

**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>.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**OF SPECIAL NOTE (PAGE 2)**

- **Thermal Stress in the Caribbean Rises at Unprecedented Rate in May.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (PAGE 2)**

- **Federal Advisory Committee Presents Recommendations on a National System of MPAs.**
- **Fourth Newsletter of the International Coral Reef Initiative Now Available.**

**UPDATES (PAGE 2)**

*Atlantic*

- **Mechanized Seagrass Transplanting Method Proves Successful in Florida.**
- **New Posters Explain Puerto Rico Fishing Regulations to Commercial and Recreational Fishers, Restaurants and Consumers.**
- **Bilingual Tourist Information Sheet for Puerto Rico Available.**
- **SEFSC Conducts Research Trip to USVI to Study Recovery of Conch Populations.**
- **Interim Results of Trap Fishing Study Presented to USVI Fishermen.**
- **Inventory of Special Sites at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Expanded Following NCCOS Surveys.**
- **Publication Released on CRCP Coral Reef Fish Monitoring in the Florida Keys.**

*Pacific*

- **Geodetic Marker Commemorates Removal of Nine Grounded Vessels from Reefs in American Samoa.**
- **CRED Assists U.S. Navy With NEPA Compliance by Providing Benthic Habitat Data for CNMI.**
- **CRED Launches 2005 Marine Debris Removal Efforts in the NWHI.**
- **Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps Reviewed by Guam and CNMI.**

*National/Headquarters*

- **Australian Socio-economic Expert Visits NOAA.**
- **CoRIS Provides Historical Global Sea Surface Temperature Data Set.**
- **Recent Coral Data Additions to CoRIS.**

**CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS (PAGE 6)**

**UPCOMING EVENTS (PAGE 12)**



## OF SPECIAL NOTE

**Thermal Stress in the Caribbean Rises at Unprecedented Rate in May.** NOAA's Coral Reef Watch (CRW) is closely monitoring the Caribbean as it begins its 2005 summer warm-up in the most southern reaches of the Sea. In late May, thermal stress appeared to be building at a rate unseen since CRW began recording HotSpots and Degree Heating Weeks in 1997. In addition, the Caribbean is experiencing an anomalously low trade wind this year, inhibiting upwelling along its southern margin. CRW is scheduled to begin its Automated Satellite Bleaching Alerts (SBAs) this summer. These notifications will be made twice-weekly over the Internet and will be sent to managers and scientists in the field via email to alert them of coral reef locations where anomalously high thermal stress is occurring and/or increasing. Learn more about NOAA's CRW at <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Federal Advisory Committee Presents Recommendations on a National System of MPAs.** On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Federal Advisory Committee delivered its first set of recommendations for the creation of a national system of MPAs to the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior. The report, which is consistent with the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, recommends processes to establish a national system built upon existing MPA sites and new areas that meet specific criteria. The Committee's report is available on [www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov). Read the full press release at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/jun05/noaa05-074.html>.

**Fourth Newsletter of the International Coral Reef Initiative Now Available.** The fourth issue of the International Coral Reef Initiative

(ICRI) Newsletter is now available at <http://www.icriforum.org/newsletter.html>. This Newsletter (June 2005) contains information on the activities of ICRI since the January 2005 Newsletter, including a report on the ICRI General Meeting (Seychelles, April 2005) and an update on post-tsunami activities.

## UPDATES

### *Atlantic*

**Mechanized Seagrass Transplanting Method Proves Successful in Florida.** Preliminary analysis of two years of monitoring data following transplant of seagrass with a mechanized planting boat indicates the possibility of high survival and growth of individual planting units. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and Florida Wildlife Research Institute contracted a transplant boat to collect 27 units of seagrass (4 x 5 ft. each) from residential canals along Sarasota Bay, FL, and to place the units at carefully selected sites elsewhere in the bay. Without intervention, the seagrass would have been lost to dredging activities. Monitoring data show that 74% of the units survived and 80% of the survivors expanded by as much as 99%. Although mechanical transplantation has been used in mitigation, this analysis is the first rigorous evaluation of transplant unit survival and growth using this method. Mechanical transplanting has the potential to increase the amount of seagrass transplanted to an area with significantly reduced labor. Transplanted seagrass helps to improve water quality, provides food and habitat for waterfowl and aquatic species, reduces wave energy, and stabilizes sediments. Learn more about FWRI's seagrass activities at [http://www.floridamarine.org/features/category\\_main.asp?id=1323](http://www.floridamarine.org/features/category_main.asp?id=1323).

