

Progress Report

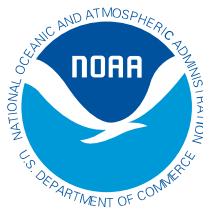
The Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

Report to Congress



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

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Executive Summary

The *Progress Report: Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program* was developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), pursuant to requirements under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq., P.L. 106-562, see Appendix A). Section 204 of the Act authorizes the DOC, through the NOAA Administrator and subject to the availability of funds, to make matching grants of Federal financial assistance to support projects for the conservation of coral reefs. The Act further requires NOAA to promulgate implementation guidelines and report back to Congress on the effectiveness of the grant program (Program) no later than three years after enactment of the Act (16 U.S.C. 6407).

This report provides an overview of the Program, including a description of the process and results of the Program's development. It also highlights the achievements of the Program in each of the topic areas, as well as provides specific information on each grant awarded in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. This includes a State-by-State listing of Federal and non-Federal matching funds, and a detailed description of each activity, its outcomes, and measurements of performance. The report also contains summary tables that organize grant information by geographic and substantive topic area. Finally, the report contains an initial assessment of the effectiveness of the Program.

This comprehensive Program, as authorized under the Act, is intended to support a wide range of coral reef conservation projects, from developing sound science to enhancing compliance with management programs and increasing public knowledge of coral reefs. In developing the Program, NOAA used several existing grant programs and mechanisms within the Agency to meet the various geographic, project, and applicant eligibility criteria established in the Act.

Since the Program has implemented only two funding cycles, it is premature to judge long-term effectiveness in conserving coral reefs. To date, the Program has developed an efficient and effective mechanism, pursuant to the Act, to solicit, review, and award high-quality coral conservation grants.

Eighty-three grants have been awarded in the two years since the Program's inception. NOAA provided \$10,698,579 to support these projects, and leveraged an additional \$3,432,971 through matching funds from the grantees. The Program has proved to be a powerful mechanism to engage a variety of partners in on-the-ground efforts to conserve coral reef ecosystems. The summary tables and charts in Section IV of this report demonstrate the wide-ranging participation and impact of this Program. Grants were awarded to governments and non-governmental organizations in seven U.S. States and Territories and ten countries.

Given the fact that the Program is in year two, only preliminary information was available for NOAA to assess the Program's efficiency and effectiveness in meeting a number of criteria laid out in the Act and Guidelines. The performance measures and products for individual projects are listed for each of the grant entries in this report. While often constrained by the inability of State and Territory governments to match Federal funding, the Program has nevertheless provided grants to a wide geographic area on each of the substantive topic areas (see Section IV). This preliminary assessment of the Program suggests that it is a valuable and necessary tool for fulfilling the broad purposes of the Act.

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I. Introduction

The *Progress Report: Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program* provides a summary and initial assessment of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) implementation of the grant program (Program), as authorized under section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401, 6403, P.L. 106-562, see Appendix A). Specifically, NOAA is required to submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives, a report that documents the effectiveness of the grant program under the Act in meeting the purposes of the Title (16 U.S.C. 6407(a)).

To this end, the following report provides a comprehensive look at the Program in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. This includes an overview of the grants process and how the Program originated, as well as individual and summary information on the grants awarded by the Program. To the extent possible, it also assesses the effectiveness of the Program and provides recommendations for future improvements.

NOAA has significant responsibilities to conserve and manage coral reef resources, as outlined in its legal and administrative mandates and international treaties. For example, NOAA has direct management responsibility for Federally managed coral reef fisheries and the impacts of fishing activities on these ecosystems. NOAA also has direct responsibilities to conserve coral reefs through various statutes, including the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Coral reefs are some of the most biologically rich and economically valuable ecosystems on Earth. They provide a wide variety of valuable products and services in the U.S. and in other countries, including:

- economic stability and food security for millions of people;
- chemicals and pharmaceuticals that contribute to improved human health;
- environmental services such as shoreline protection;
- areas of natural beauty and biodiversity; and
- significant sources of revenue and employment through tourism and other industries.

The total value of products and services from coral reef ecosystems has not been well documented, although a 1997 study estimated the global value at US \$375 billion. More recently, NOAA has sponsored comprehensive studies of the value of coral reefs in Florida and Hawaii. Hawaii's coral reefs were valued at nearly \$10 billion dollars when combining recreational, amenity, fishery, and biodiversity values. The goal of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is to sustain these valuable reef resources, and the communities and economies that depend on them.

Coral reef ecosystems are in serious jeopardy, primarily due to the impacts of a variety of human activities. Coral reefs are threatened by over-exploitation and destructive fishing practices; pollution and sedimentation associated with coastal development, deforestation, and agriculture; habitat loss from dredging and shoreline modification; vessel groundings and other direct physical impacts; invasive species, disease outbreaks, and other impacts associated with climate change such as coral bleaching, increased storm frequency and changing sea level. By some estimates, 27% of the world's reefs have effectively been lost, with 16% attributed to the massive

climate-related coral bleaching event of 1998 and 11% lost due to human impacts¹. The rapid decline and loss of these valuable marine ecosystems have significant social, economic, and environmental consequences in the U.S. and around the world.

Action is needed on a wide variety of fronts to address the coral reef crisis, especially on issues of global proportions such as the impacts of climate change, increasing coastal development, and persistent overfishing of reef systems. The Program serves as one means to address this crisis.

¹ Wilkinson, C. (2000). Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2000. Australian Institute for Marine Science. Summary.

II. Program Overview

The *Progress Report: Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program* provides a summary and initial assessment of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) implementation of the grant program (Program), as authorized under section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401, 6403, P.L. 106-562, see Appendix A).

The stated purposes of the Act, which was enacted on December 14, 2000, are:

1. To preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
2. To promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation;
3. To develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems;
4. To assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting conservation programs, including projects that involve affected local communities and non-governmental organizations;
5. To provide financial resources for those programs and projects; and
6. To establish a formal mechanism for the collecting and allocating of monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

Under section 204 of the Act, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is authorized, through the NOAA Administrator (Administrator) and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching financial assistance awards for coral reef conservation projects through the development and implementation of the Program (16 U.S.C. 6403). Section 204(j) of the Act subsequently requires the Administrator to promulgate guidelines for implementing the Program. Section 209 authorizes up to \$8,000,000 for projects under the grant Program in each of the 2001 through 2004 fiscal years.

In developing the Program, NOAA used several existing grant programs and mechanisms within the agency to meet the various geographic, project, and applicant eligibility criteria established in the Act. Furthermore, NOAA consulted with the various entities identified in section 204(j) of the Act, and subsequently developed the *Proposed Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines* (Proposed Guidelines) for Fiscal Years 2002 through 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6403(j)). The Proposed Guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* for public review and comment on December 10, 2001. The final *Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines* (Guidelines, see Appendix B) were published in the *Federal Register* on April 19, 2002 (67 FR 19396).

Overall, the Guidelines are intended to provide a general framework, in accordance with the Act, on Program elements including applicant and activity eligibility, the application process, and the proposal review process. The Guidelines also provide information on Program funding and distribution, and create six categories under which funding could be awarded. The six categories are:

1. U.S. State and Territorial government coral reef conservation activities;
2. U.S. State and Territorial government coral reef ecosystem monitoring and/or assessment activities;

3. U.S. State, Territorial, or other governmental and non-governmental entities, not eligible under other categories, for the purpose of implementing cooperative coral reef conservation, protection, restoration, research, or education;
4. Projects to develop, improve, or amend Fishery Management Plans to conserve, protect, and restore coral reef habitats and associated fishery populations within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone;
5. International coral reef conservation projects; and
6. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Projects² for the purpose of developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or threats to such ecosystems.

Furthermore, per the Act, the Guidelines stipulate that Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under the Program not exceed 50 percent of the total costs of the project. However, the Act also authorizes the Secretary to waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements (16 U.S.C. 6403(b)(2)):

- (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and
- (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

In accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), the Guidelines also specify that the Program may waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contributions) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In most cases, the match requirement was waived only as a result of severe budget constraints facing the U.S. Territories.

To implement the Program, the Guidelines establish that NOAA will publish in the *Federal Register* one annual funding guidance soliciting project proposals pursuant to the Guidelines. Each fiscal year, beginning with 2002, NOAA has published Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Funding Guidance (Guidance) to solicit proposals, subject to the availability of funds, for coral reef conservation activities.

All applications submitted to the Program must be consistent with the requirements set forth in the annual Guidance, the Guidelines, and with the goals laid out by NOAA and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in *A National Coral Reef Action Strategy*³ (completed in September 2002, in accordance with the Act). The Guidance further requests proposals under the following six programs, which correspond to the categories found in the Guidelines:

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

² In FY2002, funding for the Coral Reef Ecosystem Research category was conducted through NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS). In FY2003, it was conducted through NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP).

³ <http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/actionstrategy/actionstrategy.html>

6. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.

The *Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2002 Funding Guidance* was published in the *Federal Register* on April 19, 2002 (67 FR 19403, see Appendix C), and the *Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2003 Funding Guidance* was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2003 (68 FR 2513, see Appendix D). Both *Federal Register* Notices included specific information for each program category on eligibility criteria, funding availability, proposal submittal and selection dates, and detailed application requirements and application evaluation criteria. These criteria, along with each year's Congressional funding appropriation, guide NOAA in determining the specific projects that are awarded grants of financial assistance.

In fiscal year 2002, the Program awarded \$5,482,021 in grants; of this amount, NOAA contributed \$5,132,021, and the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) provided \$350,000 to support State and Territory Coral Reef Management grants⁴. In 2003, NOAA awarded \$4,636,719, and DOI/OIA again provided \$350,000, for a total of \$4,986,719 (see summary table below).

As a result of the time required to thoroughly review and select proposals, coupled with the timing of annual appropriations, funding under the Program is not awarded until the fourth quarter of each of the fiscal years. Therefore, Program funding received in fiscal year 2002 was not awarded to selected applicants until September 2002, and similarly, FY2003 funding was awarded in September 2003. As such, projects funded in fiscal year 2002 are just now beginning to be completed and projects funded in fiscal year 2003 are just getting underway.

Summary of Federal and non-Federal Program funding for FY2002 and FY2003

	FY2002	FY2003
NOAA/DOC Funds	\$5,132,021	\$4,636,719
DOI/OIA Funds	\$350,000	\$350,000
non-Federal Match	\$1,831,727	\$1,601,244
Total	\$7,313,748	\$6,587,963

⁴ NOAA and DOI/OIA jointly administer grants under the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant category to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

III. Program Highlights

Although this Program has been in existence for only two funding cycles, the following section provides highlights within each of the six categories designated in the Guidelines.

A. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research

The NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants Program addresses priority research needs as identified by NOAA scientists and managers responsible for U.S. coral reef resources. In FY2002, this program was administered by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS), and in FY2003, by NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP).

In FY2003, the NOAA Undersea Research Program Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 4) and the Sanctuary Friends of the Florida Keys to jointly conduct a competitive, high-quality, peer-reviewed proposal process for coral reef research in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The proposals were requested to address one of the following priority coral reef research areas: (1) factors affecting recruitment and survival of marine species; (2) triggering mechanisms and causative agents and/or processes that result in declines of coral abundance, coverage, and species richness; (3) factors affecting the distribution, abundance, and virulence of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, or other pathogenic organisms; and (4) effects of management measures on abundance and distribution of marine organisms.

B. State and Territory Coral Reef Management

The State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant Program supports comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the U.S. jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. NOAA and DOI's Office of Insular Affairs jointly administer the grants made under this program to the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa.

Projects supported under this Program must address the following nine key threat management categories which are based on threat and management analyses that were completed by the States and Territories: 1) climate change, coral bleaching, diseases and extreme biotic and storm events; 2) overfishing, destructive fishing, and the harvest and collection of marine ornamentals; 3) increasing development pressure, unmanaged land use, and population growth; 4) tourism and recreational overuse, and vessel groundings and anchorings; 5) alien and invasive species; 6) marine pollution, sedimentation, runoff, nonpoint source pollution, and marine debris; 7) lack of general public awareness; 8) national security activities; and 9) activities that address other threats.

In fiscal years 2002 and 2003, the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant program awarded \$2,085,000, and \$2,100,000, respectively, totaling \$4,185,000, in grant funding to assist local managers in addressing priority management issues. In addition, in fiscal years 2002 and 2003, program Federal funds were matched by non-Federal matching funds of \$691,744, and \$578,091, respectively, totaling \$1,269,615. Among the seven jurisdictions' priority issues, the need for human capacity took precedence, and approximately \$1,452,514 was awarded to fund an

average of 16 full time staff positions per year to support local jurisdictions with coral reef management projects. An additional \$356,800 in funding supported 18 part time or temporary positions filled as contractors, consultants, interns, and their project costs.

Other priority management issues supported by these grants in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 include enforcement, public awareness, mapping, and research. Approximately 37 grant projects implemented public awareness programs such as environmental workshops for teachers and managers, implementation of lack of public awareness local action strategies, small grants for school marine science programs, and publication of educational materials. Funding for 14 projects was used to enhance compliance with laws that protect coral reefs and include support for additional enforcement staff, legal consultants, and enforcement equipment. As a result of these grant funds, State and Territory managers have a greater ability to develop and implement key projects that are required to effectively protect coral reef ecosystems.

C. International Coral Reef Conservation

The NOAA International Coral Grants Program addresses national priorities in international coral reef conservation. For the past two years, the International Coral Grants Program has focused on building international capacity in the areas of: monitoring reef condition; implementing coral reef protected areas; and implementing effective watershed management in coral reef areas. For example, it has:

- Supported biophysical monitoring projects that contributed to the understanding of coral reef status, promoted public awareness, and contributed to local management objectives. Emphasis was placed on community participation in monitoring programs and communication of results to policy makers;
- Provided opportunities to develop best management practices for watershed management that could be shared through the White Water to Blue Water Initiative in the Caribbean meeting in 2004;
- Supported development of highly protected marine reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia to conserve marine biodiversity and support sustainable use, contributing to implementation of regional action plans as identified in the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)-Marine Caribbean Regional Enhancement Plan and the WCPA-Marine Southeast Asia Regional Action Plan;
- Promoted implementation of socioeconomic assessments of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Caribbean and South East Asia as part of regional initiatives to develop methodologies to enhance understanding of the impacts of management on coastal communities and enhance public participation; and
- Supported assessments of MPA management effectiveness at MPA sites as part of a larger global initiative to improve MPA management performance through the testing and implementation of a methodology for conducting management effectiveness evaluations.

D. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

This program supports activities by the four Regional Fishery Management Councils (Western Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic and Caribbean) with responsibility for Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) that include shallow water coral reefs or fishery resources that depend

on these reef ecosystems. The funded activities are coordinated with ongoing NOAA efforts and fishery management initiatives, and State and Territorial coral reef conservation initiatives. Projects are developed through a consultative process with NOAA and State and Territorial agencies and all other relevant local governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities.

Specific activities that have been supported through this program include:

- Identifying, mapping and characterizing essential fish habitat (EFH), habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC), and spawning populations, especially in areas that are closed to fishing or that merit inclusion in an expanded network of no-take ecological reserves;
- Monitoring reef fish stocks inside and outside MPAs to evaluate effectiveness of management measures;
- Developing proposals to reduce over-fishing;
- Identifying adverse effects of fishing and fishing gear;
- Eliminating destructive and habitat-damaging fishing practices;
- Assessing adequacy of current fishing regulations;
- Providing enhanced education and outreach to fishermen;
- Incorporating ecosystem-scale considerations in FMPs;
- Conducting targeted research to understand ecosystem effects of fishing; and
- Reducing the overexploitation of reef organisms for the aquarium trade.

E. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring

This program is administered by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS), as part of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. NOAA and its partners designed and are implementing a nationally coordinated, comprehensive, long-term program to monitor and predict the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems. This long-term monitoring program was requested by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which, along with the nation's coral reef program managers and the public, endorsed and called for implementation of "A National Program to Assess, Inventory, and Monitor U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems." NOAA began implementing the Program in 2000 and continues to administer it through Congressional appropriations for coral reef conservation.

The Program includes the collection, analysis, and reporting of long-term coral reef ecosystem monitoring data pursuant to scientifically valid methodologies and protocols and is a key priority of the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*⁵. The implementation plan calls for the integration of now-disparate monitoring sites into a coordinated national network, the sharing of monitoring information among U.S. coral reef resource managers and scientists, and the filling of gaps in monitoring coverage nationwide. Through this Program, U.S. Federal, state, commonwealth, and territorial agencies support a variety of local and regional assessments, inventories, and monitoring of U.S. coral reef resources. Additionally, grantees are encouraged to collaborate with Federal, State/Territory, and academic partners to develop a biennial report describing the status of ecosystems in their region. Regional reports are then coalesced into a comprehensive assessment of the state of coral reef ecosystems of the United States and Pacific Freely Associated States. The first edition of this report is available at

⁵ <http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/actionstrategy/actionstrategy.html>

www.nccos.noaa.gov/publications/notables.html, and the second report is scheduled for release in December 2004.

F. General Coral Reef Conservation

The General Coral Reef Conservation Grants Program supports projects in the U.S. states and territories and Freely Associated States that are conducted by institutions of higher education; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local and Native American tribal governments; and natural resource management authorities. The grantee must demonstrate expertise in coral reef ecosystems, jurisdiction over coral reefs, or their activities must directly or indirectly affect coral reefs. The program is managed by NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation.

The objective of the program is to support efforts to:

- help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
- promote wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources;
- develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems; and
- increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation.

Projects funded in 2002-2003 include tasks in eight categories based on the priorities identified in the *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*⁶ and the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*⁷. These include: 1) monitoring and assessment activities by community and non-government groups that complement state and territorial coral reef monitoring; 2) studies that improve the understanding of coral reef resources, their ecology and processes, and that are necessary to improve management of these ecosystems; 3) socio-economic and resource valuation studies; 4) Marine Protected Areas and associated management activities; 5) coral reef fisheries management needs; 6) pollution reduction; 7) coral reef restoration; and 8) education and outreach.

⁶ <http://coralreef.gov/actionplan.cfm>

⁷ <http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/actionstrategy/actionstrategy.html>

IV. Grant Summary Tables and Figures

The following four tables and three figures provide summary information on the grants awarded in fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

Tables 1 and 2 contain State-by-State summaries of Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the costs of each project, as required by Section 208(a) of the Act.

Figure 1 contains information on the regional distribution of Federal grant funding in the Program. Figures 2 and 3 separate this funding by U.S. Pacific and the U.S. Atlantic/Caribbean for each of the fiscal years.

Tables 3 and 4 contain Federal and non-Federal funding by grant categories, as designated in the Guidelines.

Table 1. FY 2002 State by State summary of Federal and non-Federal contributions towards the cost of each project.

Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Grant Category	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
American Samoa	B-2002-1	American Samoa Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$348,850	\$0
	F-2002-4	Enhancing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas and Coral Reef Species Conservation through Assessment of MAA Content in Populations and Species	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$23,420	\$28,681
	E-2002-4	American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
			American Samoa Total	\$472,270	\$28,681
CNMI	B-2002-3	CNMI Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$342,650	\$0
	E-2002-5	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY 2002	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$99,934	\$0
			CNMI Total	\$442,584	\$0
Guam	B-2002-2	Guam Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$108,500	\$0
	E-2002-6	Guam US Coral Reef Initiative	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
	A-2002-2	Guam US Coral Reef Initiative	Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	\$149,916	\$0
	F-2002-11*	Testing the Effectiveness of MPAs and other Reef Fish management Strategies Using Agent-Based Models	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,486	\$0
			Guam Total	\$393,902	\$0
Hawaii	A-2002-4	Hawaii Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$360,000	\$321,524
	F-2002-7	Community-Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Hawaii	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$56,974	\$98,332
	E-2002-8	Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$89,800	\$142,065
			Hawaii Total	\$506,774	\$561,921
Pacific Region-wide Projects	D-2002-1	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Ecosystem Resources and Habitat	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$750,000	\$0
	F-2002-3**	A Public Education and Outreach Campaign on Coral Reefs and Climate Change	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$27,500	\$27,500
			Pacific Region-wide Projects Total	\$777,500	\$27,500
Florida	B-2002-7	Development of GIS Maps and an Action Plan for Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$360,000	\$360,000
	F-2002-9	Coral Culture for Reef Restoration and Coral Research	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$43,513	\$51,138
	F-2002-8	Developing a Status Report on the Condition of Florida's Coral Reefs: Application of the AGGRA Methodology	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$43,000	\$43,000
	E-2002-3	Expansion of Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$165,000	\$165,000
			Florida Total	\$611,513	\$619,138
Puerto Rico	B-2002-6	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$210,000	\$10,000
	E-2002-1	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
	A-2002-1	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring	Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	\$149,576	\$0
			Puerto Rico Total	\$459,576	\$10,000
USVI	B-2002-5	USVI Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$355,000	\$0
	E-2002-2	Monitor Coral Reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
	F-2002-6	USVI Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Program	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$66,016	\$66,017
			USVI Total	\$521,016	\$66,017

Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Grant Category	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
Atlantic/Caribbean Region-wide Projects	F-2002-1	Role of Coralline Algae in Coral Recruitment	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$39,900	\$39,871
	D-2002-2	Mapping and Characterization of Coral Reef Areas in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$250,000	\$0
	D-2002-4	NOAA CRG 2002 Coral and Live/Hard Bottom EFH and EFH-HAPCs	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$250,000	\$0
	D-2002-3	Management of Fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$250,000	\$0
	F-2002-3**	A Public Education and Outreach Campaign on Coral Reefs and Climate Change	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$27,500	\$27,500
	Atlantic/Caribbean Region-wide Projects Total			\$817,400	\$67,371

International	C-2002-1	Evaluating Management Effectiveness of two Indonesian MPA's: Incorporating Science and Participation	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$32,000	\$28,790
	C-2002-2	Coral Reef Survey and Monitoring for Management in Central Sulawesi	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$24,200	\$29,026
	C-2002-3	A Program of Scientific/ Technical Support to Advance Development of a No-Take Reserve Network for the Bahamas	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$68,500
	C-2002-4	Marine Protected Areas: Making the Case for No-Takes	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$35,000
	C-2002-5	Testing Management Effectiveness Guidelines in 3 MPA's in the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$40,000	\$40,000
	C-2002-6	Reef Check Community-based Biophysical and Socio-economic Monitoring in East Africa	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$24,200	\$28,850
	C-2002-7	Value of Socioeconomics in Establishment of MPA in Mactan and Olango Islands, Philippines	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$32,600	\$56,750
	C-2002-8	Collaborative Bio-physical and Socio-Economic Monitoring Towards Adaptive Management of Coral Reefs in the Philippines	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$37,000	\$13,500
	C-2002-9	Development of a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network for Solomon Islands	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$40,000	\$30,683
	International Total			\$300,000	\$331,099

Freely Associated States (Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands)	F-2002-5	Transforming the Live Reef Fish Food Trade towards sustainability in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through community-based Coral Reef Conservation and Fisheries Management	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$50,000	\$50,000
	F-2002-10	Improving Community-Based Marine Conservation management in the Republic of Palau	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$30,000	\$30,000
	F-2002-2	Improving Coral Reef Management and Enforcement in the Republic of Palau through Enhanced Monitoring, Coordination and Education	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$31,000	\$40,000
	E-2002-7	Freely Associated States Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$33,000	\$0
	F-2002-11*	Testing the Effectiveness of MPAs and other Reef Fish management Strategies Using Agent-Based Models	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,486	\$0
	Freely Associated States Total			\$179,486	\$120,000

TOTAL FY 2002 Coral Reef Conservation Grants	\$5,482,021	\$1,831,727
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*Funding Split between Guam and Palau
**Funding Split Between Pacific and Caribbean

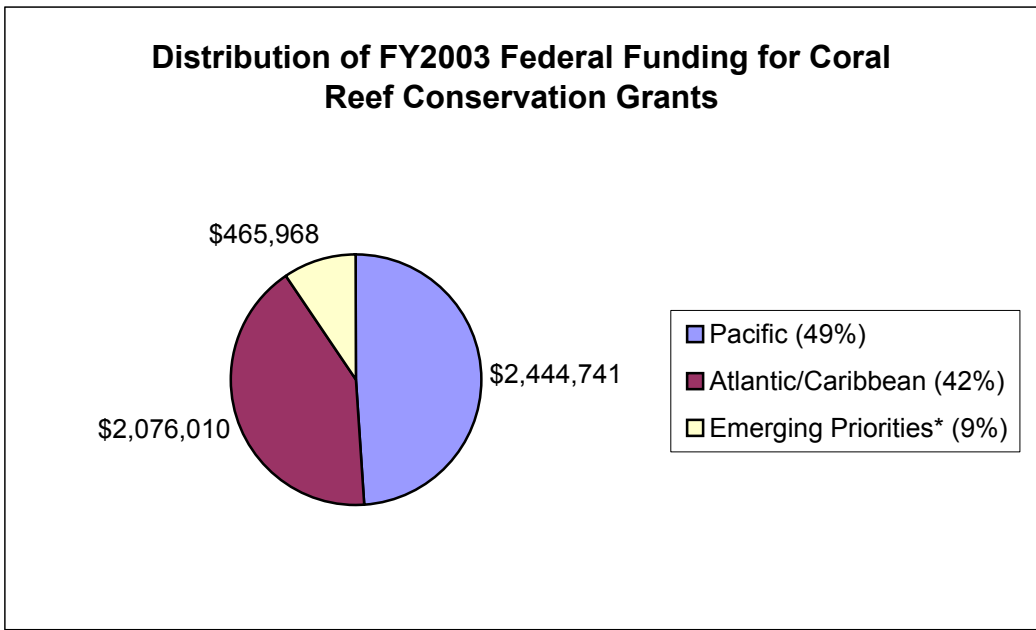
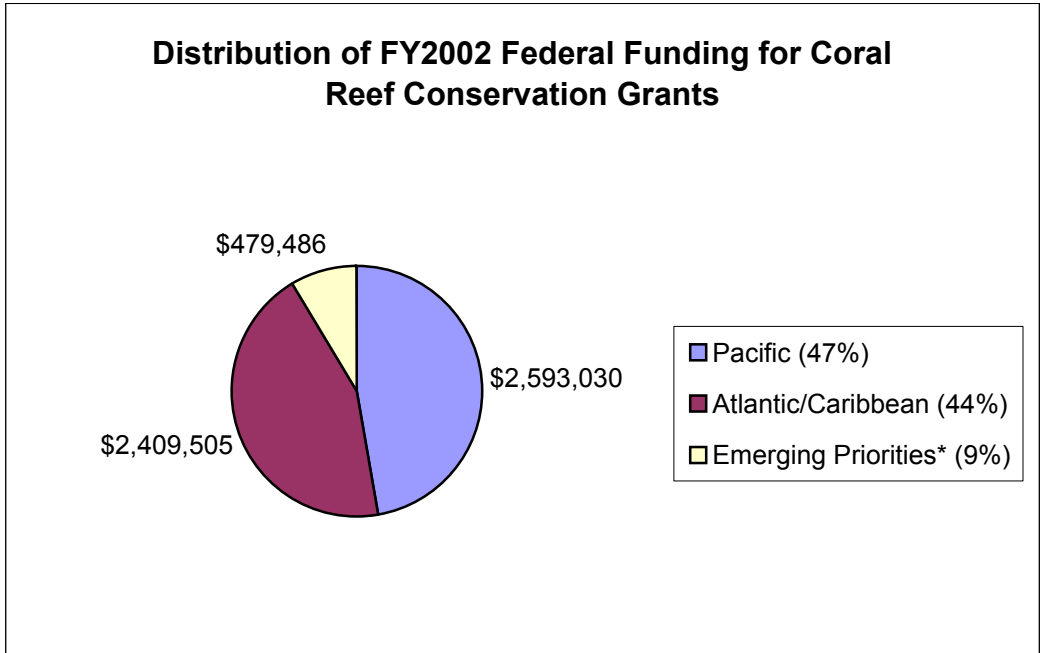
Table 2. FY 2003 State by State summary of Federal and non-Federal contributions towards the cost of each project.

Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Grant Category	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
American Samoa	B-2003-1	American Samoa Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$303,150	\$0
	E-2003-4	American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$99,728	\$0
			American Samoa Total	\$402,878	\$0
CNMI	B-2003-3	CNMI Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$324,800	\$0
	E-2003-5	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY2002-2005	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$98,363	\$0
			CNMI Total	\$423,163	\$0
Guam	B-2003-2	Guam Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$265,000	\$0
	E-2003-6	Guam Coral Reef Monitoring Grant	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$50,000	\$0
			Guam Total	\$315,000	\$0
Hawaii	B-2003-4	Hawaii Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$326,200	\$233,091
	E-2003-8	Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$115,000	\$147,049
	F-2003-5	Community Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Maui, Hawaii	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$50,000	\$49,995
	F-2003-6	Wise management and sustainable use of the Hawaii aquarium fishery through MAC certification for reef management and best practices	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$35,000
			Hawaii Total	\$526,200	\$465,135
Pacific Region-wide Projects	D-2003-1	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Coral Reef Ecosystem Resources and Habitat	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$750,000	\$0
	F-2003-1	Update and dissemination of a comprehensive identification manual for the world's known seahorses (genus <i>Hippocampus</i>)*	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$15,000	\$15,000
	F-2003-8	Protect the Living Reef Public Education Campaign*	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$12,500	\$22,005
			Pacific Region-wide Projects Total	\$777,500	\$37,005
Florida	A-2003-1	Three new tools for reef monitoring and risk assessment: distinguishing local from global stresses	Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	\$52,900	\$16,800
	A-2003-2	Recruitment of <i>Montastrea annularis</i> (Mountain star coral). Where are all the larvae going?	Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	\$94,000	\$31,300
	B-2003-7	Florida Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$325,000	\$325,000
	E-2003-3	Expansion of Coral Reef evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$100,000
	F-2003-4	Coral reef conservation through outreach: education traveling exhibit, phase 1	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$14,200	\$14,200
			Florida Total	\$586,100	\$487,300
Puerto Rico	B-2003-6	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$240,000	\$20,000
	E-2003-1	Baseline Characterization and Monitoring of Coral Reef Communities at Desecheo Island, Rincon, and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
	F-2003-2	A public education campaign to promote care of the coral reef in Puerto Rico	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$10,000	\$10,000
	F-2003-3	Professional Training for Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resource Maritime Rangers	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$31,260	\$20,852
	F-2003-11	Reefs at Risk: Improving the information available for sound management and protection of coral reefs in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands**	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$22,500	\$22,500
			Puerto Rico Total	\$403,760	\$73,352
USVI	F-2003-11	Reefs at Risk: Improving the information available for sound management and protection of coral reefs in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands**	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$22,500	\$22,500
	B-2003-5	US Virgin Islands Coral Reef Management	State and Territory Coral Reef Management	\$315,850	\$0
	E-2003-2	Monitoring and Assessment of Coral Reef Ecosystems in the U.S. Virgin Islands	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$131,500	\$0
	F-2003-10	Comparative investigations of Red Hind (<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>) spawning aggregations under different management strategies: fully protected marine reserves in the U.S. Virgin Islands and seasonal closures in the British Virgin Islands***	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$10,166
			USVI Total	\$504,850	\$32,666

Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Grant Category	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
Atlantic/ Caribbean Region-wide Projects	D-2003-4	Inventory and Atlas of Corals and Coral Reef, with Emphasis on Deep-Water Coral Reefs from the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, Caribbean Fishery Management Council	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$175,000	\$0
	D-2003-2	Studies of the Florida Middle Grounds and characterization of the mid-shelf bank in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$195,000	\$0
	D-2003-3	SAFMC Coral Reef Conservation Activities to Conserve and Manage Fishery Resources and Protect EFH	Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	\$183,800	\$0
	F-2003-1	Update and dissemination of a comprehensive identification manual for the worlds known seahorses (genus <i>Hippocampus</i>)*	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$15,000	\$15,000
	F-2003-8	Protect the Living Reef Public Education Campaign*	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$12,500	\$22,005
				Atlantic/ Caribbean Region-wide Projects Total	\$581,300
International	C-2003-1	Port Honduras Adaptive Management Project	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$35,000
	C-2003-3	Identification and Characterization of Reef Fish Spawning Aggregation Sites in MPAs of Northern Vietnam and the Western Philippines	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$39,700	\$39,700
	C-2003-4	Evaluating Monitoring Protocols at Marine Protected Areas in Belize and Bahamas	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$25,500	\$25,500
	C-2003-5	Establishing a Socioeconomic Monitoring Program for Glover's Reef Atoll, Belize	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$20,300	\$20,300
	C-2003-6	Socio-Economic Assessment in the Use of Reef Resources by Local Community and other Direct Stakeholders	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$24,500	\$3,392
	C-2003-7	A Place for Indigenous People Living in Thailand's Andaman Seas MPAs	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$20,000	\$20,000
	C-2003-8	Promoting Watershed Management in Wider Caribbean Nations	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$70,000	\$70,000
	F-2003-10	Comparative investigations of Red Hind (<i>Epinephalus guttatus</i>) spawning aggregations under different management strategies: fully protected marine reserves in the U.S. Virgin Islands and seasonal closures in the British Virgin Islands***	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$10,166
			International Total	\$270,000	\$224,058
Freely Associated States	E-2003-7	Palau Coral Reef Monitoring Project	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$21,716	\$29,116
	F-2003-7	Minimizing Visitors' impacts on coral reefs through tour guide training in Palau	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$34,344	\$36,390
	E-2003-9	Kosrae State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program	State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	\$20,000	\$24,327
	F-2003-9	Defining and Mapping fish habitat for reef fishes in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$39,908	\$27,110
	C-2003-2	Testing Indicators of MPA Management Effectiveness in Kosrae, FSM	International Coral Reef Conservation	\$35,000	\$30,510
	F-2003-12	Direct support to coral park practitioners in the Freely Associated States of the Pacific: Palau, Marshalls, Pohnpei	General Coral Reef Conservation	\$45,000	\$97,250
				Freely Associated States Total	\$195,968
TOTAL FY 2003 Coral Reef Conservation Grants Funding				\$4,986,719	\$1,601,224

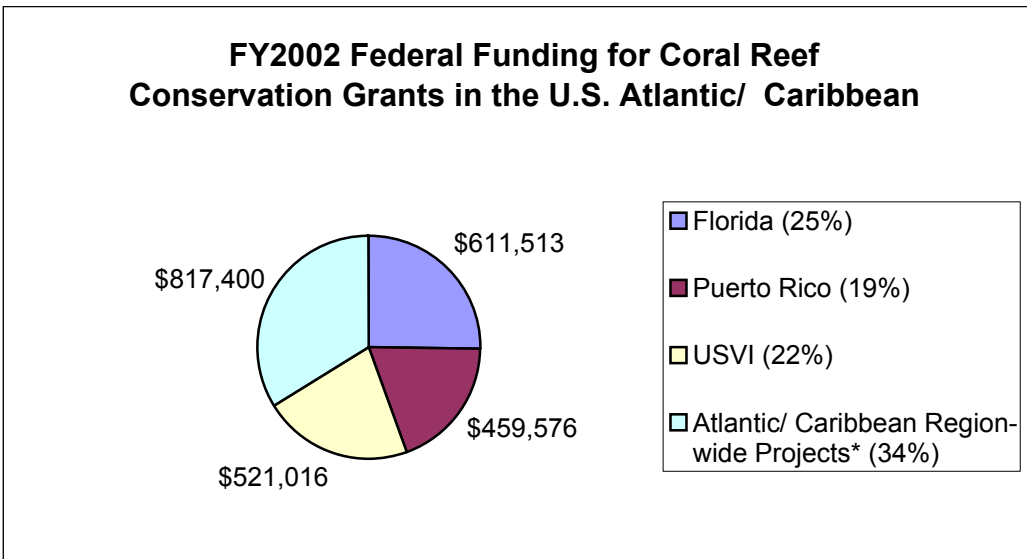
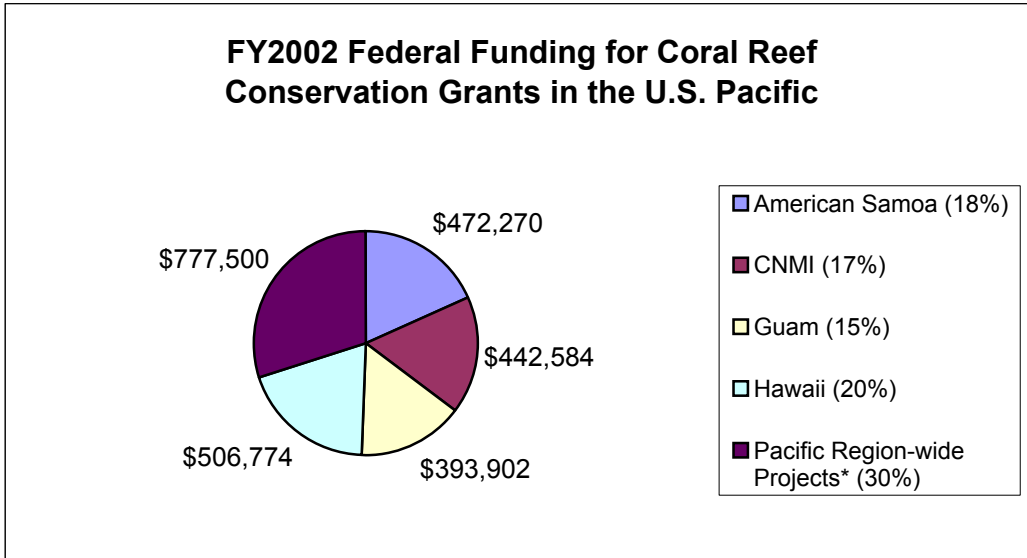
* Funding Split between Caribbean and Pacific Regions
** Funding Split between Puerto Rico and USVI
*** Funding Split between Caribbean and International

Figure 1. Regional distribution of federal funding for coral reef conservation projects in FY2002 and FY2003.



