

CORAL REEF NEWS
Coral Reef Conservation Program
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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

NOAA Announces Expanded Coral Warning System: Meets International Partnership Goal of President's Ocean Action Plan. On February 3rd, NOAA announced that it will expand regional coverage for the NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) Satellite Bleaching Alert monitoring system from 6 Caribbean sites to a total of 24 sites throughout the U.S. and international Caribbean. This is in accordance with President Bush's Ocean Action Plan initiative that calls for development of new international partnerships to enhance the management of coral reefs. The warning system will give local officials advance warning that a bleaching event is about to occur. With this advance notice, officials can take measures to prevent human activity, such as diving, boating and recreational fishing, from adding to the stress of higher sea temperature already affecting the coral reefs. The alert system is part of a growing number of in-place components of an integrated ocean observing system which in turn is helping develop a coordinated ocean research plan and advancing international capacity building. To read the complete press release, visit: <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2006/feb06/noaa06-015.html>.

NOAA Survey Shows Most Flower Garden Banks Coral Reefs Recovering From Bleaching Event: Continued Study May Provide Clues on Reef's Resiliency. The coral reefs of NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), located off the Texas-Louisiana coast, have begun to recover from what some observers feared would be a deadly coral bleaching event this past fall. Last fall, surveys showed an average of between 42 and 46 percent of all coral were showing signs of bleaching. However, a follow-up survey in January showed that only 4 to 10 percent of the coral were still displaying signs of bleaching. "History has shown the Flower Garden Banks to contain resilient coral reefs," said George Schmahl, manager of NOAA's

FGBNMS. "Further research is needed to determine what allows this location to be so resilient. This may help us understand why reefs in other places are not doing as well and how we can help them." While the January FGB survey showed that most corals are recovering from the bleaching episode, it also showed that some coral colonies were displaying symptoms consistent with a class of coral disease known generally as 'white plague.' Similar patterns of increased disease following bleaching events have been observed throughout the Caribbean. "It is the cumulative impact of a number of seemingly small injuries that appear to be causing the overall degradation of many coral reefs," said Schmahl. "Think of it as being 'pecked to death by ducks.'" As managers, it is our responsibility to reduce the total number of things that are causing stress on corals. Although we can not control coral bleaching, we may be able to control some of the other potential impacts that contribute to the total stress on coral reefs." To read the NOAA press release on this issue, visit: <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2006/feb06/noaa06-r408.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Brave New Ocean': Free, Live Webcast Scheduled for March 3, 2006. A webcast presentation given by Professor Jeremy Jackson, Director of the Geosciences Research Division at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, will occur March 3, 2006 at 7pm, CST. The webcast will document declines in coral reefs, decreasing numbers of large marine fish, and losses of coastal and marine ecosystems. During the live webcast, viewers can submit questions to Dr. Jackson. The Lecture Series is presented by the University of Texas at Austin's Environmental Science Institute and Jackson School of Geosciences. To learn more about this event, or to download the Envivo plugin to view the webcast, visit: <http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/ols/lectures/Jackson/>.

UN Report on Corals Now Available. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently released its report on corals and mangroves, entitled '*In the Front Line: Shoreline Protection and other Ecosystem Services from Mangroves and Coral Reefs.*' The report was produced by UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Among the report highlights are the listed environmental and estimated economic value of coral reefs. Visit the UNEP website (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=466&ArticleID=5112&l=en>) to download the report.

UPDATES

Atlantic

NOAA Coral Data Provides Justification for the Establishment of Research Area in Dry Tortugas National Park. On February 3, 2006, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the establishment of a 47 sq. na. mi. Research National Area (RNA) in Dry Tortugas National Park. The RNA is a no-take marine protected area that will prohibit all extractive uses including fishing. The RNA will promote coral reef conservation and scientific understanding of coral reefs and complement adjacent Marine Ecological Reserves established in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) in 2001. A key factor in the Commission deliberations was the availability of many years of monitoring data and population assessments, provided with financial support from the NOAA CRCP. Traditional NOAA Fisheries Service fishery-dependent monitoring programs alone could not have provided sufficient spatial resolution and precision necessary to support the decision. This application of fishery-independent assessment data for coral reef management was the result of successful collaborations between the

Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Miami) and partners at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, the National Park Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the FKNMS. To learn more about the park or the new RNA, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/drto/> and http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?abbr=press_&page=NewsArticle&id=8193.

