the identity of a pantropical dinoflagellate (a planktonic microorganism found throughout tropical regions) responsible for ciguatera fish poisoning was recently confirmed there. North

Carolina researchers also recently identified a tropical sponge never before seen on the state's reefs. Scientists question whether these changes in species composition are warnings of a possible warming trend. This question has strong implications for regional habitat managers, particularly regarding the spread of lionfish and the potential for an increase in occurrence of ciguatera fish poisoning. Learn more about the CCFHR in Beaufort, NC at <http://shrimp.ccfhrb.noaa.gov/>.

Multi-Institutional Collaboration Will Improve Understanding of Light Requirements of Seagrass. Seagrass growth is dependent on the amount of available light. Scientists from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science/Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR), the Smithsonian Environmental Research Laboratory, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of Virginia will utilize facilities at Carrie Bow Cay, Belize, and Bocas, Panama, to improve bio-optical models that predict depth limits for seagrass based on water clarity and transmission of sunlight to the seagrass canopy. Tests will include a range of conditions from optically clear barrier reef waters to less transparent turbid and colored waters near land and mangroves. This information will enable coastal managers to develop forecasting capabilities for predicting the effects of land use and degraded water quality on seagrass communities in the United States and Caribbean Basin. Learn more about the CCFHR in Beaufort, NC at <http://shrimp.ccfhrb.noaa.gov/>.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Documents Coral Die-off in U.S. Virgin Islands. In early February, a science crew aboard the NOAA Ship Nancy Foster documented a disturbing trend of rapid coral mortality in a deep offshore reef in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The notable and most puzzling aspect of this rapid die-off is that the reef is in

relatively deep water (~30-45 m) and relatively far offshore (~6 km). These factors would normally insulate it from the usual sources of human and thermal stress that have caused massive mortality in other areas. A 2004 research cruise to the same area noted that the reef was composed of 80 to 100 percent live coral, but now the coverage is less than 20 percent. The research team included scientists from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, other NOAA offices, and other federal, territorial, and academic institutions. Photographs of the site taken from a remotely operated vehicle revealed that the massive die-off occurred within the past few months. The cause and spatial extent of the die-off are unknown and under investigation.

Report Released on Dry Tortugas Summer 2004 Cruise. During the summer of 2004, a team of researchers led by scientists at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (UM/RSMAS) surveyed reef fish populations in an area covering nearly 450 square nautical miles in the Dry Tortugas region of the Florida Keys. The surveyed region contains: the Tortugas North Ecological Reserve (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary); the adjacent southern section of the Tortugas Bank that remains open to commercial and recreational fishing; and Dry Tortugas National Park, where commercial fishing has been banned since 1960. The Tortugas North Ecological Reserve covers 50 square nautical miles and is part of the largest "no-take" marine network in U.S. waters. In addition to UM/RSMAS, the team included scientists from NOAA Fisheries, National Park Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Nova Southeastern University, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington/National Undersea Research Center. In 20 operational days, the 43-member team conducted 1,594 scientific dives, totaling 37.5 days underwater, where they mapped nine types of benthic

habitats and recorded the presence, abundance and size of about 275 fish species. The resulting report, titled "Fishery-independent monitoring of coral reef fishes and macro-invertebrates in the Dry Tortugas: Final Report," will soon be available via the Coral Reef Information System at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/library/publications.html>.

Pacific

Final Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Operations Plan Approved. The final Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) Operations Plan officially cleared its approval process on January 24. The Reserve is currently working with NOAA National Ocean Service headquarters to produce a Federal Register Notice, which will be published as soon as the Reserve Operations Plan (ROP) is ready for distribution. The ROP will implement the status quo alternative in the range of alternatives being considered in the designation of the proposed sanctuary. Learn more about the Reserve and the ROP at <http://www.hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/>.