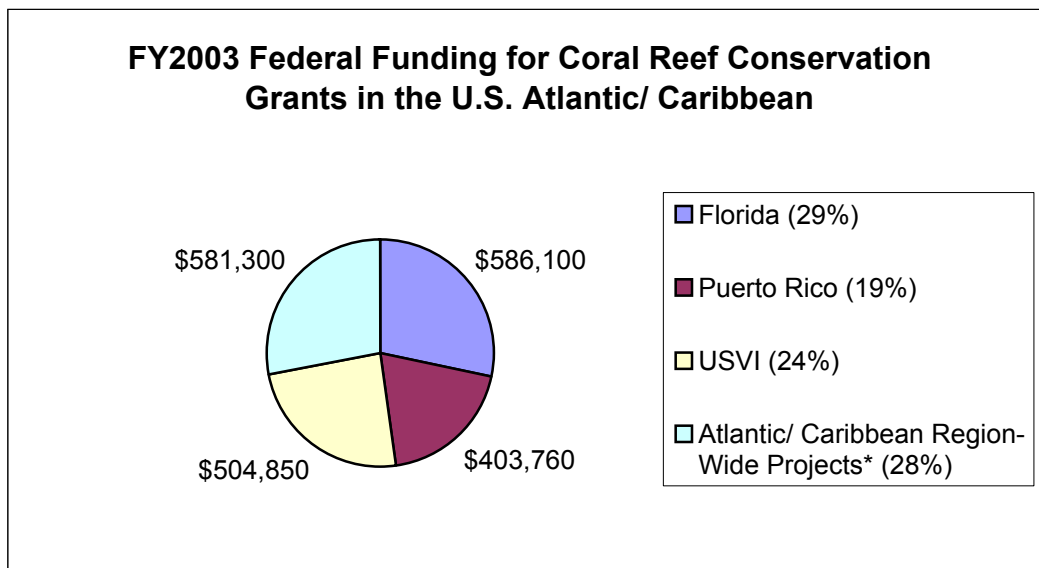
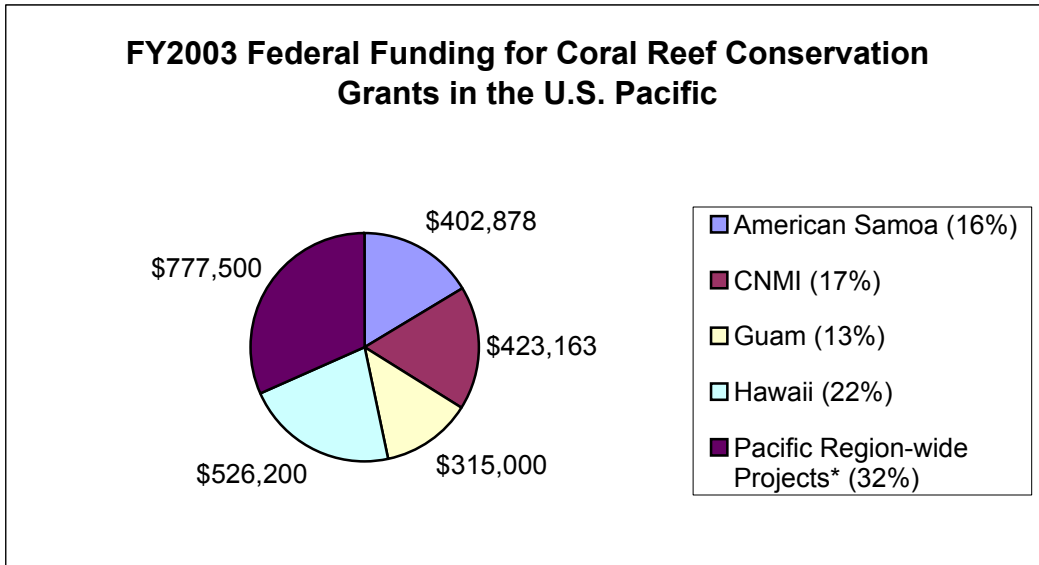
*Emerging priorities or threats, including international priorities and threats, identified by the Administrator.

Figure 2. FY2002 Federal funding for coral reef conservation grants in the U.S. Pacific and the U.S. Atlantic/Caribbean.



*includes grants to regional Fishery Management Councils.

Figure 3. FY2003 Federal funding for coral reef conservation grants in the U.S. Pacific and the U.S. Atlantic/Caribbean.



*includes grants to regional Fishery Management Councils.

Table 3. FY 2002 Federal and non-Federal funding by grant category.

Grant Category	Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	Puerto Rico	A-2002-1	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring	\$149,576	\$0
	Guam	A-2002-2	Guam US Coral Reef Initiative	\$149,916	\$0
			Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants Total	\$299,492	\$0
State and Territory Coral Reef Management	American Samoa	B-2002-1	American Samoa Coral Reef Management	\$348,850	\$0
	Guam	B-2002-2	Guam Coral Reef Management	\$108,500	\$0
	CNMI	B-2002-3	CNMI Coral Reef Management	\$342,650	\$0
	Hawaii	B-2002-4	Hawaii Coral Reef Management	\$360,000	\$321,524
	USVI	B-2002-5	USVI Coral Reef Management	\$355,000	\$0
	Puerto Rico	B-2002-6	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Management	\$210,000	\$10,000
	Florida	B-2002-7	Development of GIS Maps and an Action Plan for Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	\$360,000	\$360,000
			State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants Total	\$2,085,000	\$691,524
International Coral Reef Conservation	Indonesia	C-2002-1	Evaluating Management Effectiveness of two Indonesian MPA's: Incorporating Science and Participation	\$32,000	\$28,790
	Indonesia	C-2002-2	Coral Reef Survey and Monitoring for Management in Central Sulawesi	\$24,200	\$29,026
	Bahamas	C-2002-3	A Program of Scientific/Technical Support to Advance Development of a No-Take Reserve Network for the Bahamas	\$35,000	\$68,500
	Belize	C-2002-4	Marine Protected Areas: Making the Case for No-Takes	\$35,000	\$35,000
	Mexico/ Belize	C-2002-5	Testing Management Effectiveness Guidelines in 3 MPA's in the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef	\$40,000	\$40,000
	East Africa	C-2002-6	Reef Check Community-based Biophysical and Socio-economic Monitoring in East Africa	\$24,200	\$28,850
	Philippines	C-2002-7	Value of Socioeconomics in Establishment of MPA in Mactan and Olango Islands, Philippines	\$32,600	\$56,750
	Philippines	C-2002-8	Collaborative Bio-physical and Socio-Economic Monitoring Towards Adaptive Management of Coral Reefs in the Philippines	\$37,000	\$13,500
	Solomon Islands	C-2002-9	Development of a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network for Solomon Islands	\$40,000	\$30,683
			International Coral Reef Conservation Grants Total	\$300,000	\$331,099
Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	Pacific	D-2002-1	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Ecosystem Resources and Habitat	\$750,000	\$0
	Caribbean	D-2002-2	Mapping and Characterization of Coral Reef Areas in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ	\$250,000	\$0
	Gulf of Mexico	D-2002-3	Management of Fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico	\$250,000	\$0
	South Atlantic	D-2002-4	NOAA CRG 2002 Coral and Live/Hard Botton EFH and EFH-HAPCs	\$250,000	\$0
			Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans Total	\$1,500,000	\$0

Grant Category	Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	Puerto Rico	E-2002-1	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring	\$100,000	\$0
	USVI	E-2002-2	Monitor Coral Reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands	\$100,000	\$0
	Florida	E-2002-3	Expansion of Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	\$165,000	\$165,000
	American Samoa	E-2002-4	American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program	\$100,000	\$0
	CNMI	E-2002-5	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY 2002	\$99,934	\$0
	Guam	E-2002-6	Guam US Coral Reef Initiative	\$100,000	\$0
	Palau	E-2002-7	FAS Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project	\$33,000	\$0
	Hawaii	E-2002-8	Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program	\$89,800	\$142,065
			State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grants Total	\$787,734	\$307,065

General Coral Reef Conservation	Caribbean	F-2002-1	Role of Coralline Algae in Coral Recruitment	\$39,900	\$39,871
			Improving Coral Reef Management and Enforcement in the Republic of Palau through Enhanced Monitoring, Coordination and Education	\$31,000	\$40,000
	Palau	F-2002-2			
	Atlantic and Pacific	F-2002-3	A Public Education and Outreach Campaign on Coral Reefs and Climate Change	\$55,000	\$55,000
			Enhancing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas and Coral Reef Species Conservation through Assessment of MAA Content in Populations and Species	\$23,420	\$28,681
	American Samoa	F-2002-4			
			Transforming the Live Reef Fish Food Trade towards sustainability in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through Community-based Coral Reef Conservation and Fisheries Management	\$50,000	\$50,000
	Mashall Islands	F-2002-5			
	USVI	F-2002-6	USVI Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Program	\$66,016	\$66,017
			Community-Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Hawaii	\$56,974	\$98,332
	Hawaii	F-2002-7			
			Developing a Status Report on the Condition of Florida's Coral Reefs: Application of the AGGRA Methodology	\$43,000	\$43,000
Florida	F-2002-8				
		Coral Culture for Reef Restoration and Coral Research	\$43,513	\$51,138	
Florida	F-2002-9				
		Improving Community-Based Marine Conservation Management in the Republic of Palau	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Palau	F-2002-10				
		Testing the Effectiveness of MPAs and other Reef Fish Management Strategies Using Agent-Based Models	\$70,972	\$0	
Guam and Palau	F-2002-11				
		General Coral Reef Conservation Grants Total	\$509,795	\$502,039	

Total FY2002 Coral Reef Conservation Grants	\$5,482,021	\$1,831,727
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Table 4. FY 2003 Federal and non-Federal funding by grant category.

Grant Category	Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
Coral Reef Ecosystem Research	Florida	A-2003-1	Three new tools for reef monitoring and risk assessment: distinguishing local from global stresses	\$52,900	\$16,800
	Florida	A-2003-2	Recruitment of <i>Montastrea annularis</i> (Mountain star coral). Where are all the larvae going?	\$94,000	\$31,300
			Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants Total	\$146,900	\$48,100
State and Territory Coral Reef Management	American Samoa	B-2003-1	American Samoa Coral Reef Management	\$303,150	\$0
	Guam	B-2003-2	Guam Coral Reef Management	\$265,000	\$0
	CNMI	B-2003-3	CNMI Coral Reef Management	\$324,800	\$0
	Hawaii	B-2003-4	Hawaii Coral Reef Management	\$326,200	\$233,091
	USVI	B-2003-5	US Virgin Islands Coral Reef Management	\$315,850	\$0
	Puerto Rico	B-2003-6	Puerto Rico Coral Reef Management	\$240,000	\$20,000
	Florida	B-2003-7	Florida Coral Reef Management	\$325,000	\$325,000
			State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants Total	\$2,100,000	\$578,091
International Coral Reef Conservation	Belize	C-2003-1	Port Honduras Adaptive Management Project	\$35,000	\$35,000
	Kosrae	C-2003-2	Testing Indicators of MPA Management Effectiveness in Kosrae, FSM	\$35,000	\$30,510
	Philippines and Vietnam	C-2003-3	Spawning Aggregation Sites in MPAs of Northern Vietnam and the Western Philippines	\$39,700	\$39,700
	Belize and Bahamas	C-2003-4	Evaluating Monitoring Protocols at Marine Protected Areas in Belize and Bahamas	\$25,500	\$25,500
	Belize	C-2003-5	Establishing a Socioeconomic Monitoring Program for Glover's Reef Atoll, Belize	\$20,300	\$20,300
	Indonesia	C-2003-6	Socio-Economic Assessment in the Use of Reef Resources by Local Community and other Direct Stakeholders	\$24,500	\$3,392
	Thailand	C-2003-7	A Place for Indigenous People Living in Thailand's Andaman Seas MPAs	\$20,000	\$20,000
	St. Lucia	C-2003-8	Promoting Watershed Management in Wider Caribbean Nations	\$70,000	\$70,000
			International Coral Reef Conservation Grants Total	\$270,000	\$244,402
Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans	Pacific	D-2003-1	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Coral Reef Ecosystem Resources and Habitat	\$750,000	\$0
	Gulf of Mexico	D-2003-2	Studies of the Florida Middle Grounds and characterization of the mid-shelf bank in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico	\$195,000	\$0
	South Atlantic	D-2003-3	SAFMC Coral Reef Conservation Activities to Conserve and Manage Fishery Resources and Protect EFH	\$183,800	\$0
	Caribbean	D-2003-4	Inventory and Atlas of Corals and Coral Reef, with Emphasis on Deep-Water Coral Reefs from the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, Caribbean Fishery Management Council	\$175,000	\$0
			Projects to Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans Total	\$1,303,800	\$0

Grant Category	Jurisdiction	Grant Listing	Project Title	Federal Funding	Non-Federal Match
State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring	Puerto Rico	E-2003-1	Baseline Characterization and Monitoring of Coral Reef Communities at Desecheo Island, Rincon, and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	\$100,000	\$0
	USVI	E-2003-2	Monitoring and Assessment of Coral Reef Ecosystems in the U.S. Virgin Islands	\$131,500	\$0
	Florida	E-2003-3	Expansion of Coral Reef evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs	\$100,000	\$100,000
	American Samoa	E-2003-4	American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program	\$99,728	\$0
	CNMI	E-2003-5	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY2002-2005	\$98,363	\$0
	Guam	E-2003-6	Guam Coral Reef Monitoring Grant	\$50,000	\$0
	Palau	E-2003-7	Palau Coral Reef Monitoring Project	\$21,716	\$29,116
	Hawaii	E-2003-8	Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program	\$115,000	\$147,049
	Kosrae	E-2003-9	Kosrae State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program	\$20,000	\$24,347
			State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grants Total	\$736,307	\$300,512

General Coral Reef Conservation	Pacific and Caribbean	F-2003-1	Update and dissemination of a comprehensive identification manual for the worlds known seahorses (genus <i>Hippocampus</i>)	\$30,000	\$30,000
	Puerto Rico	F-2003-2	A public education campaign to promote care of the coral reef in Puerto Rico	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Puerto Rico	F-2003-3	Professional Training for Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resource Maritime Rangers	\$31,260	\$20,852
	Florida	F-2003-4	Coral reef conservation through outreach: education traveling exhibit, phase 1	\$14,200	\$14,200
	Hawaii	F-2003-5	Community Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Maui, Hawaii	\$50,000	\$49,995
	Hawaii	F-2003-6	Wise management and sustainable use of the Hawaii aquarium fishery through MAC certification for reef management and best practices	\$35,000	\$35,000
	Palau	F-2003-7	Minimizing Visitors' impacts on coral reefs through tour guide training in Palau	\$34,344	\$36,390
	Pacific and Caribbean	F-2003-8	Protect the Living Reef Public Education Campaign	\$25,000	\$44,010
	Kosrae	F-2003-9	Defining and Mapping fish habitat for reef fishes in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia	\$39,908	\$27,110
	USVI	F-2003-10	Comparative investigations of Red Hind (<i>Epinephalus guttatus</i>) spawning aggregations under different management strategies: fully protected marine reserves in the U.S. Virgin Islands and seasonal closures in the British Virgin Islands	\$70,000	\$20,332
	Puerto Rico and USVI	F-2003-11	Reefs at Risk: Improving the information available for sound management and protection of coral reefs in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands	\$45,000	\$45,000
	Freely Associated States	F-2003-12	Direct support to coral park practitioners in the Freely Associated States of the Pacific: Palau, Marshalls, Pohnpei	\$45,000	\$97,250
		General Coral Reef Conservation Grants Total	\$429,712	\$430,139	

Total FY2003 Coral Reef Conservation Grants	\$4,986,719	\$1,601,244
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V. Program Effectiveness and Future Direction

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program established the Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program in fiscal year 2001, as called for in the Act. In the development and implementation of the Program to date, NOAA has fulfilled many of the Act's requirements regarding the program, including: (1) developing Program Guidelines with input from the public and other sources, and (2) providing funding to meet the geographic and thematic criteria stipulated in the Act.

In developing the Guidelines, NOAA based the applicant and activity eligibility criteria, and similarly established the geographic and matching funds requirements, on the framework established by the Act. NOAA also solicited input from its state, territory and other partners and published the Proposed Guidelines in the *Federal Register* for public review and comment, pursuant to the requirements of the Act. The Guidelines also stipulate that all projects that are funded under the Program must be consistent with the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*⁸. In publishing the final Guidelines, NOAA responded to the comments received and made several changes based on the input.

In the implementation of the Program in both fiscal year 2002 and 2003, NOAA reviewed and selected projects based on the eligibility criteria laid out in the Act, Guidelines, and subsequent Guidance. Proposed projects were also selected in accordance with the geographic funding criteria, and in both fiscal years, a minimum of 40% of the total Program funds awarded went to projects in the U.S. Pacific and Caribbean/Atlantic regions each, with the remaining funds awarded to international and emerging priority activities.

As a result, the Program continues to provide broad support for the priorities set out in the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*, as well as for those more generally described in the Act. Moreover, the Program Guidelines and annual Guidance have provided a coherent, systematic implementation process that is generally well-understood by applicants. After just two years, the Program has played an important role in helping build capacity and implement coral reef conservation efforts by building partnerships, leveraging funds, and awarding grants for targeted action. Many of these efforts have already begun to produce significant outcomes, as described in the previous Program Highlights section of this report.

The Program has granted 83 awards to date, including eight to Fishery Management Councils, nine to Universities, 30 to governments, and 35 to non-governmental organizations for on-the-ground conservation efforts. In fiscal years 2002 and 2003, over \$12,500,000 in funding was requested and the Program was able to provide \$10,468,740 in federal funds, and leveraged \$3,432,971 in non-Federal funds. Out of the 41 grants awarded in fiscal year 2002, 18 grants were fully matched, 6 received a partial waiver, and 17 received a full waiver. In fiscal year 2003, a total of 42 grants were awarded, and 19 grants were fully matched, 12 received a partial waiver, and 11 received a full waiver.

Although it is too early to assess the long-term effectiveness of the Program after only one full year (FY2002) of implementation, a number of observations have been made by NOAA and non-NOAA participants that may help guide and improve the Program in the future. The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is developing metrics for assessment of the Grants Program to determine how best to address these and other topics.

⁸ <http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/actionstrategy/actionstrategy.html>

Observations and suggestions to improve the Grants Program include:

- Multi-year grants, contingent on funding, would greatly assist States and Territories in their efforts by providing a certain measure of stability for hiring personnel and by providing an incentive to undertake beneficial longer-term projects.
- States and Territories are most constrained by their lack of human resource capacity, and additional flexibility in the Program requirements would assist them in building this local capacity.
- States and Territories with limited financing options from local governments are hampered by the federal match requirement. Some States and Territories are currently exempt and/or unable to meet the current 50% requirement.
- The efficiency of Program administration would be greatly improved by the development and use of an Internet-based application and reporting system.
- The Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have significant coral reef resources and emerging programs that would benefit from additional programmatic grant funding similar to the Management and Monitoring grant categories supporting the U.S. States and Territories.

Given the significant needs required to fulfill the Act and conserve coral reef ecosystems, additional financial resources and additional personnel for administration are required for further expansion of the Program.

VI. Individual Grant Summaries

Key to Award Listings

X-YYYY-ZZ

Grantee: X indicates one of the six grant categories

- A. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research
- B. State and Territory Coral Reef Management
- C. International Coral Reef Conservation
- D. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans
- E. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring
- F. General Coral Reef Conservation

YYYY indicates the Year of the Grant
ZZ indicates the grant number within the category
Note: when a letter is used after the grant number, it refers to a specific project completed under one grant in the jurisdiction.

Grant number:

Project Title:

Region: Pacific/Caribbean/International

Funding: Federal amount requested

Federal amount granted

Non-Federal match

Status: In progress/Completed/Pending

Description: one paragraph

Product(s)/Outcomes: e.g. manual, textbook, video, policy, personnel, MPA
Note: If the project is still in progress, these would be considered projected product(s) and outcomes.

Performance Criteria: Section 6403 (g) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 provides a list of criteria for approval in the grants program (see below). Based on this list, this section describes which aspects of coral reef conservation were addressed in the project.