Pacific

Enforcement Planning for the NWHI Gains Momentum. Representatives from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) and NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Pacific Region met during the last week of January to discuss possible areas of collaboration on a range of technology options for monitoring activities in the NWHI. This includes investigating new technologies such as RADAR Satellite (RADAR SAT), underwater acoustic arrays and satellite images; and exiting technologies such as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS). These discussions are a direct follow-up to the NWHI enforcement workshop held in 2005. As part of the effort, the Reserve is actively investigating archival data sets to understand the level of activities and where they occur in the NWHI. The Reserve is working closely with NOAA OLE to install VMS units on the NOAA ship *Hi'ialakai* this field season. To learn more about VMS and AIS, visit: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/c2cen/VMS.htm> and <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/default.htm>.

Pilot Underwater Telepresence Project Conducted in Kāne'ōhe Bay. Making use of interactive telecommunication networks, telepresence is a primary focus for the National Marine Sanctuary Program's (NMSP) Education program across all sanctuary sites. It is consistent with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's (Reserve) focus of bringing the 'place to the people' and not the

'people to the place.' A pilot 'proof-of-concept' underwater telepresence project was conducted from February 6-10 in Kāneʻohe Bay with support from NMSP headquarters and in partnership with the Reserve, the University of Hawai'i IT Department, the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS). The pilot project provided live images to Moanalua High School (MoHS) in Hawai'i and a mainland school. HIHWNMS's Patty Miller worked with local teachers to design educational activities to support teachers in the classroom. The NMSP provided most of the technical support and equipment for the project. To see MoHS images of this event, visit: <http://www.mohs.k12.hi.us/media-central/mystic-2k6.html>. In addition, an article on this event appears in the *Coral Reefs in the News: Articles Mentioning NOAA* section of this newsletter.

International

NOAA Assists in the Development of a National Park System for the Bahamas. The NOAA Ocean Service was invited by The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) and the Bahamas Country Program of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to lead a management-planning workshop for 5 marine and terrestrial protected areas as a step toward the development of a national park system for the Bahamas. The workshop was held January 31 through February 3, 2006 in Nassau, and was attended by 50 government, non-government, and local community representatives from across the Bahamas, as well as 4 representatives from NOAA. The workshop was modeled on a similar exercise supported by the NOAA CRCP last year for the U.S. Caribbean and attended by participants from several island nations, including the Bahamas. At the Bahamas workshop, NOAA representatives led attendees through a participatory process to begin developing management plans for 5 new and soon-to-be designated national parks. Draft management plans will be generated for all 5 parks based on the

outputs of the workshop and further consultation and collaboration with community and stakeholder representatives over the next 12 months. The BNT Director of Parks and Science closed the workshop and thanked NOAA, noting that the week's training was a "landmark event as far as planning for the effective management of our national parks." At a reception at the U.S. embassy, U.S. Ambassador John D. Rood praised NOAA's collaboration and presented awards on behalf of the US Government to the BNT and TNC in recognition of their national park system planning efforts. NOAA staff also met with the director of the Bahamas Department of Fisheries to discuss potential collaborative opportunities with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) and other NOAA offices toward the development of a national Marine Protected Areas system for the Bahamas. To learn more about the existing Bahamian National Parks, visit: <http://www.thebahamasnationaltrust.org/nationalparks.html>.

Palau Oil Spill and Vessel Grounding Response Workshop. NOAA presented an oil spill and vessel grounding response workshop from February 6–10 in Koror, Palau, to representatives of government agencies, industry, and non-governmental organizations. The week's activities provided overviews of scientific issues to consider in responding to and evaluating damage from spills and groundings; of NOAA's and the Coast Guard's roles in spill response; of similarities and differences in U.S. and Palauan response; and of Palau's national contingency plan. In addition, local speakers presented case studies of events and response efforts. The workshop included joint field visits to locations where resources have been impacted by oil spills and vessel groundings. The NOAA CRCP and Office of Response and Restoration offered the workshop, with assistance from the NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office and the U.S. Coast Guard. To view NOAA's information on oil spill response, visit:

[http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/topic_subtopic.php?RECORD_KEY%28subtopics%29=subtopic_id&subtopic_id\(subtopics\)=8](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/topic_subtopic.php?RECORD_KEY%28subtopics%29=subtopic_id&subtopic_id(subtopics)=8). To view the USCG's information on spill response, visit: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/response/index.htm#general>.