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and Research Partners Outline Long-Term Data Analysis, Mapping Needs for NWHI. On January 20, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) and the National Marine Sanctuary Program met with research partners to outline long-term GIS, mapping, and multibeam data analysis needs to meet the demands of upcoming cruises on the new NOAA ship *Hi'ialakai*. With many terabytes of data returning from each cruise, planning and coordination are necessary to ensure the timely development of mapping products and georeferenced archiving of monitoring data. The Reserve will be involved in four expeditions this year, including a landmark multibeam sonar mapping cruise led by NOAA

Fisheries, with geographic priorities set by the Reserve. The Hi'ialakai is currently being outfitted with a state-of-the-art multibeam sonar system, that will be used during the April mission to gather bathymetric data to create detailed, high-resolution ocean floor maps of the deep-water areas of the Reserve. Read more about research and monitoring in the Reserve at <http://www.hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/research/welcome.html>.

Hawai'i's Ocean Resources Highlighted in Virtual Teacher Workshop. From Jan. 24 – Feb. 4, Hawai'i's ocean resources were showcased on the "Classroom Exploration of the Oceans 2005" online virtual teacher workshop. The three-part workshop focuses on efforts currently underway to protect and conserve special places in the ocean and explore still unknown areas of the deep ocean. Dr. Amy Baco-Taylor of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute led off the workshop with a lecture on "Hawai'i's Deep-Sea Precious Corals." Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Education Coordinator Andy Collins followed with a keynote address and lively online discussion with educators entitled, "Building the World's Second Largest Marine Protected Area, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands." As of Feb. 1, about 402 people from 41 states and 20 countries had participated in the workshop. When this series was last held in 2003, over 2,000 participants from 48 states and 50 different countries from around the world participated. The workshop, which continues through October 23, can be joined by visiting the following site: <http://www.coexploration.org/ceo/>. Click the "Registration" button on the left to log on.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Releases Detailed Maps of Pacific Coral Reefs. Scientists from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science have developed a website and CD-ROM that provides maps,

imagery, and digital Geographic Information System baseline information about the location and distribution of shallow-water seafloor habitats for American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Completing this project represents a major milestone towards meeting the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force recommendation to develop shallow-water coral reef ecosystem maps for all U.S. waters by 2007. With unprecedented thematic accuracy and detail, this product provides the first comprehensive assessment of benthic habitat data of the shallow-water environments surrounding twenty islands contained within the U.S. Pacific territories. For more information, visit the website at http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/products/us_pacific_terr/.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science to Contribute to Pacific Island Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps. Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps are used in planning for oil spill response and environmental restoration efforts. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) has long collaborated with the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) by providing biological data for these maps. Recently, OR&R requested permission to incorporate into the maps shallow water benthic habitat data for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) gathered during a 2004 research mission. In their request, OR&R noted that they had "...used benthic habitat data created by [NCCOS] for the American Samoa ESI atlas and database in 2003, and found it to be very useful and widely accepted by local resource experts. In the event of an oil or hazardous material spill in Guam or CNMI, the benthic habitat data will be an important resource that [OR&R] will use to assess areas that should be prioritized for protection." This request is one of a growing number of

examples demonstrating the utility of benthic habitat data beyond the primary goal of supporting the objectives of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. Learn more about OR&R's ESI mapping at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/esi/esiintro.html>.

Headquarters

Number of Publication Citations Available Through the Coral Reef Information System Nearly Triples. The Library section of NOAA's Coral Reef Information System was recently updated, almost tripling the number of coral publication citations available for quick review at coris.noaa.gov/library/publications.html. The citations refer to publications that cover a wide range of coral topics including coral diseases, socio-economic studies of reefs, deep-sea corals, coral reef management, and removal of abandoned vessels. Most papers can be viewed online.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

Articles mentioning NOAA

“Dying Reefs” – February 1, 2005 (PBS). “JIM LEHRER: What's killing the world's coral reefs, and what can be done to save them? Many scientists think the devastation caused by the recent tsunami might have been less severe if the coral reefs in South Asia had been in better shape and more able to protect the coastlines. Betty Ann Bowser has our science unit report.” http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/science/jan-june05/coral_2-01.html