- (1) implemented coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs;
- (2) addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products;
- (3) enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;
- (4) developed sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease;
- (5) promoted and assisting to implement cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector;
- (6) increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation;
- (7) mapped the location and distribution of coral reefs;
- (8) developed and implemented techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs;

- (9) developed and implemented cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems;
or
(10) promoted ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs.

2002 Grants

In 2002, the Coral Reef Conservation Grants program awarded 41 grants to States and Territories in the amount of \$5,482,021, out of a total of \$7,059,624 that was requested from prospective grantees. The total non-Federal match to this funding was \$1,831,727. The following is a comprehensive list of each of the grants awarded. Grants are organized according to the six categories described in the Grant Program Implementation Guidelines. See the preceding *Key to Award Listings* for additional information.

A. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants

A-2002-1

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260023
Project Title: P.R. Coral Reef Monitoring
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$149,576
Federal amount granted: \$149,576
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This grant supports a baseline characterization of bio-optical oceanographic properties in the region. Advances in technologies and assessment techniques using remote sensing, in-situ observations, high-end computing, and integrative biological and physical measurements will be incorporated into the “toolbox” available to coral reef ecosystem managers.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Improved understanding and assessment of bio-optical properties will explicitly link estimates of reef health and the dynamic oceanographic properties of the water mass(es) bathing these reefs and enable development of models of reef health. This project will produce a report quantifying the impact of land use changes on sediment runoff and re-suspension, and the associated impacts on the reef ecosystem. PRDNER will use this information and the models produced to affect local resource management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all US coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project supports improved scientific understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Puerto Rico. In addition, it enhances the development and implementation of PRDNER’s techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

A-2002-2

Grantee: Guam Department of Agriculture
Grant number: NA03NOS4260022
Project Title: Guam US Coral Reef Initiative Grant
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$149,916
Federal amount granted: \$149,916

Status: Non-Federal match: match waived
In progress

Description: Guam's Department of Agriculture was provided funding to develop recruitment assays and identify biomarkers of environmental stress as tools to be applied to coral protection and/or stressor reduction efforts. Research is needed to address development of appropriate indicators to define coral ecosystem health, function of reef ecosystems, such as coral and fish recruitment sources and sinks and explicit coupling of biological and physical models.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Development of indices that identify threshold criteria of reproductive stress, recruitment failure, and/or mortality. The development and field-testing of coral reef ecosystem assessment approaches, health indicators, and ecosystem function are critical components of a research program to support the monitoring of coral reefs as outlined in the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*⁹. Indicators will eventually be incorporated into local and national monitoring programs.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Guam. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs. Indicators developed will directly support NOAA's National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring by improving quantitative measures of coral ecosystem health, including reproduction, recruitment, growth, and survival of coral communities.

B. State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants

B-2002-1a

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG)

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Coordinator

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$45,325
Federal amount granted: \$45,325
Non-Federal Match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The primary achievement of the CRI coordinator in 2001 and 2002 was to actively oversee the 22 projects funded by the Coral Reef Initiative through Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, and National Ocean Service in 2001, to oversee the 12 ongoing projects from 2000, and to aid the individual project managers towards the completion of their respective projects. Continuation of this position will not only increase the coordination among the various agencies of CRAG, but will free its members to improve implementation of their own CRI-funded projects, as well as other existing programs. The position will therefore be of considerable benefit to achieving the goals laid out in the original and future five-year plans.

⁹ <http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/actionstrategy/actionstrategy.html>

Product(s)/Outcomes: One new full time staff (Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator) who will:

- assist in implementation and administration of CRI projects;
- assist the chair at CRAG meetings;
- seek project proposals from CRAG members and others for CRI funding based on the revised Five-Year Plan;
- produce a semi-annual performance reports and monitor and oversee the financial status of the CRI grants; and
- perform some research into coral reefs in line with their own expertise but not occupying more than 20% of their time.

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by overseeing implementation of CRI funded projects. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by overseeing CRI funded projects and freeing up CRAG members time so they can implement their own projects.

B-2002-1b

Grantee:	American Samoa Department of Commerce American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group	
Grant number:	GR370026 (Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Marine Conservation Enforcement Officers	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	American Samoa	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$29,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$29,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: A proposed Joint Enforcement Agreement with NMFS would assist Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) in increasing enforcement and outreach through the purchase of supplemental equipment and the funding for an additional two officers. Together with the two officers funded by CRI, a team of five officers are then dedicated to field enforcement and outreach activities.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Two new full time enforcement staff
- All activities of funded agents will be documented to provide accurate records of project activities

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing more enforcement capabilities for the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. This project enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by providing supplemental equipment and funding for two additional enforcement officers. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by increasing the amount of personnel dedicated to enforcement and outreach.

B-2002-1c

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Facilitator & MPA Workshops

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$1,900
Federal amount granted: \$1,900
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: For the first two years of this process, a combination of public awareness programs, surveys of stakeholders and workshops are used to initiate MPA establishment. Because it is anticipated that most of the MPAs will be established in areas not directly fronting on villages, more work will be needed to implement MPA establishment than is currently the case in the establishment of community-based fisheries reserves. CRI funding would be used for a) supplies for workshops to inform the public and gather consensus on locations and management of MPAs in the Territory and b) partially fund one extension officer to facilitate planned activities for establishing MPAs.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Recruitment of the Officer
- Formulate and field test a survey designed to test the public's knowledge of MPA effectiveness
- Surveys will be conducted by the Officer with the assistance of dedicated personnel and DMWR staff. Fifteen villages in the territory will be covered (totaling 500 respondents).
- The officer will analyze the survey results and report results back to the communities.
- Workshops will be held at five locations in the Territory reporting survey results and gathering community and district input and support for MPA establishment.

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by gathering public input on MPA effectiveness which can be used towards managing local MPAs. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by reporting survey results back to the communities and by conducting workshops to share information about MPA establishment.

B-2002-1d

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: GIS Technical Assistant

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$71,479

	Federal amount granted:	\$71,479
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: The first priority for the Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician is to coordinate with American Samoan agencies and NOAA on the Coral Reef Mapping program. Virtually every research program in DMWR can and should be applied to GIS. Finally, a local technician will be hired by DMWR to be mentored by the GIS Technician. This position will eventually phase out the CRI supported position.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The projects include Expert Coral and Fish surveys, the NMFS Coral Reef Ecosystem Investigations surveys including sensor data (e.g., ocean drifter buoys, SSTs etc), a study of key reef species, invertebrate studies, an inshore creel survey, and community programs where local resource mapping can be translated to the more spatially accurate and precise GIS system.

Performance Criteria: This project mapped the location and distribution of coral reefs by working with Federal and local agencies to apply DMWR projects to GIS mapping. This project developed and implemented techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs by mapping coral reef areas. These maps can be used in further studies to monitor the reefs.

B-2002-1e

Grantee:	American Samoa Department of Commerce American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group	
Grant number:	GR370026 (Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Coral Reef Public Awareness Coordinator	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	American Samoa	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$11,256
	Federal amount granted:	\$11,256
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: The Coral Reef Public Awareness Coordinator will perform a number of roles that include: 1) coordination of public outreach functions for members of the Fono, Department Directors, and other key decision makers in the Territory, 2) utilization of the media for marketing coral reef protection (TV, radio and newspaper), 3) coordination with all the environmental agencies either via Le Tausagi or individually for outreach activities and programs, 4) development of outreach activities and programs, 5) assistance to the Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator as directed, 6) marketing of coral reef awareness in the villages and via the media, and 7) linkage with the Department of Education for teacher workshops, curriculum guidance and materials development. The coordinator will also perform administrative duties for the Population Task Force.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- A coordinated public outreach effort for members of the Fono, Department Directors, and other key decision makers in the Territory
- Increased marketing of coral reef protection in the media (TV, radio and newspaper)
- Increased coordination among the environmental agencies

- Outreach activities and programs
- Increased coral reef awareness in the villages
- Improved coordination with the Department of Education for teacher workshops, curriculum guidance and materials development
- Posters on corals and reef fishes

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by improving the understanding of coral reef and associated ecosystem functions by key decision makers and the public. This project promoted and assisted to implement cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by developing outreach activities and programs that promote conservation. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by utilizing the media to market coral reef conservation, and by developing outreach programs to promote the understanding of coral reef and associated ecosystem.

B-2002-1f

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
 American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: Teacher Challenge Awards

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$5,500
 Federal amount granted: \$5,500
 Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The Coral Reef Advisory Group established five \$1,000 competitive awards to teachers. These awards are used for projects that have a marine science theme, and focus on coral reef issues. They are judged on effectiveness (quantitative and qualitative) as well as experience of lead person.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Announcement of the Teacher Challenge in local media
- Proposals for the projects submitted
- Winning proposals will be selected and awarded to the teachers
- All winners are required to submit reports, and teachers will submit a detailed expenditure summary with their report

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs that promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by offering local schoolteachers the opportunity to develop and implement projects that focus on marine science education. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by offering small grants to teachers to do marine science related projects, which ultimately promote a better understanding of marine ecosystems among students and local communities.

B-2002-1g

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Translation of the “Natural History Guide to American Samoa”
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$6,000
Federal amount granted: \$6,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This 80-page booklet is an excellent source of information about American Samoa’s natural environment. It is a collection of 39 well-written, easily understood articles that provide a glimpse into the marine and wildlife resources in American Samoa's tropical, oceanic environment. The purpose was to make the results of the studies available to local teachers, students, visitors and whoever else might be curious about Samoa's unique environment. To help this information reach more local audiences, it is important to translate the booklet into the Samoan language and distribute copies to local schools, libraries and agencies. The National Park has already funded 2,500 copies in English.

Product(s)/Outcomes: “Natural History Guide to American Samoa” in Samoan

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by translating information about the natural environment into Samoan and distributing it to more locations so that more people can utilize the guide and gain a better understanding of their natural surroundings.

B-2002-1h

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Teacher Training Manuals
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$6,000
Federal amount granted: \$6,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Teacher training manuals were developed in cooperation with Pacific Island countries, including American Samoa, and represent a major contribution in conceptualizing ways to incorporate awareness of environmental issues into the region’s school activities. Because these teacher guides are not available locally, DMWR intends to make contact with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to secure these items and to discuss other relevant materials. Sufficient copies will be obtained for upper elementary and high school educators. Guides will be distributed at teacher training workshops, with copies as reference materials for the Feleti Barstow Public Library and the American Samoa Environmental Information Resource Center.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Distribution of environmental education teacher training guides at teacher training workshops and the local library/ resource center.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by providing local teachers with guidebooks on how to incorporate environmental education that it relates to their local environment, into their school activities. With the use of these guidebooks teachers can help more students gain a better understanding of environmental issues and potential solutions.

B-2002-1i

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Environmental education workshops for teachers
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$7,500
Federal amount granted: \$7,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: In school year 2003, DMWR will be distributing sets of new environmental education materials to every school on-island to support classroom activities on the marine environment. Educator training manuals will also be available to assist teachers in presenting information to students. Training workshops will help to introduce teachers to new educational materials and to effectively integrate activities into existing curriculum on the marine environment.

Product(s)/Outcomes: • Four workshops, two each for 7th and 8th grade teachers
• One workshop for high school teacher

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by providing local teachers with guidebooks and training workshops on how to incorporate environmental education as it relates to their local marine environment into their school activities. With the use of this information, teachers can help more students gain a better understanding of environmental issues and potential solutions.

B-2002-1j

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Environmental education workshop for middle managers
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$4,450
Federal amount granted: \$4,450
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The proposed 4-day workshop targets nine villages that line the inner harbor, and aims to bring together village mayors, heads of traditional family clans, and business leaders to discuss problems and put into action some realistic and achievable results. Participants will learn the state of the marine environment, with emphasis on the inner harbor, from DMWR, and will identify critical issues that plague their village communities. In groups, participants will develop a one-year strategic plan on how to cope with pollution within their specific villages.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Plan, coordinate, and conduct workshop
- Development of one-year strategic plan on how to cope with pollution within their specific villages

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by addressing user conflicts of interest. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by bringing together local stakeholders to develop plans to reduce pollution. This project developed and implemented cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems by assisting communities to develop plans that they can implement to cope with pollution.

B-2002-1k

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: Glass Bottom Boat Program: An Education Program for Decision Makers

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$10,000
Federal amount granted: \$10,000
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: Many of the local policy and decision makers have never experienced the coral reefs of American Samoa first hand. In many ways, the reef is inaccessible to them except for occasional photos and video. This project will take these decision makers out to the reefs to let them see for themselves. However, many of the targeted audience do not have the ability to snorkel or dive. A glass bottomed boat, of which there are none in American Samoa, will offer a fantastic opportunity to view the wonders of American Samoa's coral ecosystems for themselves.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A guided tour on a glass bottom boat from Independent Samoa for a period of 2 weeks for public education and awareness campaigns.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by offering local policy and decision makers the opportunity to experience hands-on interaction with coral reef ecosystems to foster greater environmental sensitivity.

B-2002-11

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Meeting Participation for the Chairman of the All Islands Group, and Island Members
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$36,000
Federal amount granted: \$36,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: American Samoa is an isolated U.S. Territory. Participation at National and regional conferences and meetings for island members is important for collaboration, informational needs, dialogue and furthering education on coral reef ecosystems. This project will fund travel costs for up to six trips to meetings related to coral reef activities, and will specifically provide travel funds for the Coral Reef Point of Contact and All-Islands Chair to attend national and regional meetings.

Product(s)/Outcomes: • Meeting participation for local professionals (up to six trips)
• Point of Contact and/or other CRI Director travel to CRI meetings (3 trips)
• Travel for All-Islands Chair (cost share)

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by supporting efforts made by managers of coral ecosystems to gain skills and share information at regional meetings and workshops. They are also be able to work with other jurisdictions on efforts that are improved through a greater voice of regional committees. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector through participation in regional meetings. There are often times representatives from non-governmental organizations, and private stakeholders at these meeting who participate and provide valuable input to conservation plans.

B-2002-1m

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Public Hearings
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$2,000
Federal amount granted: \$2,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: At the American Samoa Marine Protected Area Workshop (June 2002), it was decided that, in order for the territorial MPAs to be effective, maximum community involvement should be incorporated into the process of MPA designation. While the legal form of Territorial MPAs has yet to be finalized, it is important to inform the public of similar MPAs being developed for village reefs. Current DMWR funding under the Federal Aid for Sports Fish Restoration does not allow any expenses for the making of fishing regulations. As a result, CRI funding is being sought to hold hearings with the public concerning changes to regulations.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- DMWR personnel will commence planning of the workshops, preparing materials, and publicity.
- Five workshops will be held: three on Tutuila Island, and two in the Manu'a Islands (Ofu Olosega and Ta'u).
- Changes in DMWR's regulations to be finalized.

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by holding public hearing with local communities to address concerns over changes in fisheries regulations. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by holding public hearings with local communities to address concerns and exchange information.

B-2002-1n

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group

Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)

Project Title: Legal Review of Plans

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: American Samoa

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$9,000
Federal amount granted: \$9,000
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: American Samoa's DMWR is implementing the Community Based Fisheries Management Program (CBFMP). There is a need to legally review the communities' management plans prior to adoption to ensure that the new plans do not contravene existing American Samoan laws and regulations. It is felt that eventually there will be legal challenges to the communities' management regulations, particularly by individuals or groups outside villages who do not recognize and obey village MPA regulations. A consultant is currently completing revisions to DMWR regulations to incorporate village fishery management plans within its regulations. It is expected that in each village there will be several revised drafts to the plan, as the communities revise the plans based on comments from DMWR and the consultant. The funds are expected to assist in the finalization of 8 management plans.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Finalization of 8 management plans

Performance Criteria: This project enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by incorporating village fishery regulations within DMWR regulations.

B-2002-1o

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Giant Clam Hatchery/Fish Ageing Validation Tanks
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$33,900
Federal amount granted: \$33,900
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Project includes: 1) site design, architectural and engineering work for: a) hatchery water and air systems, b) fish ageing validation tanks (hopefully to be funded by Federal Aid for Sports Fish Restoration) and pumping system, as well as future expansions; 2) part-time funding of a fishery biologist (20%) to supervise the facility and conduct hatchery work, especially spawnings and growout of young juvenile clams; 3) purchase of two water pumps and one air blower; and 4) an interpretive signboard for the hatchery.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Site design, architectural and engineering work for hatchery water and air systems, and fish ageing validation tanks and pumping system
- Part-time funding of a fishery biologist (20%)
- Two water pumps and one air blower
- Interpretive signboard

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by the development of a clam hatchery that can help to seed reef populations. This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by helping to decrease the stresses of the clam fishery by providing sustainable methods for human consumption.

B-2002-1p

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: NOAA Coral Reef Management Assistantship Program
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$35,000
Federal amount granted: \$35,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Discussion regarding this program occurred after CRAG members met and voted on projects for inclusion in the new grant request. CRAG is using the Coral Reef Assistant to provide it with more technical expertise in planning local action strategies, mapping and GIS projects, and designing and implementing the Territorial Coral Reef Monitoring program.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member as the Coral Reef Management Assistant

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing the human capacity to assist with planning and implementing local action strategies, and other CRAG efforts.

B-2002-1q

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Natural History Guide to American Samoa
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$28,540
Federal amount granted: \$28,540
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This booklet has proven to be highly useful in educating people living and working in American Samoa, as well as those visiting or desiring to learn more about the local natural environment. The current grant includes a small amount of money for the translation and printing of a limited number of copies into Samoan. However, CRAG feels that to properly use this guide as a tool for conservation, more copies must be printed in the Samoan language. CRAG also feels that a hardcover version to be given to visiting dignitaries, as well as Territorial leaders, will promote awareness of and provide support for local conservation efforts.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The translation of the Guide has already been completed. A local printer will soon produce copies of it in Samoan, as per current grant. CRAG members will then design a hard cover version and send it to the printer. Products will be 2,000 copies of the Guide in Samoan and English.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by printing more Natural History Guides to American Samoa in Samoan to reach more people, including visiting dignitaries and Territorial leaders.

B-2002-1r

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Outreach materials
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$2,000
Federal amount granted: \$2,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: To adequately convey information and knowledge to islanders regarding CRAG's four focal area efforts, the production of posters, brochures, pamphlets, radio advertisements, television spots, organized clean-ups, and speaking engagements in schools and at public events is anticipated. CRAG members feel that new approaches must be taken in the Territory regarding coral reef education and are committed to making the best use of the new Coral Reef Education Coordinator. It is therefore requested that funds be allocated to supplement funds already requested for supplies and fees relating to the above-mentioned products.

Product(s)/Outcomes: posters, brochures, pamphlets, radio advertisements, television spots, organized clean-ups, and speaking engagements in schools and at public events.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation through the production of posters, brochures, pamphlets, radio advertisements, television spots, organized clean-ups, and speaking engagements in schools and at public events.

B-2002-1s

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant number: GR370026 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Administrative Support for New Positions
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$4,000
Federal amount granted: \$4,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Outside funds have been secured to create three new CRAG-related positions in the Territory. CRAG has a Coral Reef Management Assistant on island, as well as a one-year Monitoring Specialist and an on-going Monitoring Technician. Office space has been identified for these people, but there is not spare office equipment. Funds have been allocated from the current reprogramming for administrative support for new positions. However, an additional amount is needed, as these new positions were not known about at the time CRAG reprogrammed funds. Other office support (space, phones, fax and internet) will be provided in-kind by the host agency.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Supplies and office support

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted in implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by assisting with the administrative tasks of new staff members who will be working on coral reef conservation issues.