National/Headquarters

Coral Reef Watch Scientist Contributes to Newspaper Article on Climate Change. Early this year, *Washington Post* reporter, Juliet Eilperin, interviewed Dr. Mark Eakin of NOAA's Coral Reef Watch (CRW) for an article on climate change. The article, 'Debate on Climate Shifts to Issue of Irreparable Change,' was published on the front page of the Sunday, January 29th issue and included information from Dr. Eakin on the 2005 Caribbean coral bleaching event and background on coral bleaching. The article also featured a photograph of bleached coral taken by Dr. Eakin. To read this article, visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/28/AR2006012801021.html>.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

Articles mentioning NOAA

"Photos of NW Hawaiian Islands Wildlife on Display" – February 6, 2006 (*The Maui News*, HI). "Photographer Susan Middleton had to endure intense heat, annoying insects and unfavorable photographic conditions on her trips to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands....Some of those photographs are a part of statewide tour, "Archipelago," which is on display at the Maui Ocean Center through Feb. 28."

<http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=16692>

"New Technology Brings Learning to New Level" – February 10, 2006 (www.khon.com, HI). "...High technology has taken science lessons to a whole new level....It's called

"telepresence" technology -- streaming real time audio and video into a high school classroom. It's not just live video, but live underwater video." <http://khon.com/khon/display.cfm?storyID=11251§ionID=1162>

Other articles

"Stalking the Deep-Sea Corals" – February 7, 2006 (*The New York Times*). "...A team of scientists from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and other organizations returned last week from a coral-exploring expedition to the Davidson seamount...." <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/07/science/07obox.html> (scroll to bottom of page)

"Exotic Fish Smuggled into Airport" – February 7, 2006 (*BBC News*, United Kingdom). "Hundreds of exotic fish which were smuggled into the UK are being looked after by experts at London Zoo." http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/london/4688238.stm

"Hundreds of Endangered Coral Reef Fish Released in Indonesia" – February 9, 2006 (World Wildlife Fund's www.panda.org). "Hundreds of humphead wrasse were released back into the waters of the Bunaken National Marine Park after being confiscated from a fisherman who was intending to illegally sell the internationally-protected fish species abroad." http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=59380

"EPA Vessel Continuing Reef Research Friday Around St. Croix" – February 9, 2006 (*Virgin Islands Daily News*). "Scientists aboard the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's OSV Bold will begin assessing the conditions of coral reefs surrounding St. Croix on Friday as part of a territorial effort to create a long-term program to measure the effects of pollution on the reefs." http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home?id=13070358

“Japanese Experts Develop Breakthrough Method to Help Restore Precious Coral Reefs” – February 9, 2006 (*Channel News Asia*). “To help save the reefs, a Japanese university is developing a breakthrough method to cultivate corals on a large scale.”

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/eastasia/view/192389/1/.html>

“Expert: Island Must Weigh-up Mega Ship Introduction” – February 9, 2006 (*The Royal Gazette, Bermuda*). “More than 100 people packed a public meeting last night to hear about the potential impact of mega-size cruise ships coming to Bermuda...Outlining what is at stake biological sciences lecturer Dr. Price began with the extensive coral reefs that encircle the Island. ‘The coral reefs are nature's own solar-powered food factory. They provide physical protection. They are self-repairing breakwaters and a natural defence,’ he said.”

<http://www.theroyalgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060209/NEWS/102090119>

“Minister Skeptical of Threat to Reef” – February 9, 2006 (*The Courier-Mail, Australia*).