“Powerful Tsunami's Impact on Coral Reefs Was Hit and Miss” – February 3, 2005 (Science Magazine). “Early surveys suggest that coral reefs around the Indian Ocean

survived December's tsunami in better shape than many had feared. In the sites where researchers have looked, ‘only a few areas were severely damaged, and the rest should recover rapidly in the next 5 to 10 years,’ says Clive Wilkinson, a marine scientist with the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Cape Ferguson. In some places, divers are already helping that recovery with restoration efforts.” <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/307/5710/657a>

“President Bush Reinforces Commitment To Cooperative Conservation In 2006 Budget” – February 9, 2005 (USDA press release). “...The president's budget for the Commerce Department includes funding for a variety of cooperative conservation programs through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration....The budget includes...\$1.5 million for the NOAA Coral Reef Program to work with states and territories to address threats to the nation's coral reefs.” http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2005/02/0045.xml

“New species of coral discovered off southern California” – February 9, 2005 (University of California, Santa Barbara press release). “A new species of black coral has been discovered off southern California, including around the Channel Islands, by Milton Love, University of California, Santa Barbara marine researcher, and Mary Yoklavich of NOAA Fisheries. The discovery came during dives by the researchers in ‘Delta,’ the submersible.” http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2005-02/uoc--nso020905.php

“Coral concerns spur vast trawling ban” – February 11, 2005 (Seattle Times). “Commercial fishing nets that drag the sea floor will be banned from more than a half-million square miles of ocean near the Aleutian

Islands under a government plan to protect the deep-water corals and sponges that help nurse Alaska's fishing grounds.”

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2002177305_coral11m.html

“New effort to clean up trash in sea under way” – February 12, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “Federal researchers are aware of 14 cases in which endangered Hawaiian monk seals were found trapped in marine debris in the Hawaiian archipelago last year alone.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Feb/12/ln/ln09p.html>

“Settlement reached over coral damage in Florida Keys sanctuary” – February 15, 2005 (*Associated Press in the Bradenton Herald, FL, and about 14 other outlets*)
“A shipping company has agreed to pay more than \$560,000 to settle claims of coral damage caused by a freighter in a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary no-anchor zone, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday.”
<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/10906785.htm>

“Deep Sea Chemicals” – February 16, 2005 (*PBS*). “Scientists around the world are looking to coral reefs for the next big medical breakthrough. Correspondent Betty Ann Bowser explores the potential of these ‘rainforests of the sea’ to provide the raw materials for life-saving drugs.” (NOAA mentioned in a link to the CRCP website).
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/science/jan-june05/reefs_2-16.html

“Coral reef transplant fraught with risks” – February 20, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “When drifting through the clear waters over a colorful coral garden, white is the color of something wrong. It’s the color of broken coral heads, of crushed limestone, and it is the color of a large blotch of reef off Barbers Point

where the 555-foot bulk carrier Cape Flattery went aground Feb. 2 and stayed for eight days.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Feb/20/ln/ln01p.html>

Other articles

“Sri Lanka's Beaches Will Recover But Coral Damaged” – February 1, 2005 (*Reuters*). “COLOMBO (Reuters) - Most of Sri Lanka's golden beaches battered by the Asian tsunami are expected to take up to six months to return to normal but their fragile coral reefs will take longer, a global environment group said on Tuesday.”
<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=7495496>

“CO2 emissions put corals at risk” – February 1, 2005 (*BBC News*). “Israeli scientists predict the world's coral reefs could begin to collapse in as little as 30 years from now.”
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4226917.stm>

“Montastraea coral disease not always pollution related” – February 2, 2005 (*Practical Fishkeeping, UK*). “A new study of coral diseases in Montastraea corals in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico contradicts the theory that diseases are related to marine pollution.”
<http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/item.php?news=569>

“Global Temperature Rise Threatens Reefs, Arctic, Mountains” – February 2, 2005 (*Bloomberg*). “A global temperature rise of between 1 and 2 degrees Celsius risks causing ‘large or even severe damage’ to ecosystems as different as coral reefs and the Arctic, scientists gathered in southwest England for a climate-change conference say.”
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=1000082&sid=adADTiqGnm.s&refer=canada>

“Coral reefs create clouds to control the climate” – February 2, 2005 (*New Scientist*, UK). “When the temperature soars, coral reefs might cool off by creating their own clouds. Research from the Great Barrier Reef off the Australian coast shows that corals are packed full of the chemical dimethyl sulphide or DMS. When released into the atmosphere, DMS helps clouds to form, which could have a large impact on the local climate.”