B-2002-2a

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Grant number: GR370035 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Faculty Position at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory
Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Guam
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
 Federal amount granted: \$50,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: The University is hiring a faculty member with expertise in coral reef management. The position will play a substantial role in supporting ongoing coral reef projects undertaken by the Marine Laboratory and management agencies. This position is clearly management-oriented and will be largely service-directed.

Product(s)/Outcomes: · Working with the local Coral Reef Advisory Group to identify management and research priorities and develop proposals for funding under the CRI;
 · Conducting research focused on resource management issues such as evaluation of MPA effectiveness, response of fisheries to management regulations, effect of land-use practices on adjacent marine communities, etc.
 · Providing administrative support to the Advisory Group in meeting its requirements under the grants, including project reports and accomplishments.

Performance Criteria: This project developed sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by hiring a faculty member at the University of Guam Marine Lab who will conduct research that will be useful to coral reef managers and provide scientific advice to managers and CRAG members.

B-2002-2b

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
 Grant number: GR370035 (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Public Education through Public Service Announcements
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Guam
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$19,000
 Federal amount granted: \$19,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: This project develops information education tools such as Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and signs on general information on protecting Guam's coral reefs. These PSAs are produced in several languages and focus on the various local and ethnic communities as well as on visitors to the island. The messages include the basics on coral reef ecology, importance of protecting the reefs, and how trash and other pollution affect the health of the reefs. PSAs will be aired on local commercial and public television, radio stations, and movie theatres. Signs will be created and installed around the island with messages of how to protect the island's coral reefs.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Public Service Announcements over the various media and signs.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by funding the development of public service announcements that promote coral reef conservation.

B-2002-2c

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Grant number: GR370035 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Support for Public Education
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$12,000
Federal amount granted: \$12,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: To foster interest and knowledge, classrooms need to be furnished with marine-related test and analysis equipment. Equipment and supplies for microscopes, aquariums, air and water pollution test kits and digital underwater cameras are purchased and distributed to various public schools.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Equipment and supplies for microscopes, aquariums, air and water pollution test kits and digital underwater cameras will be purchased and distributed to various public schools.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by providing marine related testing and analysis equipment to various public schools.

B-2002-2d

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Grant number: GR370035 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Scholarship for local/regional graduate student in Coral Reef Conservation Biology
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$17,500
Federal amount granted: \$17,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This scholarship supports a local individual to increase local capacity and apply knowledge on coral reef conservation to pressing economic, environmental and cultural issues. It provides a scholarship for a local student to pursue his or her MS at the UOG Marine Lab. The student is required to work on a thesis associated with marine protected areas and to be involved in the programs at the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. The student is required to obtain work for the Government of Guam in a regulatory or natural resource management field within five years of graduation and then work for a period of two years.

Product(s)/Outcomes: · A scholarship for a local student to pursue their MS at the UOG Marine Lab
· A thesis associated with marine protected areas
· Staff for the Government of Guam in a regulatory or natural resource management field for a period of two years

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs that promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by funding a graduate student who will do research that benefits coral reef managers. This student will then become a staff member for the Government of Guam to work on these natural resource management issues, which will help with the lack of human capacity faced by natural resource offices.

B-2002-2e

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Grant number: GR370035 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Coral Reef Initiative Logistics Support
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$10,000
Federal amount granted: \$10,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Guam is a member of the All Islands Coral Reef Initiative and the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative. Participation requires attending meetings hosted by federal or other island participants. Participation is essential to the continued success of these programs and therefore funds are necessary to support travel and associated expenses.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Travel and participation in meetings pertaining to All Islands and the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative.

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing a means for managers to attend meetings where information is exchanged and ideas are fostered that can assist with the development and implementation of projects.

B-2002-3a

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: CNMI Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Representation
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$90,200
Federal amount granted: \$90,200
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Funding under this task supports the Coral Reef Coordinator’s salary and benefits, CNMI participation in U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings and related venues, and specific collaborative travel to Guam. The coordinator position (a prerequisite of CNMI’s eligibility for funding) and CNMI Task Force participation are essential to maintain CNMI’s role in the Task Force, the Coral Reef Initiative, and the All Islands Group. The scope of work includes: manage CRI grants; represent CNMI as Task Force member in conservation efforts, Task Force Meetings, and related forums; prepare a CNMI Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan; prepare CNMI CRI Annual Report; and capitalize on regional efforts on environmental education program, MPA design, non-point source pollution approaches, targeted research, monitoring methods, habitat definitions, Coral Reef Atlas production, etc.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Hiring of one new staff member as the Coral Reef Coordinator
 - 6-month reports
 - Presentations and updates on CNMI CRI activities
 - Summaries of meetings for CNMI Governor and LCrag
 - CNMI Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan
 - CNMI CRI Annual Report
 - CNMI Revised Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan
 - Summaries of collaborative meetings
 - Paper comparing Guam and CNMI monitoring methods and habitat definitions
 - Description and work plan for Guam and CNMI Coral Reef Atlas
 - Copies of outreach and education materials

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by overseeing implementation of CRI funded projects. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by overseeing CRI funded projects and freeing up CRAG members time so they can implement their own projects.

B-2002-3b

Grantee:	CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office	
Grant number:	GR270103 (Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Capacity Building for Enforcement of Marine Resources	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	CNMI	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$38,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$38,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: Support for this particular task provides the new Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Marine Conservation & Enforcement Section and other law enforcement officers with the training, surveillance and office equipment, reference materials, and statutes need to effectively enforce fishery and MPA rules and regulations.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Dedicated Office of Marine Conservation & Enforcement established
 - Nocturnal surveillance and control of illegal activities
 - An up-datable guidebook of standard operating procedures for the

DFW Marine Conservation & Enforcement Section

- Published and accepted rules and regulations for Forbidden Island and Bird Island sanctuaries
- Published and accepted rules and regulations for the Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area
- Published and accepted rules and regulations for Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve
- Working knowledge of rules and regulations governing marine resources
- Working knowledge of identification techniques, marine resources of the CNMI and protected species
- Staff, training, and materials in place to enforce the rules and regulations citations, seizures of property, and cease and desist orders

Performance Criteria: This project enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by providing officers with the training, surveillance and office equipment, reference materials, and statutes needed to effectively enforce fishery and MPA rules and regulations.

B-2002-3c

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: CNMI Marine Management Strategy Development
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
Federal amount granted: \$30,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Funding will be used to hire a consultant to work closely with resource agency staff and other important stakeholders to amass and summarize past relevant works, to identify a common vision for the future of CNMI's marine resources, and to develop a comprehensive long-term Marine Management Strategy for the CNMI that describes a common vision and means for working towards it. Such a strategy would identify long-term goals for the status of marine resources and achievable short-term and medium-term management objectives, actions and measurable outcomes to reach these goals. With extensive input and review by the resource agencies and important stakeholders, the strategy will ideally be adopted by the CNMI Government and populous.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Hiring of consultant
- Scope of work
- Contract proposals
- Contract with consultant
- Copies of past documents with resources agencies
- Background Summary of past marine management planning documents
- CNMI-wide vision for marine resources
- Draft Marine Management Strategy
- Record of comments on strategy drafts

- CNMI Marine Management Strategy
- Press conference and news releases

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by hiring a consultant who can amass and summarize past relevant works, identify a common vision for the future of CNMI's marine resources, and develop a comprehensive long-term Marine Management Strategy for the CNMI that describes their vision and means for working towards it. This Strategy will assist with future project development and implementation.

B-2002-3d

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
 Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Vessel Grounding Prevention Materials
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: CNMI
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$24,000
 Federal amount granted: \$24,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: Funding under this task supports the installation of simple vessel grounding preventative measures. Funds support the materials and installation of one to two mooring buoys (mooring design and costs are still being researched) to be available for securing 30 to 50 foot vessels without other typhoon contingency plans during storm events. Finally, the funds purchase ropes of varying weight to be stockpiled by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to be used on loan to vessels lacking proper materials during storm events.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Buoys
 - Buoys installed
 - Stockpile of ropes for securing vessels during storms

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing material for proper vessel mooring to deal with typhoons so that reefs do not get damaged during these events.

B-2002-3e

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
 Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: NPS Pollution Assessment Strategy: West Takpochao Watershed Pilot Study
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: CNMI
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$32,500
 Federal amount granted: \$32,500
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: A priority step in CNMI’s strategy to address non-point source pollution (NPS) is to achieve full approval from NOAA of the conditionally approved 6217 Non Point Pollution Control and Prevention Plan. A major part of this plan is to aggressively research contributors of NPS pollution in CNMI’s priority watersheds and recommend best management practices (BMPs) that will alleviate or mitigate the degrading water quality problems. The proposed pilot study will lead to the reduction of impacts from land-based/ watershed pollution sources in the upland area of the West Takpochao Watershed by tracing, pinpointing, and reporting NPS pollution contributors. It will also test a strategy that can be used to address all Category 1 sub-watersheds in the CNMI to reduce or control NPS pollution.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- GPS coordinates of sample locations, deliver samples to NMC
 - Create spreadsheet, GIS layers, and summary charts and graphs
 - Recommendations for one watershed
 - Access to information and findings, public and government agency outreach
 - Critique pilot study and make recommendations for addressing NPS pollution in other watersheds

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by tracing, pinpointing, and reporting NPS pollution contributors that will lead to the reduction of impacts from land-based/ watershed pollution sources in the upland area of the West Takpochao Watershed.

B-2002-3f

Grantee:	CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office		
Grant Number:	GR270103 (Department of Interior)		
Project Title:	Dissemination of Information in CNMI’s Coral Reefs		
Region:	Pacific		
Jurisdiction:	CNMI		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$4,950	
	Federal amount granted:	\$4,950	
	Non-Federal match:	waived	
Status:	In progress		

Description: This task specifically supports the development and dissemination of an annual State of the Reef Report. The primary intended audience of this report is the CNMI public. Although the report will also be distributed to NOAA, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other interested parties outside of the CNMI, the purpose of the report is to raise awareness of the importance and threats to coral reef systems within CNMI and to fuel support for coral reef protection. The report will be made available via the CRM web site and on CD ROM.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Annual “State of the Reef Report”
 - Associated CD ROM
 - Web access to the Report
 - Summaries of Guam-CNMI collaborative meetings
 - Description and work plan for Coral Reef Atlas
 - Draft Coral Reef Atlas

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by disseminating an annual State of the Reef report, which will raise awareness among the general public and federal partners on the importance of and threats to CNMI's coral reefs.

B-2002-3g

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Envisioning Community Potential, Support, and Involvement in Protecting Marine Resources
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$38,000
Federal amount granted: \$38,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The goal of this project is to fund the dissemination of information to a wider audience of stakeholders, to foster inclusion of a diversity of users, and to synthesize the diversity of ideas gathered to form a community-based management and protection effort. This is accomplished through arranged meetings with commercial interests, formal public meetings, and public notice through a variety of media sources (TV, radio, press). In conjunction with these meetings and workshops, the currently inactive DFW web site will be revitalized to provide an additional forum of public dissemination and discussion. The web site will include the rules and regulations governing MPAs and regulating other marine resources, public notices, downloadable and printable pamphlets, answers to frequently asked questions, no charge permit and license application forms, and a discussion area.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Public outreach and educational materials
- Working 'Hot list' of concerns and issues of underrepresented parties
- Brochures about MPAs and specific to each MPA, including Bird Island, Forbidden Island sanctuaries
- Capacity to meet with and provide materials in Japanese, Tagalog, and Mandarin
- Brochures in Japanese, Tagalog, and Mandarin
- Two (2) interpretive signs at both Bird Island and Forbidden Island
- Education of a wider audience incorporating questions and concerns held by that audience
- Public outreach and activities, educational materials, and a working 'Hot list' of concerns and issues for differing users
- Development of a community-based collaborative management plan
- Establishment of a CNMI MPA website
- Downloadable brochures and rules and regulations for each of the MPA's in the CNMI

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by improving public awareness and assisting with the development of community based collaborative management plans. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by developing and disseminating

outreach materials in various languages to educate a wide audience about coral reef conservation issues.

B-2002-3h

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Community Involvement In Coral Education and Management
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
Federal amount granted: \$30,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This task provides for approximately three small grants to support coral reef education enhancement activities within the CNMI education system. It also provides funding for at least three paid summer internships with resource management agencies for CNMI post-secondary students. Small grants are made available on a competitive basis for the enhancement of coral reef education within the CNMI educational system. These small grants are targeted at the middle schools and high schools and may support such activities as purchase of reference materials, printing costs associated with developing marine sciences curriculum, snorkeling gear, and laboratory equipment and supplies. The internship program provides students with a project-based summer internship involved in some aspects of marine resource management.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Call for proposals
- Grant proposals from CNMI schools
- Press release announcing awards
- Final awarded proposals
- Document assessing small grant impact
- Internship project descriptions
- Student applications
- Press release of awards
- Final reports from each internship's project
- Document assessing internship impact

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by getting local schools involved in projects that deal with the marine sciences so that students gain hands on experience in the field. It also allowed students to be interns in the natural resource management field so that they gain valuable work experience, and it may encourage them to choose marine science/management as a career path.

B-2002-3i

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant number: GR270103 (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Hiring Law Enforcement Officers
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$55,000

	Federal amount granted:	\$55,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: The proposed task supports the establishment of a new Marine Conservation and Enforcement Section through the hiring and support of new and existing employees. The Marine Conservation and Enforcement Section Supervisor is establishing a DFW Marine Conservation & Enforcement Section, overseeing the day-to-day enforcement of rules and regulations protecting the CNMI's aquatic resources, and purchasing any equipment needed to do the job. In addition, the Supervisor is coordinating efforts with Department of Lands and Natural Resources enforcement staff on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as law enforcement officers of the Department of Public Safety (Boating & Police), the Commonwealth Port Authority, and the Division of Customs. The newly hired Marine Conservation & Enforcement Officers are enforcing the rules and regulations relative to marine protected resources. Regulatory and policy personnel are preparing, revising, and promulgating rules and regulations and preparing, revising and beginning implementation of management plans for all MPAs in the CNMI under the guidance of the Planning Section. The Marine Conservation and Enforcement Section Supervisor, in conjunction with the DFW Planning Section and the Attorney Generals Office, is developing standard operating procedures.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- One (1) full time employee
- Two (2) part-time employees
- Staff, training, and materials in place to enforce the rules and regulations citations, seizures of property, and cease and desist orders

Performance Criteria: This project enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by hiring three new enforcement staff who can oversee the day-to-day enforcement of rules and regulations protecting the CNMI's aquatic resources, and by purchasing equipment needed to do the job.

B-2002-4a

Grantee:	Division of Aquatic Resources State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources	
Grant number:	GR270103	
Project Title:	Implementing A Framework for Hawaii's Marine Protected Areas	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	Hawaii	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$60,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$60,000
	Non-Federal match:	\$71,774
Status:	In progress	

Description: Activity 1: Develop a model collaborative approach for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to use to implement a marine protected area (MPA) where there is a community interested in assisting the State. Activity 2: Assist in finalizing a) a new classification system with several categories of marine protected areas; b) evaluation criteria to determine the suitability of existing MPAs for re-designation as one of the new categories, and c) a strategic plan for MPAs statewide based in part on the criteria. Activity 3: Assist in responding to a question by a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources regarding the extent to

which commercial snorkel and dive tours can be accommodated in State MPAs. Activity 4: Assist in the development of an informational brochure about marine protected areas. The brochure will be broadly distributed to the public.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project provides funds for the:

- Development of community-based methods to help the State monitor, maintain, and enforce the Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCD) as well as to educate the public regarding the MLCD rules and resources
- Development of a guidebook of these approaches that can be used by other interested communities to initiate additional community programs in other sites
- Development of an implementation strategy to guide DLNR in implementing the new MLCD rules at Wai Opae Tidepools in concert with the community
- Identification of which types of management activities may require action by other agencies (e.g. abatement of land-based pollution), or the adjacent community (e.g. public access management due to the only access to MLCD being via private roads)
- Development of and/or coordination of monitoring and management activities
- Development of an MPA brochure related to existing marine protected areas and the proposed new categories and evaluation criteria
- Identification of legal mechanisms in Hawaii that allow the restriction of one or more types of commercial activities on state land or waters
- Development of an informational brochure about marine protected areas

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by developing a guidebook for communities to use to establish, monitor, maintain and enforce, MLCDs. This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by developing an implementation strategy to guide DLNR in implementing the new MLCD rules at Wai Opae Tidepools in concert with the community. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by developing an implementation strategy to guide DLNR in implementing the new MLCD rules at Wai Opae Tidepools in concert with the community. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by the development of an MPA brochure related to existing marine protected areas and the proposed new categories and evaluation criteria.

B-2002-4b

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Operational and Travel Support
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
 Federal amount granted: \$30,000
 Non-Federal match: \$37,800
 Status: In progress

Description: In an effort to upgrade coordination and communication in the region, these funds are to be used to support travel to workshops and conferences that will assist managers in coral resource management efforts. These funds also support travel to the bi-annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings and for U.S. All Islands Coordinating Committee meetings. As operational support, GIS staff activities include coordination with all coral reef researchers to ensure meta data and spatial data are incorporated in to the State GIS system. The staff GIS specialist will also record and map data from marine debris removal efforts underway in the main Hawaiian Islands, record GPS coordinates of all Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) statewide, and map legal regimes for different zones within each FMA.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Travel to workshops and conferences regarding coral resource management efforts
- Travel to the bi-annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings and for U.S. All Islands Coordinating Committee meetings
- Coral reef research meta data and spatial data to be incorporated into the State GIS system record as well as map data from marine debris removal efforts underway in the main Hawaiian Islands.
- Recording of GPS coordinates of all Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) statewide
- Mapping of legal regime for different zones within each FMA

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing a means for managers to attend meeting where information is exchanged and ideas are fostered that can assist with the development and implementation of projects. This project mapped the location and distribution of coral reefs by recording GIS coordinates of all FMAs statewide and mapping legal regimes for different zones within each FMA.

B-2002-4c

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
 State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources
 Grant number: NA16OZ2441
 Project Title: Feeding Interactions of the Introduced Blue-line Snapper with Important Native Fishery Species in Hawaiian Coral Reef Habitats
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
 Federal amount granted: \$50,000
 Non-Federal match: \$13,200 (remainder waived)
 Status: In progress

Description: This project addresses significant questions regarding the direct diet interactions between introduced and native reef species, including (1) predation by the introduced taape on important native species or vice versa, and (2) closely similar feeding together on a common diet that can result in food competition that reduces nutrition of the competitors. This project proposes to investigate both trophic possibilities and assess the seriousness of such effects by examining and comparing the diets of taape and some important native fishery species that occur closely and commonly enough in the same habitats and use these habitats in such ways as to provide good opportunities for quantitatively important levels of such interactions.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Contract with researchers.
- Selection of native fish species and sites for collection
- Update/enlarge reference materials (incl. computer files)
- Collection of specimens and additional invertebrate reference materials (as required)
- Set of data system
- Control and input data to computer storage
- Submit progress report
- Incorporate existing relevant data and develop analytical structure
- Final report from year one data analysis and findings

Performance Criteria: This project developed sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by investigating interactions between the introduced and native reef species.