“Federal Tourism Minister Ian Macfarlane has dismissed the views of leading scientists and his own Government on the threat that global warming poses to the Great Barrier Reef...Mr Macfarlane said yesterday warnings about the demise of the World Heritage tourist attraction, and the 63,000 jobs that depend on it, were often unfounded or grossly exaggerated. “I think the Reef is in good shape,” he said.”

http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,18086540%255E953,00.html

“Protecting Coral Reefs and Mangroves” – February 11, 2006 (*Jamaica Gleaner*). “The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has just put out a report indicating that the costs of protecting the world's fast-disappearing coral reefs and mangroves are relatively small when compared to the benefits

they provide from tourism, fisheries and other economic activities.” <http://www.jamaicagleaner.com/gleaner/20060211/cleisure/cleisure1.html>

“Bridge to Become a Reef: Coral Creek Bridge to be dumped in Gulf” – February 11, 2006 (*Sun-Herald, FL*). “County officials said they plan to dump the bridge's concrete span and pilings on a 40-acre artificial reef site five miles off Gasparilla Pass. The site, known as Tremblay Reef, sits in 43 feet of water and was created in 2003 with concrete from Interstate 75.”

<http://www.sun-herald.com/NewsArchive2/021106/tp8ew7.htm?date=021106&story=tp8ew7.htm>

“Yacht Drops Anchor off Weston” – February 12, 2006 (*The Sunday Sun, Barbados*). “Red flags were raised yesterday after a luxury yacht, which was owned by American billionaire Paul Getty Jr, dropped its anchor off Weston Beach in an area which is said to be replete with the delicate coral reef.”

<http://www.nationnews.com/story/286832995082546.php>

“Reef Defenders in Bahamas Sue Over Mega-resort: S.F. developer sees Baker's Bay as Model for Sensitive Construction on Fragile Islands” – February 13, 2006 (*San Francisco Chronicle*). “...[Troy] Albury and other critics, including several marine scientists, say that fertilizer needed to keep the golf course green will wreak havoc on the fragile reef and that a 180-slip marina developers plan to carve out of a mangrove wetland in the middle of the 6-mile-long island will irreparably alter the sensitive local ecology.”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/02/13/MNG88H7E5U1.DTL>

“Barbadians to See Coral Reefs Up Close” – February 14, 2006 (*The Barbados Advocate*). “The Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) is looking to take a hands-on approach to educating Barbadians about coral reefs.”
<http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/NewViewNewLeft.cfm?Record=24477>

“Pair to Discuss Plans for U.S. Bases in Okinawa” – February 14, 2006 (*The Honolulu Advertiser*). “...Among the topics to be discussed is opposition to plans to build a U.S. military base atop a coral reef...The move has attracted widespread opposition because the reef is home to more than 1,000 species of marine life, including three kinds of endangered sea turtles and Japan's last known population of an endangered sea cow, the dugong.”
<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060214/NEWS08/602140342/1018/NEWS>

“CI Backs Remote Island Community's Conservation Efforts” – February 14, 2006 (*Conservation Frontlines Online*). “Conservation International (CI) is putting its scientific muscle behind local efforts to safeguard Saba Bank, a massive undersea mountain southeast of Puerto Rico... In January 2006, CI deployed a team of scientists in response to rising local concerns about oil tanker traffic and anchoring in the area.”
<http://www.conservation.org/xp/frontlines/science/02140601.xml>

“Expedition Discovers Marine Treasures In Netherlands Antilles: New Species of Fish, Seaweeds Found On Caribbean's Saba Bank” – February 14, 2006 (Conservation International press release). “...The two-week expedition in January encountered new species of fish, seaweed and other ocean life at little-studied Saba Bank Atoll, a coral-crowned seamount 250 kilometers southeast of Puerto Rico in the Dutch Windward Islands.”
http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press_releases/2006/021406.xml

“Marine Life Treasure Trove Found” – February 14, 2006 (*BBC News, United Kingdom and approx. 1 other source*). “An underwater mountain with some of the richest diversity of marine life in the Caribbean has been found by scientists.”
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4709594.stm>

“Lost World (Part Two) Found in the Caribbean” – February 14, 2006 (*The Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom and approx. 2 other sources*). “...Scientists found an average of a new species a day on a 14-day dive on the little-studied Saba Bank Atoll, a submerged volcano which is the world's third largest coral atoll.”
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/02/14/wfish14.xml&sSheet=/news/2006/02/14/ixnewstop.html>

“Call to Preserve Remains of Natural Beauty of the Red Sea” – February 14, 2006 (*Arab News, Saudi Arabia*). “The Red Sea is still considered virgin compared to other large bodies of water around the world, said Tarek Taher, president and CEO of Aal Taher Group and founder of the Reef Chief environmental organization. ‘We have to preserve what remains of natural beauty of the Red Sea in order to prevent the spread of damage to non-affected areas,’ he said.”
http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story_s.asp?StoryId=125302

