



NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2006 Summary Report

Each year, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program, as authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, makes available matching grants to government agencies, non-government organizations and academic institutions for broad-based coral reef conservation projects. The aim of the Grant Program is to provide financial assistance for widely-supported on-the-ground efforts to conserve coral reef ecosystems.

In the past five years (FY2002-2006), NOAA awarded a total of over \$26.5 million (approximately \$5.5 million per year) and leveraged approximately \$11 million in non-Federal match 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**.

FY2006 Award Summary

FUNDING CATEGORY	# of Awards	Final Funding	Non-federal Match
1. Management	7	\$2,573,639*	\$933,732
2. Monitoring	8	\$898,275	\$301,848
3. General	11	\$499,863	\$756,638
4. Fisheries	4	\$1,035,069	\$0
5. International	11	\$493,100	\$538,947
6. Research	4	\$274,280	\$110,765
TOTALS	45	\$5,774,226	\$2,641,930

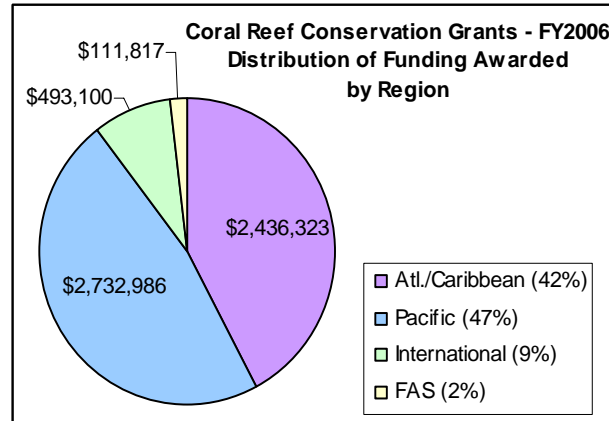
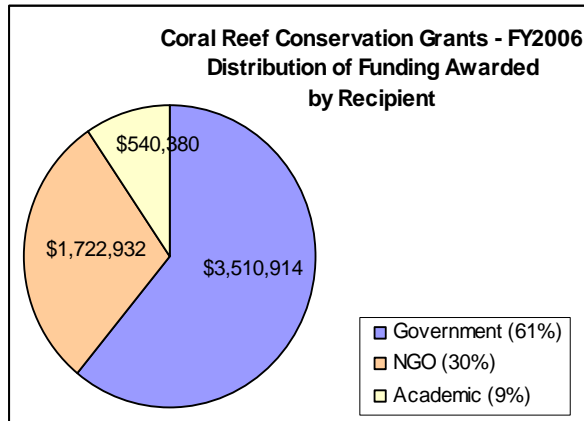
In fiscal year 2006, approximately 100 proposals were received under the six coral reef conservation project categories requesting more than \$10.5 million in federal funds. Based on formal peer and NOAA team reviews, 45 proposals were selected for funding in 2006. Awards were granted for coral reef conservation activities in the seven U.S. States and Territories, three U.S. Freely Associated States, and thirteen countries. The FY2006 Grant Program awards totaled \$5,774,226 in Federal monies and leveraged an additional \$2,641,930 in non-Federal match.

* This includes \$300,000 in funding awarded by the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA); OIA also manages coral management awards to three Pacific U.S. Territories.

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The number of grants awarded annually under each category as well as the regional geographic distribution and grant recipient type has remained relatively constant during the past five grant cycles (2002-2006). The charts below depict the distribution of funding awarded in 2006 by recipient and geographic region.



Example Projects that Received Funding in FY2006 for each Coral Reef Conservation Project Area

Management: *Puerto Rico* – Determining the environmental impact of the Culebra municipal landfill on near shore coral reefs, amending the coral reef law to replace administrative fine system; *Guam* – Piti/Asan watershed restoration and management enhancement, community-based social marketing workshop, evaluation of soft corals as bioindicators of persistent contaminants; *CNMI* – Continue comprehensive in-shore creel survey for Saipan Lagoon, install MPA boundary demarcation and informational signage, support marine enforcement operations project.

Monitoring: Guam multi-agency coordinated monitoring program; Southeast Florida Coral Reef Monitoring Program; Strengthening coral reef ecosystem monitoring in the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk & Pohnpei); American Samoa continued long-term coral reef monitoring.

General: Bridging gaps for a Territorial marine park system in the US Virgin Islands; Creating a voluntary code of conduct and coral reef leadership network in Maui as a model for sustainable marine recreation in Hawaii; Assessing invertebrates, communities and reef health the Republic of Palau; Developing a coral reef monitoring program in the State of Yap, FSM.

Fisheries: Assessment and development of recreational fishing regulations for the U.S. Virgin Islands; Assessment of population and community structure of sessile macro invertebrates following a benthic mortality event in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; Analysis of the biological characteristics of grouper spawning aggregations from Guam and the CNMI.

International: Promoting effectiveness of MPA management in Indonesia; Adaptive watershed management to conserve near-shore coral reefs in Colombia; Assessment and enhancement of marine conservation efforts on Fiji's Coral Coast; Developing a coordinated plan for watershed awareness and action in St. Lucia, British Virgin Islands; Building the national MPA support network to sustain effective management in the Philippines.

Research: Evaluating the impact of zooxanthellae physiology and diversity on the loss and recovery of coral-algal symbioses; Exploring the link between coral hosts, surface microbiota and disease; Investigating the demography and bleaching of sponges on Florida reefs; Studying recruitment dynamics of gorgonian corals: baseline recruitment and the effects of macroalgal cover.