**New Posters Explain Puerto Rico Fishing Regulations to Commercial and Recreational Fishers, Restaurants and Consumers.**

The Caribbean Field Office of the NOAA Fisheries/Office of Habitat Conservation, Southeast Region, has produced educational materials to explain the new Puerto Rico fishing regulations to commercial and recreational fishers and restaurants. The posters for fishers contain illustrations of managed species that are regulated through closed seasons or minimum size requirements, and explanations of the regulations. The poster for restaurants targets ten popular species served in restaurants, including queen conch, spiny lobster and mutton snapper, and explains the reason for regulating each of these species either through closed seasons or minimum size limits, urging both restaurants and consumers to assist in maintaining populations of these species by supporting such regulations.

**Bilingual Tourist Information Sheet for Puerto Rico Available.**

The Caribbean Field Office of the NOAA Fisheries/Office of Habitat Conservation, Southeast Region, has created an information brochure in cooperation with the Puerto Rico Tourism Company to be distributed to hotels and dive shops around Puerto Rico that are endorsed by the Tourism Company. The brochure contains general information about corals and associated habitats, as well as codes of conduct for tourists to follow to assist in conserving these systems.

**SEFSC Conducts Research Trip to USVI to Study Recovery of Conch Populations.**

From May 17-27, the NOAA Fisheries/Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) conducted a research trip to Fish Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to investigate movement rates, habitat use and population status of the severely overfished Queen conch. Short-term (mark-and-recapture) and long-term (ultrasonic tracking) monitoring will be used to assess habitat use and movement/migration rates.

Initial habitat characterizations (based on benthic cover, depth, dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity) suggest that conch habitat use in Fish Bay may be more similar to that in the Florida Keys than that more widely-reported in the Bahamas. Additional surveys are planned for August/September 2005 at which time egg masses will be collected for culturing and additional studies. Learn more about the SEFSC at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/>.

**Interim Results of Trap Fishing Study Presented to USVI Fishermen.**

Interim results from the CRCP project entitled "Effects of trap fishing on coral reefs and associated habitats" were presented to the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association at the Frenchtown Community Center, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the presentation was to inform fishermen of the progress and direction of CRCP research activities related to trap fishing, and to request greater cooperation and participation from trap fishermen. A procedure for obtaining permission to survey the traps of a greater number of fishermen was discussed and will be pursued with the Association's officers in order to increase study coverage and completeness. This study represents a joint effort of the NOAA Fisheries/Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the USVI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

**Inventory of Special Sites at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Expanded Following NCCOS Surveys.**

The inventory of special sites within Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, located off Sapelo Island, GA, was recently expanded as a result of two field missions by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) to previously unsurveyed ledges in the Sanctuary. A total of 68 dive sites were visited over ledge habitats, sand habitats, and sparsely colonized live bottom within the Sanctuary. The surveys helped to characterize bottom fish,

invertebrates attached to the bottom, and the amount and type of marine debris in the Sanctuary. These characterizations provide better understanding of the interaction between ledge habitats, fish community structure, and fishing pressure within the Sanctuary. NCCOS staff shared ship time aboard the NOAA Ship NANCY FOSTER with state, Federal, and university scientists working to characterize diverse aspects of the ecology at the Sanctuary. An additional survey will take place in August 2005. Learn more about Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary at

<http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/>.

**Publication Released on CRCP Coral Reef Fish Monitoring in the Florida Keys.** A new peer-review publication provides an overview of the Florida Keys reef fish monitoring efforts supported by the CRCP. The monitoring approach uses an ecosystem- and habitat-based perspective in a system science framework to optimize sampling strategy, develop fishery-independent multi-species assessments, and model complex population dynamics. Results show data on the overfishing of reef fish relative to established sustainability benchmarks. Spatially explicit models that link physical, habitat, and biological processes were used to show the potential effectiveness of no-take reserves and to objectively evaluate marine reserve boundary options in the Dry Tortugas. These models can be used to assess marine reserve effectiveness and fisheries extraction, and to show the impacts of water quality changes resulting from Everglades restoration. Details on the publication are: Ault, J.S., J.A. Bohnsack, S.G. Smith, J. Luo. 2005. Towards sustainable multispecies fisheries in the Florida, USA, coral reef ecosystem. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 76: 595-622. Visit <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/umrsm/as/bullmar/2005/00000076/00000002/art00020#avail> to read an abstract of the publication and purchase the full text.