B-2002-4d

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Coral Reef Outreach Materials Development

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$35,000
Federal amount granted: \$35,000
Non-Federal match: \$25,000

Status: In progress

Description: Funds are used to develop additional materials to raise awareness about coral reefs to targeted audiences. Production was based on the strategic outreach plan developed in FY 2001. The outreach campaign and plan identify numerous potential materials that can be developed further. Storyboards for public service announcements and print ads are designed and produced. This is a coordinated campaign designed with input from numerous partners.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Design and produce outreach materials for summer distribution targeting Hawaiian canoe clubs; Host training session for members to participate in coral spawning events
- Design and produce radio and print and place in appropriate venues
- Summarize coverage of outreach materials and awareness campaign

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by designing and producing

storyboards for public service announcements and print ads that address coral reef conservation issues.

B-2002-4e

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Community-Based Management/Monitoring and Education Initiatives

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$78,750
Federal amount granted: \$78,750
Non-Federal match: \$78,750

Status: In progress

Description: Communities in Hawaii are clamoring to become involved in providing input on resource management. The State is actively seeking means to catalyze this interest and to provide a mechanism to educate the public about its unique and valuable resource, the coral reefs. This project offers small matching grants to community groups to provide them with the incentives they need to implement community projects, and provides the State with a means to support these initiatives.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Award contract to CZM-Hawaii to initiate grants program
- Prepare and advertise availability of community-based management grants.
- Select projects meeting proposal guidelines
- Initiate grants awards process via contracts
- Award contracts to selected grantees
- Monitor projects and prepare mid-term report on progress
- Receive final reports from grantees.
- Complete community-based management projects

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by empowering communities to develop and implement local projects to protect coral reefs. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by offering small matching grants to community groups who are interesting in implementing coral reef conservation projects. This project developed and implemented cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems by providing match funding to community based groups who develop and implement conservation programs.

B-2002-4f

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Integrated GIS and Database System Designed to Identify Gaps in Marine Protection.

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$65,000
 Federal amount granted: \$65,000
 Non-Federal match: \$75,000
 Status: In progress

Description: The primary objective of this project is to conduct a gap analysis of marine and coastal ecosystems to determine the types of habitat areas and species assemblages not currently within Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in order to inform the State of resources and representative habitat types that might be considered potentially for protection. Site selection of proposed MPA's will be based on a comprehensive approach in which biological selection criteria such as degree of representation of key habitats and species are the primary factor. This effort will be coordinated with other ongoing coral reef mapping and monitoring programs sponsored by NOAA.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Award contract for Marine GAP Coordinator
- Host workshop to obtain input for data layers for other counties
- Collect additional data layers.
- Provide preliminary analysis of Maui county
- Finalize preliminary enhanced marine stewardship dataset statewide
- Refined Data System Structure

Performance Criteria: This project mapped the location and distribution of coral reefs by conducting a gap analysis of marine and coastal ecosystems using GIS data layers.

B-2002-4g

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
 State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources
 Grant number: NA16OZ2441
 Project Title: Creating a Better Understanding of Benefits and Costs of Marine Protected Areas Management in Hawaii
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$20,000
 Federal amount granted: \$20,000
 Non-Federal match: \$20,000
 Status: In progress

Description: One of the overall goals of this study is to determine the economic costs and benefits of MPAs to assist in decision-making for a concerted effort to justify designation of additional sites. Another is to determine the feasibility of institutionalizing a user fee to assist the resource management agency in actively managing these sites. Data from this study will provide the foundation for recommending changes to management strategies and possibly considering the implementation of a user fee.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Award contract
- Select sites and develop inception report
- Subcontract data collection and sub-consultants
- Organize 'kick off' meeting to ensure resource agencies are on board
- Initiate interviews with key informants and analyze data

- Initiate survey and user questionnaire (2 seasons)
- Develop management scenarios and report on initial scenarios
- Design model output and analyze
- Initiate economic valuation of MPAs
- Assess sustainable financing options
- Draft report, and present obtain comments on draft results and recommendations
- Host seminar at UH to present draft results
- Publish final report and disseminate

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing managers with a cost/benefit analysis of MPAs so that they may consider the implementation of a user fee to help fund management of the sites. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by publishing the results of the study.

B-2002-4h

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
 State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Support for Coordination Between Watersheds for Implementation of the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Local Action Strategy (LAS)

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$4,705
 Federal amount granted: \$4,705
 Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: A draft of the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Local Action Strategy (LAS) has been developed and needs to be circulated to the key stakeholders. Three watersheds on three islands have been selected as priority watersheds for this strategy. They are: Honolua Bay, Maui, Kamalo, Molokai, and Hanalei, Kauai. In each site there are projects already ongoing and additional actions proposed. There is a need to: 1) continue to coordinate between the key stakeholders in these three watersheds, and 2) bring the key partners together to compare successes and challenges. In addition, once the LAS is completed, there will be a need to develop a brochure which outlines key elements of the LAS and to distribute this widely throughout the State to inform interested parties in other watersheds about what is planned.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Circulation of draft Land-Based Sources of Pollution LAS and development of LAS brochure

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by bringing key stakeholders together to exchange information on successes and challenges in individual projects. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by developing a brochure, which outlines key elements of the LAS to distribute throughout the State.

B-2002-4i

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Support for Stakeholder involvement in the Coral Reef LAS

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$5,000
Federal amount granted: \$5,000
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The steering committee, which is in the process of developing the Coral Reef Fisheries Local Action Strategy (LAS), hosted a workshop in November 2003 to obtain additional input into the development of this LAS. A series of roundtable meetings with stakeholders has already been held in 6 locations throughout the State. There is a critical need to ensure that key stakeholders are able to attend and are vested in the development of the final LAS. To ensure this, funds will provide transportation for 25 individuals, including DLNR staff and key fishermen, to attend the workshop.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Transportation for 25 individuals, including DLNR staff and key fishermen, to attend the workshop.

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by funding key stakeholders to attend roundtable meetings to develop a LAS.

B-2002-4j

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Depart of Land & Natural Resources

Grant number: NA16OZ2441

Project Title: Implementation of Lack of Public Awareness LAS

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$11,545
Federal amount granted: \$11,545
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The Lack of Public Awareness LAS has been developed and is in the implementation phase. DLNR and its partners, including Hawaii Coastal Zone Management, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Nature Conservancy, University of Hawaii Sea Grant, NOAA-Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative Research Program, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, have jointly raised funds to develop most of the materials, a web site, and media packets needed to launch this campaign, called the "Living Reef Program". Additional funds are needed to pay for airtime for the TV and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Every effort will

be made to work with the radio and TV stations to negotiate the airing of the PSAs in such a manner where primetime is paid for and the stations provide additional airtime during non-prime hours as match. Additional sponsors are also being sought to pay for airtime. The campaign is set to launch in early 2004 and funds will be used to cover airtime from the launch through the first six months of the campaign. Funds will most likely be used for radio airtime, which runs at approximately \$2,000/month.

Product(s)/Outcomes: TV and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by supporting airtime for the TV and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to promote the Living Reef Program.

B-2002-5a

Grantee: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA16OZ2439
Project Title: East End Marine Park (EEMP) Navigational, Boundary, and Zoning marking system and Marine Park Office/ Visitor Center
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$400,000
Federal amount granted: \$355,000
Non-federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Funding supports the implementation of an effective navigational, boundary, and zoning marking system for boaters and other resource users within the park to address recreational impacts. This grant will also result in the establishment of a Marine Park Office and Visitors' Center at Cramer's Park on the East End of St. Croix. An existing 1,200 square foot unused government-owned structure is being refurbished and interpretive boards are being placed to identify park boundaries and use zones, the rationale for the park, and identification of key species and systems that the park is designed to protect and enhance. This funding also supports all or part of the salaries for the following positions: marine park coordinator, marine biologist/manager, enforcement officer, park interpreter, and one administrative staff.

Products/ Outcomes: In coordination with the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, the implementation of a navigational, boundary and zoning marking system in the EEMP that is complimentary to that of the surrounding park service areas. All funded positions are to be filled, the park office and visitor's center is to be completed, and the navigational and zoning marking system will be in place.

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation, and promotes ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs by providing interpretive signage, a visitor's center for the public and a navigational marking system for the EEMP of St. Croix.

B-2002-6a

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
Project Title: Land Use Change Analysis

Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$63,000
 Federal amount granted: \$63,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: This project supports the development of land-use GIS layers for the Northeastern coast and the Culebra and Vieques islands watersheds. It provides a much needed planning approach to watershed conservation and development. Land-use change analysis is an important tool to recognize direct and cumulative impacts on coral reefs. Land use changes will be analyzed by means of 1999 aerial photos and the retrospective analysis of previous aerial photos.

Products/ Outcomes: Completed analyses for Culebra and Vieques

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems by providing information on land-use change and how it has affected coral reefs in Puerto Rico.

B-2002-6b

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
 Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
 Project Title: Training of Personnel
 Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$12,500
 Federal amount granted: \$12,500
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: This project funds two workshops. The first is a workshop to provide knowledge on characterization and monitoring skills to new coastal managers and to improve and refine skills of previously trained managers and technicians, and the second is a workshop for rangers, coastal managers and other technicians on the official 2002 vessel grounding protocol.

Products/ Outcomes: Two completed workshops, and the resulting application of newly acquired skills

Performance Criteria: This project addresses the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs by developing and implementing an official vessel grounding protocol for Puerto Rico. It develops and implements techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs by supporting a monitoring skills workshop.

B-2002-6c

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
 Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
 Project Title: Coral Reefs and Marine Related Associated Organisms Ecosystems Education Strategy
 Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$9,000

Federal amount granted: \$9,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project consists of the development of a series of brochures on coral reefs laws and regulations and targets specific audiences: boat owners, marina owners, fishermen, tour operators and the coastal community at large. The objectives are: 1) to educate targeted stakeholders who use and benefit from healthy coral reef ecosystems as well as those who may potentially impact coral reefs, and 2) to prepare two new brochures incorporating information related to laws and regulations as well as general information about coral reefs. Approximately 12,000 copies of these full-color brochures will be printed in Spanish and distributed.

Products/ Outcomes: Brochures have been developed and are ready for printing. 12,000 copies of two different brochures will be completed and distributed to targeted audiences.

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by developing and distributing informational materials to targeted stakeholder groups.

B-2002-6d

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
Project Title: Identification of “Hot Spots” and Installation of Coral Reef Signage
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$44,500
Federal amount granted: \$44,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project takes information resulting from an Island-wide survey of marine related boating and anchoring “hot-spots” and uses it to identify areas for priority action. Hot spots are selected based on high use and coral conditions. After these areas are identified, signage, markers and buoys are provided to promote and optimize use of critical coral reef and related ecosystems. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard to include installed buoys in nautical charts and in other Coast Guard data.

Products/ Outcomes: Installation of buoys and signage for the nautical community in identified hot-spots.

Performance Criteria: This project promotes ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs by providing a buoy and marker system in priority coral reef areas.

B-2002-6e

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
Project Title: Information Synthesis and Data Management
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$19,000
Federal amount granted: \$19,000

Status: Non-Federal match: \$10,000 (remainder waived)
In progress

Description: This project establishes a permanent data management center of coral reef studies at the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER). This center will receive, compile and make available results from initial reef characterization and long term monitoring studies. All information produced by Coastal Zone Management and Coral Reef Initiative supported tasks are to be integrated at the center and used routinely by scientists, technicians, analysts and decision makers. The project will produce a web page (www.coralpr.net) where all relevant data, information and products of the Coastal Zone Management and Coral Reef Initiative will be posted.

Products/ Outcomes: Products from all coral reef projects are stored and maintained at the Coastal Zone Division GIS node. A functional website.

Performance Criteria: This project develops a system which organizes scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems.

B-2002-6f

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA16OZ2438
Project Title: Coral Reef Initiative General Administration
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$62,000
Federal amount granted: \$62,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project supports a coral reef coordinator position. The coordinator has the primary responsibility for all of the tasks of Puerto Rico's Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) program including: assembling the information for semi-annual progress reports, organizing meetings with coastal managers, biologists, agencies, researchers and other stakeholders and developing a network of information centers for CRI activities and public education and outreach.

Products/ Outcomes: Coordinator in place at DPNR working to coordinate all PR-CRI activities.

Performance Criteria: This project will support PR-DPNR's efforts to implement coral conservation programs that promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs.

B-2002-7

Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant Number: NA16OZ2440
Project Title: Development of GIS Maps and an Action Plan for Southeast Florida Coral Reefs
Region: Atlantic
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$400,000
Federal amount granted: \$360,000

Status: Non-federal match : \$360,000
 In progress

Description: This project maps coral reef and other benthic habitats found off of Broward County and the very Northern portion of Dade County using high-resolution, shipborne acoustic bottom classification. The area covers approximately 95 square kilometers. The habitat data collected is being classified according to NOAA established guidelines. The development of an action plan for Southeast Florida coral reefs will also result from this project. First, an interagency core group consisting of all agencies with direct jurisdictional responsibilities over Southeast Florida coral reefs will collectively draft a set of management issues for which actions are to be developed. Management alternatives and preferred management actions will then be developed within facilitated stakeholder workshops bringing together county, state, federal, non-governmental environmental groups and industry representatives. Both hardcopy and internet-based education and outreach materials will be developed to educate the general public on the ecological and economic value of southeast Florida reefs and to solicit participation in management planning.

Products/ Outcomes: Draft local action strategy for Southeast Florida reefs is complete. Expected completion and implementation of local action strategy. Benthic habitat maps of Southeast Florida reefs.

Performance Criteria: This project maps the location and distribution of coral reefs; increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation; and promotes the implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and others in the private sector by involving these different stakeholders in a process to develop local action strategies to manage Southeast Florida reefs.

C. International Coral Reef Conservation Grants

C-2002-1

Grantee: Center for Marine and Coastal Resource Studies, Gedung Marine Center
 Grant number: NA03NOS4630028
 Project Title: Evaluating Management Effectiveness of two Indonesian MPA's:
 Incorporating Science & Participation
 Region: International/Southeast Asia
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$22,000
 Federal amount granted: \$32,000
 Non-Federal match: \$28,790 (remainder waived)
 Status: Project is in progress but transfer of funds is still pending

Description: This project is pilot testing the recently developed World Commission on Protected Area management effectiveness guidelines and indicators at two Indonesian sites, Bunaken National Park in North Sulawesi and Sebesi Island Marine Sanctuary in South Sumatra. It is investigating the roles and limitations of scientific and participatory processes in the design and implementation of MPA management evaluations. The project is also contributing to and improving the existing tools for measuring management effectiveness of MPAs by developing some guidelines for how to incorporate both science and participation into management

evaluations. Stakeholder awareness and the capacity to manage at the two tropical MPAs will be increased.

Product(s) /Outcomes: Analytical document on appropriateness of the World Commission on Protected Areas. Marine guidelines for measuring management effectiveness at two Indonesian sites

Performance Criteria: This project is implementing coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by assessing the effectiveness of management plans in Indonesia. The results of this project will contribute towards the improvement of management of the Bunaken National Park in North Sulawesi, and Sebesi Island Marine Sanctuary in South Sumatra.

C-2002-2

Grantee: Yayasan Adi Citra Lestari
Grant number: NA03NOS4630019
Project Title: Coral Reef Survey & Monitoring for Management in Central Sulawesi
Region: International/Southeast Asia
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
Federal amount granted: \$24,200
Non-Federal match: \$29,026
Status: In progress

Description: This project is conducting coral reef survey and monitoring at eight sites in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia giving priority to sites in MPAs or proposed MPAs. Current and new volunteers are using Reef Check and Manta Tow monitoring methodologies and final data will be submitted to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and to the local government for management purposes.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Increased survey and data collection skills; training materials; monitoring reports

Performance Criteria: This project is developing and implementing techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs at eight sites in Central Sulawesi. Increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation is being achieved by involving volunteers in the project. The project is promoting implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and others in the private sector. The final monitoring report will contribute towards improved management of MPAs in Indonesia.

C-2002-3

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society
Grant number: NA16FZ2898
Project Title: A Program of Scientific/Technical Support to Advance Development of a No-Take Reserve Network for the Bahamas
Region: International/Atlantic-Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$39,080
Federal amount granted: \$35,000
Non-Federal match: \$68,500

Status: In progress

Description: The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is providing the government of Bahamas scientific and technical assistance that will result in the full establishment of the first five no-take marine reserves of the government's planned network. WCS is providing an enhanced program of scientific and technical assistance and support to the Department of Fisheries. In addition, this project is increasing the capacity of the Fisheries Department to plan, implement, and manage the developing network.

Product(s)/Outcomes: (1) Final siting and boundaries formally approved and adopted for all five Reserves; (2) management plans completed and implemented for all five reserves; (3) enhanced capacity of the Fisheries Dept. to carry out a long-term coral reef monitoring program at multiple sites; (4) Final Project Report, documenting achievements, summarizing lessons learned, and outlining recommendations for continued expansion of the Bahamas marine reserve network.

Performance Criteria: This project is implementing coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by contributing to the development of a marine reserves network in the Bahamas and increasing the capacity of the Bahamas Fisheries Officers to plan and manage marine reserves. The project is developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems by monitoring all five designated reserves. Increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation will be achieved by conducting a Marine Reserve community outreach workshop in Nassau. This project is making significant contributions towards the full establishment of the first five no-take reserves of Bahamas' planned network.

C-2002-4

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund
Grant number: NA16FZ2899
Project Title: Marine Protected Areas: Making the Case for No-Takes
Region: International/Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
Federal amount granted: \$35,000
Non-Federal match: \$35,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project is focusing on the development of a region-specific public awareness campaign, in English and Spanish, promoting the benefits of "no-take zones" within marine protected areas in the Mesoamerican reef system. The project is targeting key stakeholders, fishermen and policy-makers for example, and is consisting of three phases: research and development of materials, review of materials and development of strategy using focus group meetings, and implementation of at least three focal seminars.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Stakeholders, including fishermen and policy makers, who are informed about the benefits of marine reserves and about how to approach other stakeholders to gain their support; educational materials about marine reserves in Belize; potential for expansion of marine no-take zones.

Performance Criteria: This project is implementing coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by contributing to awareness program about the benefits of marine reserves in Belize. Increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation is being achieved by conducting community outreach workshops and publicity campaigns. The project is also promoting and assisting implementing of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and others in the private sector. This project is making significant progress towards the acceptance of marine reserves in Belize by fishermen, cooperative leaders, and government agencies.

C-2002-5

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund
 Grant number: NA16FZ2900
 Project Title: Testing Management Effectiveness Guidelines in 3 MPAs in the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef
 Region: International/Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
 Federal amount granted: \$40,000
 Non-Federal match: \$40,000
 Status: In progress

Description: This project is testing the World Commission on Protected Areas/World Wildlife Fund methodology for assessing management effectiveness in three Marine Protected Areas in the Mesoamerican coral reef ecoregion. World Wildlife Fund is testing the usefulness and applicability of the methodology and will determine if the indicators provide the key elements to assess MPA management effectiveness. The selected sites for the project are: Mexico's Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve, and Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Belize. The results will be used to adjust and redirect the management strategies of the areas. The results will be shared with WCPA, WWF and ICRAN to improve upon the guidelines and disseminate the experience.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Site evaluators who will be trained in the WCPA/WWF methodology for assessing management effectiveness; reports of case studies and evaluations for each of the three sites; documented lessons learned

Performance Criteria: This project is implementing coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing MPAs with information about the effectiveness of their goals and objectives. The project is also promoting and assisting in implementing cooperative coral reef conservation that involves affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and others in the private sector. This is being achieved by involving local NGOs and marine authorities, and other regional and international NGOs. This project is making significant contributions towards the management of the three MPAs by providing information about strengths and weaknesses that can be used to formulate adaptive management strategies.