“Reef Tourism Feels Heat from Bleaching” – February 14, 2006 (*The Courier-Mail, Australia*). “...While Federal Tourism Minister Ian Macfarlane has dismissed bleaching concerns as unfounded or grossly exaggerated, a team from the Townsville-based Australian Institute of Marine Science will begin an expedition this week to determine the extent of the most recent damage.”
http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,18141791%255E3102,00.html

“Expedition Discovers Marine Treasures, New Species” – February 15, 2006

(www.newKerala.com, India and approx. 1 other source). “An underwater mountain that forms the world's third largest atoll has some of the richest diversity of marine life ever found in the Caribbean, according to scientists who explored the area.”

<http://www.newkerala.com/news2.php?action=fullnews&id=9917>

“Corals in Danger” – February 15, 2006

(fjivillage.com, Fiji). “The increasing population along the coastal areas is leading to the destruction of our coral reefs around the country.”

http://www.fjivillage.com/artman/publish/article_27117.shtml

“WA Calls for Comment on Ningaloo Reef Protection” – February 15, 2006 (*The Sunday Times*, Australia and approx. 1 other source).

“Western Australia is closer to asking for World Heritage protection for Ningaloo Reef, one of the world's most pristine marine environments.”

http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,7034,18156650%255E2761,00.html

“Save Danajon Barrier Reef from Destruction” – February 15, 2006 (*The Bohol Chronicle*, Philippines).

“In a bid to salvage whatever is left of Danajon Double Barrier Reef in the northern part of the province, the municipality of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia has urged provincial officials to make necessary moves to save the reef from further destruction.”

<http://www.theboholchronicle.com/fpage.php?issue=127&s1=1723&s2=&s3=&s4=%09%09%09%09%09%09&s5=1722&s6=483&s7=1724&s9>

“Reef Madness: A New Look at Life in a Fishbowl, With an Eye Toward Cultivating Oceanic Ecosystems” – February 16, 2006 (*naplesnews.com*, FL). “....The complex life cycles, exquisite beauty, social turmoil and constant change are all part of the allure for

[Scott] Wilburn, a San Carlos Park businessman and reef hobbyist. There’s also an environmental preservation angle.... Wilburn and others hope to eventually transplant their coral to oceans where reefs have been depleted or died out.”

http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/feb/16/reef_madness/?neapolitan

“Watercraft Makers Want Jet Skis to be Allowed in Biscayne National Park” – February 16, 2006 (originally published in the *Sun-Sentinel*, FL).

“[Personal watercraft] are really just high-speed thrill craft,” [Jason Bennis] said. “They're operated at full throttle, and they're operated in a manner that could have severe negative impact for Biscayne's coastal habitats, namely the corals and the seagrass.”

<http://www.pwctoday.com/printthread.php?t=65760>

“NASA Uses Light Waves to Scan Varied Terrain” – February 16, 2006 (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, VA).

“NASA's Experimental Advanced Airborne Research Lidar system (EAARL) uses lidar to survey coral reefs, near-shore habitats, coastal vegetation and sandy beaches.”

http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&%09s=1045855935235&c=MGArticle&cid=1137834123061&path=!health!healthology

““Coral Reef” Shows Trouble in Paradise” – February 17, 2006 (*The Post-Standard*, NY).

“You're in for a visual treat with "Coral Reef Adventure," the IMAX film that opens Saturday at the Museum of Science & Technology... Amid all the color, sound and movement, however, lurks a point: There's trouble in paradise. Reefs are dying.”

<http://www.syracuse.com/living/poststandard/index.ssf?/base/living-1/114017047729100.xml&coll=1>

“Coral Reefs in More Danger” – February 17, 2006 (*The Fiji Times*). “Awareness on coral reef conservation has increased in the past 15 years but a lot more needs to be done.”