## *Pacific*

**Geodetic Marker Commemorates Removal of Nine Grounded Vessels from Reefs in American Samoa.** A geodetic marker was placed in Aua village in American Samoa on May 25<sup>th</sup> to commemorate a cooperative effort to remove nine longline fishing vessels from the coral reefs of Pago Pago Harbor in 1999 and 2000. The partnership between NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the American Samoa Government was created largely through the efforts of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. In addition to removing the vessels, the partners transplanted threatened corals, and NOAA has monitored their recovery to the present. The marker was placed by the National Geodetic Survey and will assist village fishermen, boaters, researchers, and surveyors to navigate and find specific destinations using GPS equipment. The event was part of the first Ocean Symposium, led by the American Samoa Ocean Resource Management Council. Learn more about the removal of the Pago Pago Longliners at

[http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/dac/vessels/case\\_main.html](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/dac/vessels/case_main.html).

**CRED Assists U.S. Navy With NEPA Compliance by Providing Benthic Habitat Data for CNMI.** The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)/Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) recently submitted a report to the Military Sealift Command of the U.S. Navy entitled, "Characterization of Benthic Habitats for the Saipan Anchorage, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." This report was produced in response to a request from the U.S. Navy for help in determining benthic classifications for the anchorage area in order to better address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for their vessel and anchorage use. In December 2004, CRED personnel, with assistance from researchers from Analytical Laboratories of Hawai'i and the CNMI Division of Fish and

Wildlife, used a towed camera system to collect in situ optical coverage of 120 linear kilometers of the Saipan Anchorage. This video data was used to ground truth high-resolution bathymetry data collected during the CRED bathymetric surveys conducted around Saipan in 2003 by the *R/V AHI* as part of the CRCP's mapping and monitoring mission. CRED used spatial statistics to combine the topographic surface models from the bathymetry with the classified videos to produce benthic characterization maps of the Saipan anchorage to assist the Navy in their operations and decision-making. Learn more about CRED mapping efforts at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/hmapping/>.

**CRED Launches 2005 Marine Debris Removal Efforts in the NWHI.** The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)/Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) launched its 2005 marine debris removal field season with the departure of the *M/V Casitas* on June 8. Sixteen marine debris specialists will be spending 120 days in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) working on debris removal and on gathering data for accumulation studies. The U.S. Coast Guard (with CRED staff support) will also concurrently complement these efforts through two additional removal cruises. Learn more about the CRCP marine debris removal efforts at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/mdr.php>.

**Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps Reviewed by Guam and CNMI.** Over the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) met with representatives of natural and historic resource management agencies in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to review draft Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps for these islands. NOAA's ESI maps display information on coastal shoreline sensitivity, biological resources, and historic resources in standard

digital and paper formats. The maps are used to help identify and protect sensitive shoreline resources during oil spill response and planning. Learn more about OR&R's ESI maps at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/esi/esiintro.html>.

### *National/Headquarters*

**Australian Socio-economic Expert Visits NOAA.** NOAA's Coral Reef Watch recently hosted Hans Hoegh-Guldberg, an economist and author of a report commissioned by the Australian Federal and State organizations charged with the stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). The report, titled "The Implications of Climate Change for Australia's Great Barrier Reef," was a key component to the recently implemented management strategy heralded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Mr. Hoegh-Guldberg has been tasked by NOAA's CRCP to provide a scoping study of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary along the same lines of the completed GBR report. More information on the GBR study can be found at: <http://www.qtic.com.au/WWF.htm>.