C-2002-6

Grantee: Reef Check Foundation Europe
 Grant number: NA03NOS4630021

Project Title: Reef Check Community-based Biophysical and Socio-economic Monitoring in East Africa
 Region: International/Indian Ocean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$33,000
 Federal amount granted: \$24,200
 Non-Federal match: \$28,850
 Status: In progress

Description: Reef Check Foundation-Europe is establishing a Reef Check coral reef monitoring team in Kenya and strengthening the existing team in Tanzania by training and certifying Reef Check trainers who will continue coral reef monitoring activities with new volunteers in their respective areas. The teams are conducting 20 reef surveys during the project year and will submit the final data to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Results will also be disseminated to local and regional managers.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Twenty-five trained Reef Check trainers; bio-physical and socio-economic data report to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

Performance Criteria: This project is implementing programs to increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by training 25 divers to conduct bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring, and promoting a sense of stewardship towards local coral reef resources. This project is the start of volunteer diver monitoring in East Africa and it will be used as an entry level method for communities wishing to monitor and manage their own reefs. The end result will promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of local coral reefs.

C-2002-7

Grantee: Coastal Dynamics Foundation
 Grant number: NA03NOS4630024
 Project Title: Value of Socioeconomics in Establishment of MPA in Mactan and Olango Islands, Philippines
 Region: International/Southeast Asia
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$39,900
 Federal amount granted: \$32,600
 Non-Federal match: \$56,750
 Status: In progress

Description: Coastal Dynamics Foundation is providing coral reef and socioeconomic assessment and monitoring in Maribago Marine Park (Lapu Lapu City, Philippines), which contains 85 hectares of highly accessible, valuable and diverse coral reefs. This integrated monitoring approach will strengthen local reef management and monitoring capabilities.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Increased capacity of local government personnel and volunteers in conducting socio-economic and biophysical monitoring; documented recommendations for use in management planning of the Maribago Marine Park.

Performance Criteria: This project implements and increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by training volunteers and local agency personnel to conduct bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring, and by promoting a sense of stewardship towards local coral reef resources. The end result will promote

sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of local coral reefs. The Maribago Marine Park has great economic importance in terms of recreational diving and coastal tourism and it was chosen by the local government as a pilot area for obtaining local support and acceptance for establishing MPAs. This project is facilitating this acceptance and providing encouraging results that can help establish MPAs in other coastal sections of the city.

C-2002-8

Grantee: Marine & Environment Resources Foundation
 Grant number: NA03NOS4630003
 Project Title: Collaborative Bio-physical and Socio-Economic Monitoring Towards Adaptive Management of Coral Reefs in the Philippines.
 Region: International/Southeast Asia
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,900
 Federal amount granted: \$37,000
 Non-Federal match: \$13,500 (remainder waived)
 Status: In progress

Description: This project aims to make the reef monitoring systems used by the Philippines' National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) more compatible with those of mainstream Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Reef Check monitoring systems. Activities upgrade the skills of Philippines' NIPAS field personnel and Sabah Parks personnel in bio-physical and basic socioeconomic reef monitoring and collect data at high priority Philippine NIPAS sites. The project will set-up a feedback system wherein monitoring data is used in management.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Increased capacity of local government personnel in conducting socio-economic and biophysical monitoring; monitoring databases that are compatible with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Reef Check and Reef Base; socio-economic monitoring data of Puerto Galera Biosphere Reserve

Performance Criteria: This project supports coral reef conservation programs that promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring data that can be used to strengthen management. This project also implements techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs in the Philippines. It will integrate reef monitoring and evaluation into multi-sectoral, participatory adaptive management activities.

C-2002-9

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund
 Grant number: NA03NOS4630005
 Project Title: Development of a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network for Solomon Islands
 Region: International/Pacific
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$39,487
 Federal amount granted: \$40,000
 Non-Federal match: \$30,683 (remainder waived)
 Status: In progress

Description: This project coordinates the development of a national coral reef monitoring network for Solomon Islands. The key to success will be the creation of a stakeholder coral reef

task force as well as capacity building of Solomon Islanders in Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network participatory monitoring techniques. Data is being gathered from representative sites around the country, collated in a central database, distributed to key stakeholders, and made available to marine management practitioners and researchers.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A central database of biophysical monitoring data that will be compatible with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and available to key stakeholders and decision makers.

Performance Criteria: This project supports coral reef conservation programs that promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing bio-physical data that can be used to strengthen management. This project also implements techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs in the Solomon Islands. A national monitoring network will set the foundation for the development of a national coral reef management strategy and will underpin national biodiversity strategy plans and marine resource management policy.

D. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

D-2002-1

Grantee:	Western Pacific Fishery Management Council	
Grant number:	97FC190	
Project Title:	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Ecosystem resources and Habitat	
Region:	Pacific	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$750,000
	Federal amount granted	\$750,000
	Non-Federal match	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: The project involves support for a reef fish stock assessment workshop; funding for staff personnel; participation in public hearings and other coral reef related meetings; the development of educational materials on ecosystem management and sustainable fisheries; an analysis of fisheries survey data from the Mariana Islands RAIOMA study; and a CNMI mapping project. The Council, in collaboration with University of California and CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife, is mapping deep slope coral banks around Faallon de Mendilla and two additional banks adjacent to Saipan.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Educational displays, monthly publication, report on history of fisheries around the main Hawaiian Islands, GIS database and maps.

Performance Criteria: This project will help address conflicts arising from coral reef fisheries and other uses through improved education, participation in public meetings, and workshops highlighting the importance of ecosystem-based management. One component will involve mapping and characterization of deep banks around CNMI.

D-2002-2

Grantee: Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Grant number: NA17FC2204
Project Title: Mapping and Characterization of Coral Reef Areas in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$250,000
Federal amount granted: \$250,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The project assesses the status of critical habitat within the U.S. EEZ around the Marine Conservation District off the coast of St. Thomas, USVI; Lang Bank off the east of St. Croix; and Mutton Snapper spawning area off southwest St. Croix, USVI. The sea floor will be mapped using multi-beam surveys and side scan sonar.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Back scatter raw data; geotiff file of terrain-corrected backscatter strength mosaic; bottom habitat classification of areas in Arc View; maps in hard copy and digital format

Performance Criteria: This project produces bathymetric maps of coral reef areas in the U.S. EEZ off the USVI where known snapper and grouper spawning aggregations occur. These data provide precise, high-resolution depth information and side scan information over coral formations known to be critical habitat for commercially important reef fishes. The results from this project will assist the Caribbean Fishery Management Council in enhancing protection and management of fishery resources within three fishing reserves in the U.S. EEZ.

D-2002-3

Grantee: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Grant number: NA17FC2203
Project Title: Management of Fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$250,000
Federal amount granted: \$250,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The Council is characterizing the habitat of Pulley's Ridge and the Florida Middle Grounds through mapping, aerial photography and video and still images of resident communities, and is completing multi-beam surveys of the Madison-Swanson MPPA and the adjacent Twin Ridges Contract Area. Within Pulley's Ridge, most of the effort involves development of baseline information on the extent of particular habitat types and community composition, while the Middle Grounds efforts are focused on monitoring and assessment to evaluate change in the area over the last 25 years.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Maps, aerial photographs and satellite imagery, GIS database, and a report.

Performance Criteria: This project involves mapping and ground-truthing important fishery areas to enhance habitat characterization of the west Florida shelf and support effective

management of fishery resources in the area. Developing habitat characterizations of these areas is critical to understanding possible changes that may occur in an area of expanding coastal development and offshore oil and gas exploration.

D-2002-4

Grantee: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)
Grant number: NA17FC2202
Project Title: NOAA CRG 2002 Coral and Live/Hard Bottom Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) and Essential Fish Habitats - HAPCs
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$250,000
Federal amount granted: \$250,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The SAFMC is conducting three activities that focus on mapping and characterizing bottom communities; developing and implementing artificial reefs and artificial refugia to offset economic and social impacts from closing coral areas to fishing; and making data, maps and visual images available to the public through the internet. The SAFMC is developing a website with bottom-type data, mapping capabilities and program information for coral and live bottom habitats in the South Atlantic EEZ. They are also expanding their GIS capabilities through new hardware, training and integration of new data sets that will assist in identifying, describing, mapping and protecting EFH and supporting the development of deepwater MPAs. The Council has partnered with South Carolina State to examine the feasibility of using artificial reef materials as an experimental MPA; during the current project, they are conducting research on recruitment growth and establishment of fish assemblages around the structures deployed in FY01. Finally, they are partnering with the National Undersea Research Program to begin multi-beam mapping of the outer continental shelf and slope from Cape Hatteras to Cape Canaveral.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Interactive web site, GIS database and maps, photography and video of coral resources and EFH.

Performance Criteria: The project supports research and provides tools necessary for the conservation and management of south Atlantic coral resources. The project will enhance compliance with laws, increase public knowledge of coral reef ecosystems, map and characterize the location and distribution of coral reefs, and reduce conflicts among stakeholders.

E. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grants

E-2002-1

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260023
Project Title: Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000

Federal amount granted: \$100,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The grants supports development of a comprehensive spatial assessment of the status and ecological impact of coral diseases in Puerto Rican coral ecosystems. Improved understanding of the extent and impact of diseases will help managers understand their relative threat to coral reef ecosystem health. Based on this understanding, managers can target their intervention.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce a report describing large-scale spatial trends in benthic cover and condition throughout southern Puerto Rico, as well as the islands of Culebra, Desecheo, and Mona. PRDNER will use this information to affect local resource management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project supports improved scientific understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Puerto Rico. In addition, it enhances the development and implementation of PRDNER's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-2

Grantee: US Virgin Islands, Dept of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260004
Project Title: Monitor Coral Reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000
Federal amount granted: \$100,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Past monitoring activities in the USVI supported by NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program focused on providing data for the Marine Parks Management Plan that was being planned for the east end of St. Croix. As a result, little information existed for the other extensive reef systems in the region. FY2002 monitoring was designed to fill these gaps in baseline data by developing a long-term program to systematically monitor cross-shelf characteristics reef ecosystems. This spatially stratified approach will allow resource managers of the Virgin Islands to evaluate and track the variable and synergistic impacts of natural and human-induced stress, and evaluate their relative roles in the decline or recovery of Caribbean coral reef systems.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial trends in benthic cover and condition along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. Data collected will be used by DPNR to assess the efficacy of coastal management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all US coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project improves scientific understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, this project enhances the development and

implementation of DPNR's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-3

Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant number: NA03NOS4260045
Project Title: Expansion of Coral Reef evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs
Region: Atlantic
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$165,000
Federal amount granted: \$165,000
Non-Federal match: \$165,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project supports expansion of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Coral Reef Monitoring Project (initiated in 1996) northward to include Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. This will ensure that the State is monitoring coral reef condition along the entire extent of its coral reef ecosystems in a consistent and comprehensive manner. Monitoring quantifies changes in benthic cover and community structure over time, and elucidates the implications of rugosity and coral species diversity on the surrounding ecosystem.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce a report describing state-wide trends in benthic cover and condition throughout southern Florida. Data generated will be used by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP) and the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) to assess the efficacy of coastal management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all US coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project improves the scientific understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of southern Florida. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of FLDEP and FMRI's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-4

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources (DMWR)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260006
Project Title: American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000
Federal amount granted: \$100,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: American Samoa's DMWR supports a series of projects recommended by the local Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG). Based on an analysis of data collected during FY2000 and FY2001, the advisory group decided the following six activities represented American Samoa's priorities toward coral ecosystem management, and should be considered for funding under the coral reef conservation program: 1) Continued support to assess population dynamics and fishery characteristics for lobsters; 2) A comprehensive macro-algal survey and inventory for the Islands of Manua and Tutuila; 3) A survey of introduced species along the coast of Tutuila; 4)

Continued support for local “Reef Check” community monitoring activities; 5) Hiring of a biometrician to analyze the volumes of data being collected under this and other programs; and 6) Mapping benthic habitats using aerial photography and satellite imagery as a spatial framework for future coral reef conservation.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project has produced benthic habitat maps of Tutuila that are being used in ongoing coral ecosystem management activities. A series of reports will be developed describing the state of the lobster population and fishery, a comprehensive phycological characterization of the islands, and a full report of invasive species found in Tutuila. This information will be used by DMWR and CRAG to affect local resource management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information and improves the understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of American Samoa. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of DMWR and CRAG member techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-5

Grantee:	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	
Grant number:	NA03NOS4260043	
Project Title:	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY 2002	
Region:	Pacific	
Funding:	Federal funds requested:	\$99,934
	Federal amount granted:	\$99,934
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project supports assessment, inventory, and monitoring conducted by CNMI’s Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO). This monitoring program was established in 2000 with support from NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program. Monitoring activities, which include habitat assessments, mapping, and biological and water quality characterizations, focus on areas negatively impacted by anthropogenic activities and track changes in coral reef community structure (benthic and fishes) over time. FY2002 monitoring was conducted along the reef tracts of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Islands.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover and condition along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure and water quality at each of the monitored sites. This information will be used by CRMO to assess the efficacy of coastal management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information and improves understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the CNMI. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-6

Grantee:	Guam Department of Agriculture
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Grant number: NA03NOS4260022
 Project Title: Guam US Coral Reef Initiative Grant
 Region: Pacific
 Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000
 Federal amount granted: \$100,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: Guam’s Department of Agriculture was provided funding for a series of projects recommended by the local Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committees: 1) Monitoring the effectiveness of five newly established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to preserve food fish populations and corresponding habitats; 2) Quantifying spillover effects from MPAs on adjacent reef fisheries; and 3) Assessing the economic impacts of MPAs by determining the non-extractive value of targeted reef species.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The data generated from these efforts will provide information critical to understanding the effects of management action through MPA designation, and will also provide input for adaptive management of Guam’s coral reef resources. Reports will be written for each of the activities described above. These data also will contribute to the overall coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information and improved understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Guam. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-7

Grantee: Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)
 Grant number: NA03NOS4260055
 Project Title: FAS Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project
 Region: Pacific
 Funding: Federal funds requested: \$33,000
 Federal amount granted: \$33,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: This project initiated NOAA support of Palau’s program to assess, inventory, map, and monitor coral reef ecosystems. The goal is to build the internal capacity to maintain a long-term monitoring program based on scientifically defensible methods and protocols. Establishment of this program addresses local priority gaps and information needs for coral reef monitoring and assessment, and contributes to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce a report describing spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. This information will be used by PICRC to affect resource management throughout Palau and the greater Freely Associated States.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information and improved understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Palau. In addition, this project

enhances the development and implementation of local resource management agency techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2002-8

Grantee: State of Hawaii, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)
Grant number: NA160A1535
Project Title: Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$89,800
Federal amount granted: \$89,800
Non-Federal match: \$142,065
Status: In progress

Description: Funds granted to the State of Hawaii supported continuation of long-term regional coral reef ecosystem monitoring activities initiated in FY2001. The objective of this program is to achieve within Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) the capability to effectively monitor coral reef ecosystems, associated biological communities, and water quality under its jurisdiction using appropriate, comprehensive, and scientifically defensible methodologies. DAR is the agency solely responsible for management of all coral reef areas within State waters. Methodologies developed by DAR will be compatible with other State and Federal monitoring, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover and condition along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. In addition, the monitoring program report provides population trends in fishes impacted by the aquarium trade, which is very active in the region. All of this information will be used by DAR to affect local resource management.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information and improved understanding of the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the main 8 Hawaiian Islands. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of DAR's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

F. General Coral Reef Conservation Grants

F-2002-1

Grantee: University of Maine
Grant number: NA16FZ2965
Project Title: Role of Coralline Algae in Coral Recruitment
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$39,900
Federal amount granted: \$39,900
Non-Federal match: \$39,871 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: This project is quantifying the patterns of distribution and abundance of corals and algae within and outside of no-take areas and evaluating linkages between herbivory and coral recruitment. The project seeks to determine the importance of a circumtropical coralline algae as a biological nursery habitat for corals in the Caribbean and its role as a catalyst for coral settlement. Many Caribbean reefs have undergone a phase shift to macroalgae, which may have reduced the amount of area occupied by coralline algae, and hence reduced the potential for coral settlement. By combining an evaluation of herbivory within and outside MPAs, this project will determine the value of no-take areas in reducing macroalgae and improving coral settlement.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will enhance our understanding of the importance of coralline algae in terms of coral recruitment, and the linkages between herbivory and coral recruitment. The results of this study can provide the data necessary to support creation of additional MPAs, or possibly bioremediation projects to increase the abundance of coralline algae.

Performance Criteria: This project will contribute to long-term conservation of coral reefs and restoration of degraded areas by improving our understanding of the importance of coralline algae as a biological nursery habitat for settling corals. It will contribute to sound scientific information on the condition of coral reefs, and the ecological benefits and value of no-take MPAs in enhancing the recruitment and survival of important habitat forming corals.

F-2002-2

Grantee:	Republic of Palau, Division of Fish and Wildlife		
Grant number:	NA16FZ2967		
Project Title:	Improving Coral Reef Management and Enforcement in the Republic of Palau through Enhanced Monitoring, Coordination, and Education		
Region:	Pacific		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$31,000	
	Federal amount granted	\$31,000	
	Non-Federal match:	\$40,000	
Status:	In Progress		

Description: The project is promoting prudent management and sustainable use of coral reef resources in Palau by enhancing enforcement of coral reef laws and regulations and by increasing public knowledge and awareness of coral reefs and existing management measures through education and outreach activities. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has established a program to improve monitoring and reporting of violations by law enforcement targeted at illegal fishing activities and non-compliance, including the development of standardized forms for collection of information, a database for dissemination of these data, and enhanced training efforts for officers. Education and outreach activities are focusing on the development of coral reef pamphlets and a video on the cultural and ecological significance of coral reef resources and importance of compliance; and educational seminars and workshops for schools, legislators, traditional leaders, government agencies and NGOs.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Electronic database for dissemination of data on illegal fishing and other non-compliance violations; pamphlets and a video on coral reefs for the public; training program for State law enforcement officers

Performance Criteria: This project is enhancing compliance with existing laws through improved enforcement, training and capacity building for officers, dissemination of data to relevant agencies, and development of educational materials for local communities and other stakeholders. The project will also contribute to increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems, cultural and ecological significance of coral reef resources, and problems related to non-compliance of laws and regulations.

F-2002-3

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
Grant number: NA16FZ2963
Project Title: A Public Education and Outreach Campaign on Coral Reefs and Climate Change
Region: Atlantic/Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$55,000
Federal amount granted: \$55,000
Non-Federal match: \$55,000
Status: In progress

Description: NWF is collaborating with relevant agencies and NGOs to develop a set of targeted, interactive educational materials highlighting global climate change, its effects on coral reefs and dependent communities, and what can be done to mitigate these impacts. The kit will include an interactive CD-rom and video presentation; a display for conferences and trade shows, and species identification cards to help volunteer divers and snorkelers identify indicators of environmental health.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Products include: 1) an interactive CD-rom and video presentation on how coral reef ecosystems work; locations of reefs and their inhabitants; current threats; and actions people can take to protect coral reefs; 2) an interactive educational display to accompany the IMAX coral reef film "Coral Reef Adventure; and 3) underwater identification cards for divers and snorkelers.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by providing education and tools needed to understand global climate change and its effects on coral reefs.