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/earth/mg18524855.100>

“Blasted Coral Reefs Need Tender, Low-Cost Care” – February 5, 2005 (*Science Daily* press release). “Blast or dynamite fishing creates a loss of sustainable fishery income, coastal protection, and tourism that is more than 50 times higher than the short-term benefits from the fish caught. This extreme form of overfishing destroys not only the fish and invertebrate stocks, but the coral reefs themselves.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/02/050204114918.htm>

“France to protect Vanuatu coral reefs” – February 6, 2005 (*Vanuatu Online*). “A project called the ‘Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific,’ CRISP, was the subject of a joint meeting recently between the French ambassador, Jean Garbe, and the minister of land, geology and mines, Paul Telukluk.”

<http://www.news.vu/en/news/environment/050206-Vanuatu-coral-reefs.shtml>

“Scientists: Tsunami did not damage coral reefs” – February 8, 2005 (*Malaysia Star*). “There has been no damage to the coral reefs in Malaysia due to December’s tsunami although there were traces of sediment re-suspension.”

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/2/8/nation/10114661&sec=nation>

“Langkawi corals hit by deadly disease” – February 8, 2005 (*Malaysia Star*). “Coral

reefs in Langkawi are not only ‘stressed’ but may become ‘a thing of the past’ if nothing is done to control the spread of the deadly orange band disease, which has affected some 20% of the reefs there.”

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/2/8/nation/10114490&sec=nation>

“Broward to restore 7 miles of beaches under \$23.8 million deal” – February 9, 2005 (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*). “Broward County commissioners Tuesday awarded a \$23.8 million contract to restore 7 miles of eroded beach to Illinois-based Great Lakes Dock and Dredge Company, which has twice rebuilt the county's beaches.” http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-ccommish09feb09_0_2074498.story?coll=sfla-news-broward

“19 Countries to Adopt Technology for Growing Coral Reefs” – February 10, 2005 (*MCOT, Thailand*). “Nineteen countries and some regions in Indonesia with damaged coastal areas, will adopt the biorock technology that has been successfully applied in Pemuteran, Buleleng district, Bali, in accelerating the growth of man-made coral reefs, a source said.”

<http://www.mcot.org/query.php?nid=35663>

“Inouye co-sponsors shore cleanup measure” – February 11, 2005 (*Associated Press in Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “Two U.S. senators from Pacific Rim states introduced a bill yesterday that would fund the removal of the thousands of tons of ocean debris that wash up on U.S. shores each year.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/02/11/news/story7.html>

“Reef expert gives back to Asia” – February 14, 2005 (*The Oregonian*). “The horrific images of tsunami-battered shores in Southeast Asia recalled to Deborah Brosnan her own personal disaster in that part of the world....A

Portland marine biologist, she is orchestrating a worldwide effort to help reclaim and repair fragile coral reefs pounded by the December tsunami.”

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/110838582491510.xml>

“Corals tell of climate changes” – February 14, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “Researchers are collecting corals from ancient Hawai’i reefs to help determine what was going on in the world’s climate thousands and millions of years ago.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Feb/14/ln/ln40p.html>

“China conducts survey on coral reefs at Xisha Archipelago” – February 17, 2005 (*Xinhua, China*). “Chinese ecologists completed the country’s first ever general survey on coral reefs at the Xisha Archipelago in the South China Sea recently.”

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-02/17/content_2587420.htm

“U.S. research ship faces Mexican fines” – February 18, 2005 (*Associated Press in the Bradenton Herald, FL, and about 100 other outlets*). “In a significant embarrassment for American scientists, a U.S. research vessel conducting controversial sound-wave research off Mexico’s Gulf coast faces heavy fines for running aground on a coral reef.”