**CoRIS Provides Historical Global Sea Surface Temperature Data Set.** NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) offers users the highest possible resolution, global 4 kilometer, Pathfinder Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) Sea Surface Temperature (SST) data. These data were recently reprocessed to provide SST data and related parameters with good temporal consistency, high accuracy and high spatial resolution. The data set is intended primarily for climate related applications and studies and is to help form the basis for a Climate Data Record for SST. The 102 global SST products cover 1985 through 2001, and include twice-daily, 5-day, 7-day, 8-day, monthly, and yearly averages. These data result from a joint effort

between the National Oceanographic Data Center and the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and can be downloaded at <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/sog/pathfinder4km/available.html>.

**Recent Coral Data Additions to CoRIS.** Several additional data sets are now available from the Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS). They include (a) 12 Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) Sea Surface Temperature (SST) mooring data sets for the Pacific, (b) 7 benthic habitat map products for the main Hawaiian Islands and 3 for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, (c) aerial photos of Hawai'i, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and (d) 20 data sets from the Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative Research Program. For more information, and access to the data, visit <http://www.coris.noaa.gov>.

## CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

### Articles mentioning NOAA

**“Coral input session comes to Keys” – June 3, 2005 (*The Florida Keys Keynoter*).** “The disappearance of abundant fields of elkhorn and staghorn coral from Keys reefs means the species need new protection, the National Marine Fisheries Service has concluded.” <http://www.keynoter.com/articles/2005/06/03/news/news05.txt>

**“Northwest islands trip yields preservation data: Researchers gather information that could support the case for a marine sanctuary” – June 8, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*).** “Sunburned but satisfied that they exceeded mission expectations, 15 scientists returned to Honolulu yesterday from a 25-day research voyage to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/06/08/news/story8.html>

**“Research Vessel Finds Two Wrecks” – June 8, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*).** “For 200 years, the reefs and shoals of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands have been a seething graveyard for shipping. Every year, scientists find additional victims, and this year they found two more.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/08/In/In09p.html>

**“New Shipwrecks Found in Hawai'i Archipelago” – June 8, 2005 (*Associated Press in The Washington Post*).**

“HONOLULU -- Marine scientists investigating the discovery of two sunken ships in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands have found two new shipwrecks and a trail of coal that may lead to another wreck.”

[http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050608/ap\\_on\\_sc/shipwrecks\\_hawaii](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050608/ap_on_sc/shipwrecks_hawaii)

**“Fish farms could get boost from White House plan” – June 8, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*).** “Hawai'i aquaculture officials yesterday welcomed a proposal by the Bush administration to dramatically expand the country's fish farming industry by allowing operations up to 200 miles off the nation's coasts.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/08/In/In06p.html>

**“Regional, federal leaders present proposals to tackle Gulf woes” – June 10, 2005 (*Naples Daily News, in The Charlotte Sun-Herald*)**

“NAPLES -- Gulf of Mexico Alliance members received federal proposals Thursday to help tackle coastal woes ranging from poor water quality to inadequate environmental education.”

<http://www.sun-herald.com/NewsArchive2/061005/tp2ch8.htm?date=061005&story=tp2ch8.htm>

**“Boxer proposes major overhaul in oceans policy: Bill to cut overfishing and pollution faces uphill fight in Congress, could conflict with White House plans” – June 10, 2005**

*(The San Francisco Chronicle)*. “Washington -- California Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced legislation Thursday to address threats to the world's oceans, including tougher rules to reduce overfishing and strict new limits on agricultural and storm-water runoff.”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/06/10/MNG8SD6C4O1.DTL>

**“Mystery disease killing coral” – June 11, 2005**

*(Honolulu Advertiser)*. “Giant table corals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are suffering from a poorly understood disease that kills off large patches of coral tissue.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/11/ln/ln09p.html>

**“Dazzling reefs must be saved” – June 12, 2005**

*(Honolulu Advertiser – Commentary by Robert Ballard, Leon Panetta, Jean-Michel Cousteau and Sylvia Earle)*. “We stand at a point in history that will forever change what kind of planet we leave the generations to come. Yet most Americans are unaware that they have such an urgent decision to make. We have the ability in this age to decide to leave another Yosemite for our children and grandchildren, or leave to them yet another place that has been injured and exhausted by unmanaged consumption.... The potential Yosemite in question is known as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands – the world's most remote archipelago.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/12/op/op05p.html/?print=on>

**“Coral bleaching concerns mount as sea temperatures rise” – June 13, 2005**

*(The Key West Citizen)*. “Rising water temperatures in the summer may be good for divers who want to shed their wet suits, but not so good for

coral.”

