

CORAL REEF NEWS
Coral Reef Conservation Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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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

Coral reef experts and enthusiasts from around the world use the Coral-List as a forum to discuss and debate a myriad of coral topics and issues. Discussions are lively and can last for weeks. NOAA's Coral Reef Information System Web site includes summaries of some of these dynamic discussions among coral reef professionals. Exchanges that are currently available include: Reefs at Risk, Corals vs. Rain Forests, *Acropora* and the Endangered Species Act, Deep Water Corals, and A Future for Coral Reefs. Additional exchanges will be added in the near future. Visit <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/exchanges/welcome.html> to read more. For more information on the Coral-list, visit the NOAA Coral Health and Monitoring Program Web site at: <http://www.coral.noaa.gov/lists/>.

Send potential items of Special Note (new discoveries, key events, notable facts, etc.) for future issues to Lindsey.C.Williams@noaa.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Resource Biologist Position Opening in USVI. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Zone Management is seeking a Marine Resource Biologist to work in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information about the position, visit www.viczmp.com and click on Public Info. A full description is available under CZM Job Listings.

Environmental Scientist/ Policy Analyst Position Opening. I.M. Systems Group is seeking to fill a full time, entry-level environmental scientist/policy analyst contract position. The position will support NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program in the National Ocean Service office in Silver Spring,

Maryland. This position primarily involves assisting with program coordination and development. Applications will be accepted until July 2, 2004. Contact Lindsey.C.Williams@noaa.gov for a full position description.

UPDATES

NOAA Welcomes the 2004 Governor Sunia Award Recipients. The first recipients of the annual Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Award arrived June 1, 2004 to spend the summer working with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. The award recognizes dedicated students who are working to conserve U.S. coral reefs. It was created by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in memory of the late governor of American Samoa in honor of his outstanding leadership in and contribution to U.S. coral reef conservation. <http://www.coralreef.gov>.

New Guidebook for Marine Protected Area Managers. A new guidebook for Marine Protected Area (MPA) managers has been published as a result of a partnership with NOAA's National Ocean Service, International Program Office, IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas- Marine, and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The book, *How is Your MPA Doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness*, aims to help improve MPA management by suggesting a framework that links the goals and objectives of MPAs with indicators that measure management effectiveness. The final draft guidebook was launched at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, where it received much attention and praise. NOAA's MPA Center is using the book to host an introductory workshop on management effectiveness to help develop a training course

for U.S. MPA managers and staff. *Bud Ehler* (Charles.Ehler@noaa.gov).

NOAA Coral Reef Discovery Kit Now Available Online for High School Educators.

A new Corals Discovery Kit designed to introduce high school students to coral biology and the threats coral reefs face, is now available on the NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) Web site. The Discovery Kits include three components: an illustrated online tutorial, a roadmap to NOAA's internet resources, and a set of lesson plans correlated to the National Science Education Standards. The Corals Discovery Kit focuses on: coral biology; where coral reefs are found; the benefits of coral reefs to humans; the threats to coral reefs from nature, humans and disease; and how satellites are used to monitor and maintain the health of these fragile ecosystems. Discovery Kits are also available on Tides and Currents, as well as Geodesy. Future topics will include Estuaries, Non-point Source Pollution, and Marine Archaeology. To access the Discovery Kits, go to <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education>.

Coral Reef Local Action Strategy – Hanalei Bay, Kauai, Hawaii. Coral reef research is underway this summer in Hanalei Bay as part of its collaborative Coral Reef Local Action Strategy (see:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/prc/pdf/LAS.CR-LBP.Sec4-6.110603.pdf>).

The Chief Scientist of the Hanalei Watershed Hui reports that Hanalei is a fairly healthy, high-energy, wave-impacted, Hawaiian coral reef community on the North Shore of Kauai. It has not historically shown extensive coral bleaching, and preliminary results from recent surveys have shown no major changes. The community of Hanalei, through a series of public meetings, established the Hanalei Watershed Hui to coordinate monitoring, research, education, and

management activities undertaken in response to the designation of the Hanalei River as one of fourteen American Heritage Rivers. Hui members are, by definition, those community members who participate. The Hui is community-driven, making most of its decisions by consensus and is striving to restore the native ahupua'a stewardship tradition in the modern-day Hanalei community. Visit www.hanaleiriver.org or www.epa.gov/rivers. *Bess.Gillelan@noaa.gov*, (202) 401-0226 or cberg@pixi.com, (808) 639-2968.

2004 Aquarius Writing Contest Winners Selected.

The NOAA Undersea Research Program Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington is proud to announce that it has selected **two** Grand Prize Winners for the *2004 Aquarius Writing Contest* from the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area's Chevy Chase High School (Bethesda, MD) and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Clifton, VA). The two winners, their parents and their sponsoring teacher will receive a guided scuba dive tour of the Aquarius, roundtrip airfare, accommodations, and scuba certification lessons (if not already certified). The winners were selected through a national competition where applicants wrote essays explaining why they would want to live underwater in the Aquarius for two weeks. *For more information about the Aquarius underwater ocean laboratory, visit:* <http://www.uncw.edu/aquarius/>.