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/world/10929572.htm>

“Australians help rehabilitate tsunami-damaged reefs” – February 20, 2005 (*ABCNews Online*). “North Queensland marine experts are on the ground in Thailand helping to rehabilitate tsunami damaged coastal regions.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200502/s1307069.htm>

“U.S. move signals hope for saving marine habitats” – February 20, 2005 (*Washington Times*). “Seeking to protect deep-sea coral beds and other sensitive fish habitat, a U.S. federal fishing council banned bottom trawling this month over more than 370,000 square miles off Alaska’s Aleutian Islands, the largest such action taken anywhere in the world.”

<http://washingtontimes.com/world/20050220-100703-7802r.htm>

“City holds talks to help preserve coral reefs” – February 20, 2005 (*Scotmans.com*).

“Conservation experts are set to meet in [Edinburgh] to seek ways of protecting Europe’s endangered coral reefs.”

<http://news.scotsman.com/scitech.cfm?id=197072005>

“New Report Makes Recommendations on How to Reduce Vulnerability to Future Coastal Hazards” – February 22, 2005 (UNEP press release on *ReliefWeb*).

“The destruction caused by the Asian tsunami to the environment offers an opportunity to rebuild in a manner that preserves natural resources for the benefit of the local communities who were hardest hit by the disaster, a new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says.”

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900S/ID/JWIN-69UJWW?OpenDocument>

“Alien algae invades Hawai’i habitats” – February 25, 2005 (*The University of Hawai’i Kaleo*). “Hawai’i’s coral reefs are being overgrown by an invasive red-orange algae, *Gracilaria salicornia*, which is threatening the islands’ marine environment.”

<http://www.kaleo.org/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/02/25/421eeb253fbae>

“Island-building alters Gulf environment” – February 26, 2005 (*Associated Press in the Monterey County Herald, CA, and about 40 other outlets*). “DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

- Stroll on Dubai's shore and dead coral crunches underfoot. The normally crystal-clear Gulf is fogged with silt. Eroding beaches need truckloads of sand to stay in place. The \$14 billion manmade islands project that is luring buyers from around the world is also damaging the habitat for Gulf marine life.”

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/world/11001722.htm>

“Sections of reef open for fishing” – February 28, 2005 (*The Australian*). “Four sections of the Great Barrier Reef will be reopened for fishing next month for the first time in five years, although this will not do much to satisfy Queensland's commercial fishing interests.”

http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,12394069%255E30417,00.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 2005

2: **NOAA's Annual Stakeholder Forum**. Washington, DC.

<http://www.spo.noaa.gov/dcforum2005.htm>

3: **13th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Washington, DC.

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

7: **Public Dialogue on the Development of a National System of MPAs**. See announcement in this newsletter. Washington, DC. http://mpa.gov/national_system/

31 – April 3: **National Science Teachers Association - Annual Conference and Exhibit**.

Dallas, TX. http://www.nsta.org/conventiondetail&Meeting_Code=2005DAL

April 2005

2 – 3: **Second International Coral Reefs Conference of Paris (CIRCOP)**. Paris, France.

http://www.circop.com/US_default.html

10 – 14: **Eighth International Conference on Artificial Reefs (and Related) Artificial Habitats**. Biloxi, MS. <http://www.cfi.lsu.edu/carah/>

18 – 22: **Dive In To Earth Day (The Coral Reef Alliance)**. Regional events internationally.

<http://www.coralreefalliance.org/divein/>

25 – 28: **ICRI General Meeting (Final meeting of the current secretariat)**. The Seychelles.

http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/ICRI_GM_April05.html

May 2005

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

http://mpa.gov/fac/fac_meetings.html

June 2005

1 – 5: **UN World Environment Day**. San Francisco, CA. <http://www.wed2005.org/0.0.php>

8: **World Ocean Day**. <http://www.worldoceanday.org/>

8 – 9: **Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2005**. Washington, DC. www.nmsfocean.org/

13 – 17: **32nd 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/

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>

15 – 19: **Society for Conservation Biology, 19th Annual Meeting**. Universidade de Brasília, Brazil. <http://www.scb2005.unb.br/>

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

August 2005

13 – 19: **8th 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

November 2005

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

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

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>.