<http://secure.floridakeys.com/keysnews/archive/s/index.cfm> (Fee for article)

**“Scientists track shark movement” – June 14, 2005**

*(Honolulu Advertiser)*. “During a recent research expedition to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, oceanographer Carl Meyer performed surgical procedures on sharks and other predators while hanging over the side of a small boat, inserting electronic tags in their abdominal cavities.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/14/ln/ln07p.html>

**“Dumping, overfishing, ‘bleaching’ among threats” – June 15, 2005**

*(The Daytona Beach News-Journal)*. “For a natural Florida reef to thrive, be it the extensive shallow structure off Key West or the deep Oculina ridge off Daytona Beach, living coral must cover 30 to 40 percent of its expanse. But the state's coral reefs and most others around the world are losing that cover too fast to sustain these ecosystems critical to marine life, great and small.”

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Opinion/Editorials/03OpOPN87061205.htm>

**“Reassessing U.S. Coral Reefs” – June 17, 2005**

*(Science)*. Letters to the editor in response to an earlier article, “Are U.S. coral reefs on the slippery slope to slime?”, Policy Forum, 18 Mar., p. 1725. <http://www.sciencemag.org/> (17 June, Vol. 308, p. 1740).

**“Under cover: Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary contains beauty beneath the sea”**

**– June 19, 2005**

*(Atlanta Journal-Constitution)*. “...Marine biologists describe Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary as a ‘secret paradise,’ a place of brilliant corals, big sea turtles, giant manta rays and swarming schools of neon-colored fish.”

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/0605/19graysreef.html>

**“Scientists to study reef” – June 22, 2005** (*Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, TX). “It is the deepest discovered in U.S. waters at 250 feet. Two local scientists will take part in an expedition to study a recently discovered coral reef off the coast of Florida, starting today.”  
[http://www.caller.com/ccct/local\\_news/article/0\\_1641,CCCT\\_811\\_3874064,00.html](http://www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/article/0_1641,CCCT_811_3874064,00.html)  
(Registration required).

**“President Bush and Sen. Boxer ocean bills conflict on fish farms” – June 23, 2005** (*Lake County Record-Bee*, CA). “Imagine thousands of salmon or tuna living in steel cages 20 feet below the surface of the ocean, 10 miles off the Mendocino Coast.” <http://www.record-bee.com/Stories/0,1413,255~33908~2935105,0.html>

**“Hawaiian Reef Repair Mission Accomplished” – June 24, 2005** (*Voice of America*). “The coral reefs in Hawai‘i are still pristine, which is why after a large tanker ran aground earlier this year off the coast of the island of Oahu, a major effort was launched to repair the damage done by the ship and its anchor to the delicate coral reef growing in the offshore waters.”  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2005-06-24-voa31.cfm>

#### Other articles

**“Drugs from the depths of the ocean” – June 2, 2005** (*Medical News Today*). “For Tadeusz Molinski, the sea is full of riches -- and he does not mean oil fields or fisheries. Molinski, a professor of chemistry at the University of California, Davis, is searching for new treatments for cancer, infectious diseases and other conditions that could be made from natural products in the soft bodies of some of the ocean's simplest inhabitants.”  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=25483>

**“Drop in black coral puzzles experts” – June 2, 2005** (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “Hawaii divers can continue harvesting black coral while scientists study reasons for an apparent decline in new growth of the crop used to make jewelry, a federal fishing advisory group decided yesterday.”  
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/06/02/news/story7.html>

**“Black-coral harvest rules please all” – June 2, 2005** (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “A compromise has been reached in the harvesting of black coral that officials hope will protect the valuable resource while at the same time sustain the industry.”  
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jun/02/In/In11p.html>

**“Curbs, Not Ban, Imposed on Black Coral Harvest” – June 2, 2005** (*The Associated Press in The Washington Post* and approx. 35 other outlets). “HONOLULU -- A federal council declined to impose a five-year ban on harvesting the gemstone known as black coral in Hawaiian waters, opting instead to restrict the practice to older populations of the coral.”  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/02/AR2005060201955.html>.

