



NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2004 Summary Report

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program was created in fiscal year 2001 pursuant to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq., P.L. 106.562). The intent of the Grant Program is to provide financial assistance for widely-supported on-the-ground efforts to conserve coral reef ecosystems. The Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), through the NOAA Administrator, to award matching Federal grants to government agencies, non-government organizations and academic institutions for broad-based coral reef conservation projects.

In the first three years of the grant program (FY2002-2004), NOAA awarded approximately \$5.5 million per year to fund a wide range of coral reef conservation projects under 6 different funding categories. The funding categories are:

1. State and Territory Coral Reef **Management**;
2. State and Territory coral Reef Ecosystem **Monitoring**;
3. **General** Coral Reef Conservation;
4. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef **Fishery** Management Plans;
5. **International** Coral Reef Conservation; and
6. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.

For the past three years, the number of grants awarded annually under each category has remained relatively constant. Thirty-nine grants were selected for funding in the first year of the grant program (FY2002), and 40 proposals were chosen in FY2003. The amount of Federal funds awarded in FY2002 for projects in the five coral reef conservation categories was \$5,182,529 with \$1,831,727 provided in non-Federal match. The FY 2003 awards totaled \$4,839,819 with \$1,601,244 in non-Federal match.

In fiscal year 2004, 82 proposals were received under the five coral reef conservation project categories requesting a total of \$7.1 million in federal funds with approximately \$4.4 million proposed in non-Federal matching funds. Based on formal peer and NOAA team reviews, 50 proposals were selected for funding in 2004. Awards were granted for activities in seven U.S. States and Territories and ten countries. The FY2004 Grant Program awards totaled \$4,951,566 in Federal monies and leveraged an additional \$2,388,582 in non-Federal match – nearly twice the amount leveraged for previous years.

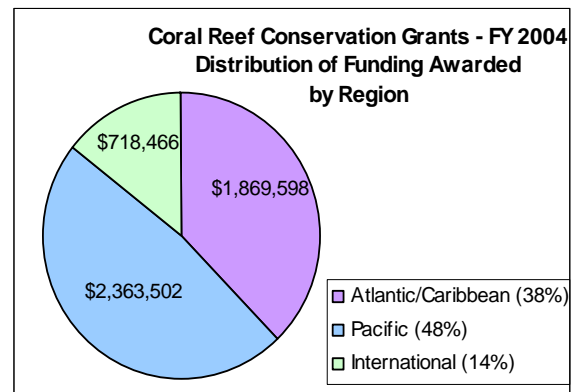
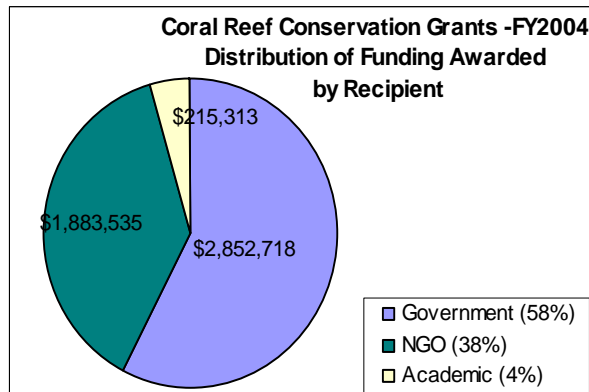
FUNDING CATEGORY	# of Awards	Final Funding	Non-federal Match
1. Management	7	\$2,080,807	\$872,367
2. Monitoring	9	\$746,911	\$347,958
3. General	14	\$505,548	\$574,062
4. Fisheries	4	\$1,058,300	\$0
5. International	16	\$560,000	\$633,419
TOTALS	50	\$4,951,566	\$2,388,582

Note: the coral reef ecosystem research grant category is administered through NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) and is not included in the funding totals for the 2004 Grant Program summary.

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Of the 50 awards granted in 2004, the percent distribution of financial awards for the U.S. Pacific and the Caribbean/Atlantic regions was 48% and 37%, respectively. The remaining 15% was awarded to International and other priority activity grant awards. Approximately 58% of Federal funding awarded was granted to government agencies, 39% to Non-government organizations, and 4% of awards went to academic institutions.



Example Projects that Received Funding in FY2004 for each Coral Reef Conservation Project Area

Management: *Puerto Rico* – Coral Reef Law Enforcement Project, Inventory of septic tanks in the Cabo Rojo – Mayaguez watersheds; *American Samoa* – Capacity Enhancement through Coral Reef Initiative staff positions, Climate Change Vulnerability Studies; *CNMI* – Inshore Creel Survey for Saipan Lagoon, Watershed Plans for Three LAS Priority Watersheds; *Hawaii* – Living Reef marketing and awareness campaign, Understanding Alien and Invasive Marine Algae

Monitoring: *Florida* – Expansion of Coral Reef Monitoring Project (CRMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs; *USVI* – On-going Long-term Monitoring, Comprehensive Assessment of Park Resources in the St. Croix East End Marine Park; *Guam* – Technical Assistant to coordinate all of Guam's coral monitoring activities

General: A Pilot Stock Enhancement Project for Grouper in Palau; Conserving Coral Reefs on the Island of Hawaii through Community Involvement and Strategic Partnerships; Assessment of the Status of Shark Populations in the U.S. Virgin Islands; Managing overfishing and destructive fisheries occurring on coral reefs in The Republic of the Marshall Islands

Fisheries: Biological Assessment of the Upper Reef Slope Community and Mapping of Benthic Habitat at Bajo de Cico, Puerto Rico; Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Coral Reef Ecosystem Resources and Habitat

International: Enhancing the Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) in the Indo-Pacific; Socioeconomic Monitoring at Negril Marine Park, Jamaica; Strategic Designation of British Virgin Islands MPA Network; Designing and Implementing a Biophysical, Socioeconomic, and Governance Monitoring Program for Pohnpei's Local MPA Network