New Report on Abandoned Vessels in Guam and CNMI Available.

NOAA's Abandoned Vessel Program has completed a detailed report on the vessel surveys performed in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas during the summer of 2003. The report provides an overview of the study methods, a detailed review of the survey results, and a comparison of these results with data collected

in the Caribbean during 2002. Five common vessel scenarios observed in both regions are also discussed. Data for each vessel surveyed are provided in the appendices. Visit http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/dac/vessels/docs/AVP_PacificReport.pdf to download a PDF of the report.

Coral Disease and Health Workshop: Developing Diagnostic Criteria. The 2004 Coral Disease and Health Workshop was held in Madison, Wisconsin April 26-29, to discuss the pathology, terminology, and diagnostic criteria for coral diseases. The focus of this workshop was standardizing the diagnostic approach and establishing clear criteria for disease identification and diagnosis of Caribbean coral diseases. A second workshop will address Pacific coral diseases. Future research will focus on the identification of coral disease pathogens, the development of the International Registry of Coral Pathology, the application of new research tools, and the implementation of a multi-level diagnostic process: 1) gross field observations; 2) gross pathology; 3) histopathology; 4) clinical tests and 5) final diagnosis. NOAA, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the Coral Disease and Health Consortium, and the International Registry of Coral Pathology sponsored the workshop. For more information visit: http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/Coral_Workshop/coral_workshop.html or contact Drs. Andy Bruckner, Andy.Bruckner@noaa.gov or Cheryl Woodley, Cheryl.Woodley@noaa.gov.

NOAA hunts for 'Lions in the Atlantic'. This summer NOAA scientists at the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, funded by the NURP Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington,

will be conducting field studies to examine the status of the lionfish population and examine life history characteristics to determine the risk of lionfish to Atlantic Coast Ecosystems. The lionfish, a venomous coral reef fish, is native to the Indian and Western Pacific Oceans and was introduced to the U.S. east coast in the mid 1990s. Lionfish are believed to pose particular risks to the local environment and divers and fishermen. They are voracious predators that feed not only on small shrimps, but also on large fish, perhaps including the young of important commercial fish species. See <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2227.htm> for full text.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

New York Times Article on Coral Reefs in Belize. Read the June 1, 2004 article "Saving a Reef for the Fish, and the People" at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/01/science/01beli.html>.

Seattle Times Article on Corals and Washington State. Read the June 11, 2004 article "Atlantic coral detected off coast of Washington." online at: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2001953599_coral11m.html

Honolulu Star Bulletin Articles on Coral Reefs. Two recent articles in the Honolulu Star Bulletin discussed the importance of understanding and protecting coral reefs in the region. "The Coral Connection" <http://starbulletin.com/2004/06/15/news/index3.html> and "Protecting Hawaii's reefs" <http://starbulletin.com/2004/06/15/news/index3a.html> appeared on June 15, 2004.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events you would like listed in future newsletters please send them to Lindsey.C.Williams@noaa.gov.

July 2004

11 – 13: **Blue Vision Conference**. Washington, DC. <http://www.bluevizmeet.com>.

11 – 14: **Watershed 2004 Conference**. Dearborn, Michigan.

<http://www.wef.org/conferences/watershed04.jhtml>.

18 – 22: **National Marine Educators Association – Annual Meeting**. Tampa Bay, Florida.

http://www.floridamarine.org/education/category_main.asp?id=2088.

21 – 23: **Climate Change and Aquatic Systems – Past, Present and Future**. University of Plymouth, U.K. <http://www.biology.plymouth.ac.uk/climate/climate.htm>.

27 – 29: **NOAA WebShop Conference 2004**. Philadelphia, PA. <http://webshop.noaa.gov>.

30 – August 2: **Society for Conservation Biology, 18th Annual Meeting**. New York, NY.

<http://cerc.columbia.edu/scb2004/>

August 2004

1 – 6: **Ecological Society of America – Annual Meeting**. Portland, OR.

<http://www.esa.org/portland>.

September 2004

12 – 15: **Restore America's Estuaries' 2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration**. Seattle, WA. <http://www.estuaries.org>.

13 – 15: **America's Shoreline: Beach and Ecosystem Restoration in the 21st Century**. New Orleans, LA. <http://www.asbpa.org/cfp2004mtg.html>.

14 – 15: **12th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Miami Beach, Florida.

<http://www.coralreef.gov>.

18 – 23: **American Zoo and Aquarium Association – Annual Conference**. New Orleans, LA.

<http://www.aza2004.com>.

19 – 23: **13th International Conference of Aquatic Invasive Species**. Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. <http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org>.

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Questions, comments?

Contact Lindsey.C.Williams@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>.