**“CAST urges Immediate Action to Save Caribbean Coral Reefs” – June 4, 2005** (*Prensa Latina*). “San Juan, Puerto Rico – The Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) called to protect one of the region’s treasures at risk, the coral reefs, in the commemorations of World Environment Day, on June 5.”  
<http://www.plenglish.com/Article.asp?ID=%7BA4180F92-46D8-4AEB-A023-ECE0CFDDC70D%7D&language=EN>



**“A Bishop Museum researcher swims back into the spotlight with an in-depth look at South Pacific fishes” – June 7, 2005** (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “The world's leading authority on tropical marine fishes says his father wanted him to be an architect. . . . His newest book is ‘Reef and Shore Fishes of the South Pacific, New Caledonia to Tahiti and the Pitcairn Islands,’ published by the University of Hawai‘i Press.”  
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/06/07/news/story2.html>

**“CI Launches Unprecedented Marine Conservation Initiatives” – June 8, 2005** (*Conservation International Press Release*). “Washington, D.C. - Conservation International announced major initiatives tonight that will create marine protected areas, increase marine research, and identify priorities for conserving marine species on an unprecedented scale.”  
[http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press\\_releases/2005/060805b-eng.xml](http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press_releases/2005/060805b-eng.xml)

**“Toxic Snail Venoms Yielding New Painkillers, Drugs” – June 14, 2005** (*National Geographic News*). “In chronic pain? Don't be surprised if you find yourself at a corner pharmacy filling a prescription for synthetic snail venom sometime soon. Last December the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first painkiller derived from a cocktail of potent chemicals produced by cone snails. The creatures, which are also known as cone shells, inhabit the world's dwindling coral reefs. There are more than 500 known cone snail species.”  
[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/06/0614\\_050614\\_snaildrugs.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/06/0614_050614_snaildrugs.html)

**“Regulators tighten regulations on Pacific bottom trawling” – June 15, 2005** (*The Associated Press in Dateline Alabama and approx. 50 other outlets*). “Federal fishery regulators voted Wednesday to impose a permanent ban on trawl fishing in nearly 300,000 square miles of Pacific waters off the

West Coast, a move hailed by environmentalists as a landmark in marine conservation.”  
[http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050615/APN/506150596&cache\\_time=3&template=dateline](http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050615/APN/506150596&cache_time=3&template=dateline)

**“Tsunami damage greatest where environment was degraded – UN” – June 17, 2005** (*UN News Service*). “Coastal areas where natural vegetation had been removed suffered the greatest damage from the Indian Ocean tsunami, according to two reports released today by the United Nations environmental agency on the environmental impact of the December 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka and the Maldives respectively.”  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=14643&Cr=tsunami&Cr1>

**“Diver hopes reef photos can help save natural treasure” – June 18, 2005** (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*). “...Furth, a former commissioner, said the reefs are slowly dying from human invasion: boat anchors, fishing, fertilizer runoff, pollution and swimmers' touch. That's why he's using his pastime to help preserve what he considers the town's threatened treasure.” <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-cunderwater16jun18,0,7303611.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

**“Reefs to rice paddies, Asian tsunami spared nothing” – June 19, 2005** (*Reuters*). “...In the southern Nicobars, much of the coral has been buried under debris and several beaches that were once the nesting sites of the endangered leatherback turtles have been destroyed, pushing the animal closer to extinction.”  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP276507.htm>

**“Southern Thailand Rebuilds from Tsunami but Lack of Tourists Hurts Local Economy” – June 20, 2005 (*Voice of America*).** “...After the tsunami, volunteer divers removed debris and sand from the reefs and saved many corals.”

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-06-20-voa50.cfm>

**“High school designs, builds artificial reefs” – June 22, 2005 (*News Leader, FL*).** “Next to the cyclone fence on the north side of Hickory Street, on school property, stand nine pyramid-shaped concrete structures, from 3 to 4.5 feet tall. These are artificial reefs, which serve the same purpose as natural reefs of coral, underwater rock or a build-up of shells when placed on the ocean floor.”

[http://www.fbnewsleader.com/articles/2005/06/22/around\\_town/00atartificialreefs.txt](http://www.fbnewsleader.com/articles/2005/06/22/around_town/00atartificialreefs.txt)

**“Global warming may spell disaster for Guam” – June 24, 2005 (*Pacific Daily News, Guam*).** “Imagine having to import tuna from Hawai’i because they’ve left Guam waters. Imagine a completely barren and dead reef, which provides the island no buffer from killer tsunami waves.”