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=37225>

“Resorts Harming Coral” – February 17, 2006 (www.fijivillage.com). “...As the building of hotels around the country gains momentum, environmentalists are raising concerns that the environment impact assessments are not enough to protect our reef environment.”

http://www.fijivillage.com/artman/publish/article_27158.shtml

“Too Much Sugar Not Good for Coral Reefs” – February 17, 2006 (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute press release on

www.eurekalert.org). “The race is on to buy up inexpensive land along coastlines for vacation homes and tourist hotels. But increased development can mean more nutrient rich runoff that threatens the very coral reefs attracting tourists in the first place. David Kline at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and colleagues find that bacteria on coral reefs grow out of control as the level of simple sugars in seawater increases.”

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-02/stri-tms021706.php

“Furore Over Sea-walking Abuses: Tourists Kill Coral, Marine Life; Officials Urged to Bring Business Under Control” – February 17, 2006 (*The Nation, Thailand*). “Marine scientists have urged state authorities to set up a working committee to oversee “sea walking” businesses at Pattaya’s Koh Larn and Phuket’s Koh Hey following a report that it is killing coral, the key source for marine life.”

http://nationmultimedia.com/2006/02/18/headlines/headlines_20001154.php

“Scientists Look to the Bahamas as a Model for Coral Reef Conservation” – February 20, 2006 (Stanford University Press Release).

“One of the greatest challenges facing marine ecologists today is finding innovative ways to reverse the rapid decline of coral reef ecosystems around the world...To address this crisis, an international team of researchers, in consultation with the government of the Bahamas, launched the Bahamas Biocomplexity Project--an interdisciplinary approach to ecosystem management that project leaders say could serve as a model for coral reef conservation worldwide.”

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-02/su-slt021506.php

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 2006

6 – 10: **World Maritime Technology Conference.** London, England. Note Technical Programme on Reefs of the World. <http://www.wmtc2006.com/technical/rw/>

April 2006

6 – 9: **NSTA 54th National Conference on Science Education.** Anaheim, CA.

http://www.nsta.org/conventiondetail&Meeting_Code=2006ANA

13 – 14: **Quaternary Reefs and Platforms: Bridging the Gap Between the Ancient and Modern.** Houston, TX. <http://www.aapg.org/houston/courses19.cfm>

19 – 21: **First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat.** Miami, FL.

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/conference/mangrove-fish-habitat/>

24 – 26: **14th International Conference on Environmental Bioindicators.** Linthicum, MD. Abstracts due January 31, 2006. http://www.tfilearning.com/tfi/c/portal_public/layout?p_1_id=27.28

May 2006

4: **15th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting.** Washington, D.C.

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

14 – 17: **The Coastal Society 20th Biennial Conference, Charting a New Course: Shaping Solutions for the Coast.** St. Pete Beach, FL. <http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs20/>

29 – 31: **3rd International Symposium on Networks in Bioinformatics.** Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

<http://isnb.amc.uva.nl/>

June 2006

4 – 9: **2006 ASLO Summer Meeting.** Victoria, British Columbia. Abstracts due January 20, 2006.

<http://www.aslo.org/meetings/victoria2006/>

18 – 24: **Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium.** Hong Kong SAR, China. Abstracts due February 15, 2006.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/bio/APCRS/index.htm>

24 – 28: **Society for Conservation Biology: 20th Annual Meeting – Conservation Without Borders.** Abstracts due Oct. 15, 2005. San Jose, CA. <http://www.conbio.org/2006/>

July 2006

17 – 21: **National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Conference 2006.** New York, NY.

<http://nysmea.org/con06/>

September 2006

10 – 14: **American Fisheries Society 136th Annual Meeting.** Lake Placid, NY.

<http://www.afslakeplacid.org/>

18 – 22: **Marine Technology Society and IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Oceans Conference 2006.**

Boston, MA. <http://www.oceans2006americas.org/>

22 – 24: **MACNA XVIII: Futures in Reefkeeping.** Houston, TX. <http://www.macnaxviii.com/>

October 2006

15 – 20: **ITMEMS 3: Global Problems, Local Solutions.** Cozumel, Mexico. <http://www.itmems.org>

30 – 31: **Coral Reef Ecosystems Biodiversity Forum.** Noumea, New Caledonia.

http://www.ird.nc/biodec/english/home_page.html

November 2006

1 – 4: **Coral Reef Ecosystems Biodiversity Forum.** Noumea, New Caledonia.

http://www.ird.nc/biodec/english/home_page.html

6 – 10: **59th Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (CGFI).** Belize City, Belize.

www.gcfi.org

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>.