<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050624/NEWS01/506240304/1002>

**“Global warming damages reefs” – June 24, 2005 (*Malaysia Star*).** “CORAL reefs worldwide are fast losing their vibrant colours because of global warming, Australia’s most prominent coral reef biologist Professor Terry Hughes said.”

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/6/24/north/11246063&sec=North>

**“Divers needed to count fish on gulf reefs” – June 26, 2005 (*St. Petersburg Times, FL*).** “It seems like a daunting task: Try to organize a volunteer program that uses divers from around the United States to count as many tropical fish species as possible, then coordinate that data to

gain a better understanding of the fish and the coral reefs they inhabit.”

[http://www.sptimes.com/2005/06/26/Sports/Divers\\_needed\\_to\\_coun.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/06/26/Sports/Divers_needed_to_coun.shtml)

**“‘Loyalist Cay’ in revolt against new Bahamas development” – June 26, 2005 (*Knight Ridder Newspapers in Myrtle Beach Sun News and approx. 15 other outlets*).**

“...A plan to build a massive 585-acre luxury golf-and-yacht resort that would cover the entire north third of their island went down like a spoiled piece of conch.”

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/world/11989998.htm>

**“Viet Nam maps out plan to protect coral reefs” – June 27, 2005 (*Viet Nam News Agency*).** “The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has mapped out a plan to stabilise the country’s coral reefs by 2010 that is part of the coordination with six other regional countries in carrying out a project to prevent the environmental degradation trends in the East Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.”

[http://www.vnagency.com.vn/NewsA.asp?LANGUAGE\\_ID=2&CATEGORY\\_ID=31&NEWS\\_ID=156771](http://www.vnagency.com.vn/NewsA.asp?LANGUAGE_ID=2&CATEGORY_ID=31&NEWS_ID=156771)

**“Adopt-a-reef project aimed at saving corals” – June 28, 2005 (*Monsters and Critics.com, UK*).** “Singapore - An adopt-a-reef programme to save corals has been launched in Singapore’s most ambitious undersea conservation effort, marine experts said Tuesday.”

[http://science.monstersandcritics.com/news/article\\_1024050.php/Adopt-a-reef\\_project\\_aimed\\_at\\_saving\\_corals](http://science.monstersandcritics.com/news/article_1024050.php/Adopt-a-reef_project_aimed_at_saving_corals)

**“Scientists divided over coral reef protection” – June 28, 2005 (*ABC Online, Australia*).** “Most marine scientists agree that climate change is killing coral at an alarming rate. A recent spell of warm water bleached large tracts of reef off Western Australia’s

Dampier Archipelago. But scientists are divided on the best way to protect coral reefs.”  
<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2005/s1402626.htm>

**“Starfish fear for coral reefs” – June 29, 2005 (Australian Associated Press in the Advertiser Adelaide and approx. 5 other outlets).** “A fresh wave of the destructive crown-of-thorns starfish could threaten popular coral reefs in Queensland's Whitsundays within 12 months, the marine tourism industry has warned.”

[http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5936,15766770%255E1702,00.html](http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,15766770%255E1702,00.html)

**“More Acid in Sea ‘Endangers Thousands of Species’” – June 30, 2005 (Scotsman.com).** “Coral, shellfish and thousands of other species are in danger because the sea is becoming increasingly acidic, scientists warned today.”  
<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=4763242>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### 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

16 – 18: **Marine Aquarium Conference of North America**. Washington, DC.

<http://www.macnaxvii.com/>

19 – 23: **Marine Technology Society and IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Oceans Conference 2005**. Washington, DC. Abstracts due Feb. 15, 2005. <http://www.oceans2005.org/>

### October 2005

18 – 19: **Conference on Coral Reef Restoration: Scientific Frameworks for Rehabilitation**. Miami, FL. [http://www.tfilearning.com/tfi/c/portal\\_public/layout?p\\_1\\_id=27.26](http://www.tfilearning.com/tfi/c/portal_public/layout?p_1_id=27.26)

23 – 28: **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

4 – 7: **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>

### April 2006

19 – 21: **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>.