F-2002-4

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund
Grant number: NA16FZ2966
Project Title: Enhancing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas and Coral Reef Species Conservation through Assessment of mycosporine like amino acids (MAA) Content in Populations and Species
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$23,420
Federal amount granted: \$23,420
Non-Federal match: \$28,681
Status: In progress

Description: WWF is working with local resource agencies in American Samoa to identify locations for MPAs that may be resistant and/or resilient to global climate change stresses. The

project involves an assessment of MAAs in three genera of corals, their role in preventing bleaching, and any linkages between MAA concentrations and dissolved organic material. While MAAs are known to protect organisms against harmful effects of UV, the relationships between MAA concentration and bleaching are unknown, and areas with higher DOM presumably are effected to a lesser degree by UV radiation. Hence, this study will provide data on differences in MAA concentrations during different times of the year (to evaluate differences among MAA concentrations and different temperature/light regimes) and in different locations, to improve the long-term effectiveness of MPAs by enhancing management strategies to include approaches in response to climate change.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A report on recommendations for MPA establishment and management

Performance Criteria: This project is contributing to the development of improved methods for protecting coral reef biodiversity and specific habitats by developing indicators for assessing marine protected area management effectiveness.

F-2002-5

Grantee: International Marinelife Alliance (IMA)
Grant number: NA16FZ2960
Project Title: Transforming the Live Reef Fish Food Trade towards Sustainability in the Republic of Marshall Islands through Community-based Coral Reef Conservation and Fisheries Management
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$50,000
Non-Federal match: \$50,000
Status: In progress

Description: IMA is working in partnership with government agencies, the College of the Marshall Islands, and local communities to ensure that the growing live reef food fish trade is managed sustainably. This fishery has been harvesting tens of thousands of groupers and Napoleon Wrasse from coral reefs in the remote northern atolls of the Marshall Islands since 1997 and this is leading to habitat destruction associated with the use of cyanide, serial depletion of apex predators and other species due to targeted fishing of spawning aggregation sites and juvenile fish as well as long line fishing in lagoonal areas to feed caged groupers. The initial work involved an assessment of the fishery and of coral reefs and biological resources; community meetings to improve awareness of the fishery; and the building of capacity to manage the Live Reef Fish Food Trade in a sustainable manner.

Product(s)/Outcomes: An important outcome of the project is to reduce the destructive nature of this trade and to ensure that if it continues it is carried out sustainably. This is being achieved through community meetings and development of curricula for the local college; implementation of an observer program; training and capacity building for scientists and resource managers; and the development of a community-based coral reef and fisheries conservation plan. The plan seeks to manage coral reef fisheries so that stock sizes trend toward Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), or Optimal Yield (OY); to ensure the fisheries are viable biologically, socially, and environmentally; to promote sustainable fisheries development practices for the participation and benefit of traditional resource users; and to utilize precautionary approaches to fishery management.

Performance Criteria: This project is promoting sustainable development and long-term coral reef conservation by providing training in the development and implementation of control measures and data collection for producing a fishery management plan; establishing limitations on the quantity of marine resources exported and preventing destructive fishing practices through the development of a management plan; and raising the awareness of stakeholders through meetings and discussions about this destructive trade.

F-2002-6

Grantee: The Ocean Conservancy
Grant number: NA16FZ2959
Project Title: USVI Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Program
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$66,016
Federal amount granted: \$66,016
Non-Federal match: \$66,017
Status: In progress

Description: This project seeks to document, evaluate and publicize the effectiveness of existing MPAs in the U.S. Virgin Islands and to identify other possible sites for designation of an effective network of MPAs that is necessary to conserve grouper and snapper populations. In collaboration with a University of the Virgin Islands researcher, extensive work has been completed evaluating grouper spawning aggregations in the Red Hind Marine Conservation District, including sex ratios, changes in biomass, and extent of migration from spawning sites. To evaluate the larval dispersal potential from these spawning aggregation sites, the grantee is identifying and assessing inshore nursery habitat areas of the USVI through an assessment of the abundance of juvenile groupers in three habitat types; identifying specific habitat preferences of selected species across two spatial scales; and identifying ontogenetic habitat shifts and sizes/ages at which these shifts occur.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Video for public broadcasting documenting spawning habitats, species and behaviors; workshop involving scientists, conservation groups, fishermen and government agencies on reef fish spawning aggregation sites and MPAs; GIS database and maps identifying grouper and snapper spawning aggregation sites

Performance Criteria: This project is working to develop and implement an effective MPA network to comprehensively restore and protect the Virgin Islands coral reefs. It involves ongoing and planned efforts and strategies being undertaken by the territory, NOAA and Department of Interior with primary jurisdiction over the reef resources to research, develop, and implement existing and new MPAs, and reduce overfishing and restore fishery resources.

F-2002-7

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii
Grant number: NA16FZ2964
Project Title: Community-Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Hawaii
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$56,974
Federal amount granted: \$56,974
Non-Federal match: \$98,332
Status: In progress

Description: This project seeks to conserve coral reef ecosystems in South Kona, Hawaii by helping communities organize and build capacity for coral reef management; by establishing a conservation awareness and involvement program that includes coral reef monitoring efforts; by developing a community-based enforcement program; and by updating resource management plans to limit destructive fishing.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The project has led to the establishment of a Local Resource Council that is working with the state to improve protection for coral reefs; implementation of multi-stakeholder management efforts through development of partnerships of NGOs, community members and state resource agencies; updates and refinements to Milp;I'I Marien Resource Management Plan; and training of "Reef Watchers" that are monitoring coral reef condition (with emphasis on alien species).

Performance Criteria: This project is promoting sustainable development and long-term conservation of coral reefs by building awareness and improving capacity of communities to participate in multi-stakeholder coral reef management efforts. It is also improving management plans and enhancing compliance with these plans through the establishment of a community-based enforcement program. Through training programs, local Reef Watcher groups have been established that are effectively monitoring reefs for invasive algae species.

F-2002-8

Grantee:	Ocean Research and Education Foundation		
Grant number:	NA16FZ2968		
Project Title:	Developing a Status Report on the Condition of Florida's Coral Reefs: Application of the AGGRA Methodology		
Region:	Pacific/Caribbean		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$43,000	
	Federal amount granted:	\$43,000	
	Non-Federal match:	\$43,000	
Status:	In Progress		

Description: This project is evaluating the conditions of coral, algae and fish communities of Florida's reefs using the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Technique. The approach provides data on coral species, colony size, mortality, recruitment, and prevalence of disease; abundance of fleshy macroalgae and coralline algae; and sizes and abundances of 80 species of commercially and ecologically important reef fishes. The study will provide information on the condition of Florida's reefs versus other Caribbean reefs; on whether observed declines are the result of local or regional impacts; and specifically on the status of two coral species (*Acropora palmata* and *A. cervicornis*) that are listed as candidates for the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Product(s)/Outcomes: Addition of Florida data to the existing region-wide database on the condition of coral, algae and fish communities; a status report on populations of ESA candidate corals, e.g. manual, textbook, video, policy

Performance Criteria: This project collected sound scientific data on the conditions of corals and reef fishes in the Florida Keys, providing a snapshot of the health of these reefs. The project emphasized nearshore sites and shallow reef locations that are not being monitored by other programs. It provided critical data on two ESA candidate corals that will contribute to the ongoing NMFS status review on these species. It identified regional and local threats to these

reefs, with emphasis on the prevalence of disease and the amount of recent mortality attributed to these diseases.

F-2002-9

Grantee: Mote Marine Laboratory
Grant number: NA16FZ2962
Project Title: Coral Culture for Reef Restoration and Coral Research
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$43,513
Federal amount granted: \$43,513
Non-Federal match: \$51,138
Status: In progress

Description: This project is establishing clonal lines of four key coral species, *Acropora cervicornis*, *Montastraea faveolata*, *Porites astreoides* and *Gorgonia ventalina* for use in coral research and restoration activities. Coral fragments and small colonies generated by vessel groundings are being collected from throughout the Florida Keys (as well as larvae from parent colonies of *Porites astreoides* already in culture) and are being propagated at Mote Marine Laboratories Center for Tropical research. Research efforts include quantification of growth rates of the explants, development of standardized clonal lines, and identification of disease resistant strains.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will identify optimal methods for propagating and growing important Caribbean corals. It will also result in establishment of standardized clonal lines of key species that would be available to the research community. In addition, through the identification of disease resistant clones, appropriate specimens for reef restoration projects will be made available.

Performance Criteria: This project is developing corals that can be used in restoration, providing a cost effective restoration tool through the identification of disease resistant clones. In addition, through the development of standardized coral clones for use in research, faster progress in understanding basic coral physiology and their responses to stresses will be possible, thereby contributing to our understanding of corals and the reasons for their decline.

F-2002-10

Grantee: Palau Conservation Society (PCS)
Grant number: NA16FZ2961
Project Title: Improving Community-based Marine Conservation Management in the Republic of Palau
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
Federal amount granted: \$30,000
Non-Federal match: \$30,000
Status: In progress

Description: The PCS is working with states, local community groups and individuals to manage and monitor marine conservation areas in Palau. This project is 1) developing a community-based monitoring and management program for conservation areas around Rock Islands, Koror; Ngemai, Ngiwal, and Ngeruangel, Kayangelone; 2) developing culturally

appropriate best practice guidelines for community-based coral reef conservation in Palau; and 3) conducting an economic valuation of reefs in one state in Palau. PCS is improving capacity for monitoring by offering dive certification and training in Reef Check and AIMS survey approaches to state conservation officers and appropriate community groups; PCS will also monitor reefs using these techniques as one approach to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based monitoring. The best practice guidelines activity is documenting and assessing traditional knowledge, conservation and management practices to determine the most appropriate conservation tools; mapping social and environmental threats at the local level; and integrating the findings into best management practice guidelines.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Best Practices Manual; Monitoring Plan; Palauan and English language fact sheets. Community based monitoring program will help increase the ability of states to monitor their conservation areas.

Performance Criteria: This project complements numerous initiatives that are occurring at the national level that support sustainable development and conservation by enhancing local level capacity. This includes an improved ability to monitor coral reef resources through the training in and implementation of coral reef monitoring; enhanced awareness about conservation areas; and improved coordination between the states and national government in coral reef management. It will also contribute to an improved understanding of resource condition and trends, special areas and resources of concern, and future research and monitoring directions. The project will document traditional practices for conserving these cultural resources, which are under threat from the increasingly modernized lifestyle in Palau's villages. In addition, the guidelines for best practices will assist in the development of state or national level land use planning, zoning and building codes which are currently nonexistent.

F-2002-11

Grantee:	University of Guam, Mark Tupper		
Grant number:	NA16FZ2958		
Project Title:	Testing the Effectiveness of MPAs and other Reef Fish Management Strategies Using Agent-Based Models		
Region:	Pacific		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$70,972	
	Federal amount granted:	\$70,972	
	Non-Federal match:	waived	
Status:	In progress		

Description: The project seeks to develop agent-based models to compare the effectiveness of MPAs versus alternative management strategies (e.g., commercial trade bans) and more traditional approaches to regulating catch and effort, using the humphead wrasse. Agent-based models are new modeling tools that incorporate individual agents into a spatially and temporally explicit "bottom-up" model. The model can be parameterized by quantification of habitat-specific settlement, growth, movement, mortality, and spawning, so habitat cells within the model simulate the ecological processes and events occurring in each habitat type. The research characterized the habitat utilization patterns of the humphead wrasse in Guam and Palau, and examined differences in settlement, abundance, growth and survival by tagging individual fishes and through visual censuses.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This research will result in the development of a new modeling tool that can be used to manage reef fisheries using an ecosystem approach. In addition, it will provide

critically needed data on the distribution, abundance, survival and growth of a commercially important reef fish species that has been listed as critically threatened on the IUCN red list.

Performance Criteria: This project is the first targeted study of habitat utilization by humphead wrasse, a commercially and ecologically important species in the Indo-Pacific. When complete, this study will provide critical information for ecosystem-based management of this species. The advantage of using an agent-based model is that it can be used as a computer-generated artificial fisheries management laboratory, in which managers can compare the outcomes of various fishery management policies. This species was proposed for listing on Appendix II of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in November 2002, but the proposal was narrowly defeated primarily due to insufficient data on the species. The U.S. proposes to resubmit a listing proposal to Conference of Parties 14, and this study will contribute to the data needed to justify further protection.

2003 Grants

In 2003, the Coral Reef Conservation Grants program awarded 42 grants to States and Territories in the amount of \$4,986,122 out of a total of \$5,947,042 that was requested from prospective grantees. The total non-Federal match to this funding was \$1,581,224. The following is a comprehensive list of each of the grants awarded. Grants are organized according to the six categories described in the Grant Program Implementation Guidelines. See the preceding *Key to Award Listings* for additional information.

A. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants

A-2003-1

Grantee: Muller, Pamela Hallock
Granted through the NOAA Undersea Research Program Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Grant number: NA03OAR4300088

Project Title: Three new tools for reef monitoring and risk assessment: distinguishing local from global stresses

Region: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$52,874
Federal amount granted: \$52,900
Non-Federal match: \$16,800 (remainder waived)

Waiver: Yes

Status: In progress

Description: This project will evaluate the factors responsible for coral decline and the ecological parameters that affect the recovery of benthic communities by developing three tools to assess reef condition and providing training to resource managers.

Product(s)/Outcomes: (1) Three tools to assess reef condition
(2) Workshop to train managers in the use of these tools.

Performance Criteria: This project will develop and implement techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs. Three procedures, which utilize proxy indicators (i.e., foraminifera, their shells and the sediments in which they occur), have been developed to assess reef condition on two time scales, one suitable for resource assessment, and one suitable for risk assessment. The major objective of this research is to streamline the procedures to use these three indices and to demonstrate their utility for routine use by providing training to resource managers through a workshop.

A-2003-2

Grantee: Szmant, Alina
Granted through the NOAA Undersea Research Program Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Grant number: NA03OAR4300088

Project Title: Recruitment of *Montastrea annualris* (Mountain star coral). Where are all the larvae going?

Region: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Funding: Federal funds requested: \$94,015

	Federal funds granted:	\$94,000
	Non-federal match:	\$31,300 (remainder waived)
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project addresses factors affecting recruitment and survival of *Montastrea annualris* using novel techniques: antibody tracking of potential recruits coupled with passive particle tracking. The overarching question being addressed is – Where do all the large batches of *Montastrea annualris* larvae spawned each year go?

Product(s)/Outcome: Understanding of the larval dispersal pattern of *Montastrea annualris* in the Florida Keys

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems by focusing on increasing the understanding of the role of coral larval dispersal in coral recruitment rates of *Montastrea annualris* in the Florida Keys. The reef coral, *Montastrea annualris*, is a primary reef-building coral species in the Florida Keys. This species of reef coral has suffered a major decline in live coral cover over the past two decades due to coral bleaching stress and diseases. If recruitment rates continue to be as low as those observed over the past decades, the populations of these corals on Florida reefs would decline to a point of local ecological extinction. Given the structural importance of these corals to Florida and Caribbean reefs, it is important to understand the factors that affect their ability to achieve successful sexual recruitment.

B. State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants

B-2003-1a

Grantee:	American Samoa Department of Commerce American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG)	
Grant Number:	(Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Coordination	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	American Samoa	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$49,079
	Federal amount granted:	\$49,079
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: The CRI Coordinator will assist in implementation and administration of CRI projects, including advising project managers concerning experimental design, data acquisition, and CRI grant management. The Coordinator will act in a coordinating capacity to develop local action strategies relative to land-use, overfishing, global climate change, and population pressure. The Coordinator will assist the chair at CRAG meetings. The Coordinator will assist the Point of Contact in responding to requests for information on, and assistance from, American Samoa. The CRI Coordinator will be the day-to-day supervisor of the CRAG Education Coordinator.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator) who will:

- Assist in implementation and administration of CRI projects.
- Assist the chair at CRAG meetings.

- Seek project proposals from CRAG members and others for CRI funding based on the revised Five-Year Plan.
- Produce semi-annual performance reports and monitor and oversee the financial status of the CRI grants.
- Perform some research into coral reefs in line with their own expertise but not occupying more than 20% of their time.

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by overseeing implementation of CRI funded projects. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by overseeing CRI funded projects and freeing up CRAG members time so they can implement their own projects.

B-2003-1b

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
 American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
 Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Marine Protected Areas Coordinator
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: American Samoa
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$44,341
 Federal amount granted: \$44,341
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: The Marine Protected Areas Coordinator will implement the actions and tasks outlined in the Marine Protected Areas Plan. The Coordinator will be the CRAG focal point for responding to requests for information on, and assistance from, American Samoa with regard to MPA's. The Coordinator will work closely with other agency's personnel involved with MPA development, implementation, and evaluation. The Coordinator will work cooperatively with all stakeholders concerned to ensure best management practices are being utilized. The Coordinator will attend CRAG meetings in a supporting capacity to the Group.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (MPA Coordinator) who will:

- Produce yearly status and trends reports on MPA's.
- Initiate DMWR/CRAG Public Awareness Programs.
- Identify data gaps and develop consensus recommendation on sites and management regimes for MPAs. Identify villages with jurisdiction in these priority areas.
- Conduct questionnaires and interviews in these villages including identifying sites of local significance.

DMWR, CRAG, OSA will have workshops in these villages, with participating village leaders presenting, and government scientists/managers providing technical support in lay terms.

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by hiring a new staff member to oversee MPA management related projects. This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by identifying villages and conducting surveys that are located in priority areas for MPA development.

B-2003-1c

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Manu'a Marine Conservation Enforcement Officer
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$15,840
Federal amount granted: \$15,840
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: A minimum of 1,000 person-hours in field enforcement in nearshore fisheries, to include turtles and corals, will be conducted during FY2004. Of this time, no more than 20% will be devoted to follow-on investigation work. A minimum of 900 person-hours in community outreach was conducted during FY2002. This effort will allow for a CRAG presence in the out islands.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (Manu'a Marine Conservation Enforcement Officer) who will conduct:

- A minimum of 1,000 person-hours in field enforcement in nearshore fisheries, to include turtles and corals.
- A minimum of 900 person-hours in community outreach.

All activities of the funded officer will be documented to provide funding sources with accurate records of project activities.

Performance Criteria: This project addressed the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing more enforcement capabilities for the Manu'a Marine Conservation site. This project enhanced compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by providing an enforcement officer that will spend 1,000 hours in the field enforcing regulations. This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by increasing the amount of staff that can do enforcement and outreach.

B-2003-1d

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: GIS Specialist
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$58,979
Federal amount granted: \$58,979
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: On-going

Description: A key goal for the GIS Specialist is to train a local GIS Technician in the use of available technology and analysis of project data. Another desirable action is to continue coordination with American Samoan agencies and NOAA on the Coral Reef Mapping program. This is an ongoing task throughout the year.

Product(s)/Outcomes: All appropriate DMWR projects are being applied to the department's GIS. These projects include Expert Coral and Fish surveys, the NMFS Coral Reef Ecosystem Investigations surveys, a study of key reef species, invertebrate studies, an inshore creel survey, and marine protected area boundary delineation. It is planned to make these data layers available on an online GIS for use by local managers and visiting researchers.

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral reef conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by training a local GIS technician to use available technology and analysis of project data. This will address the concerns over rapid turnover of off island help. This project mapped the location and distribution of coral reefs by continuing coordination with American Samoa agencies and NOAA on the coral reef mapping program.

B-2003-1e

Grantee:	American Samoa Department of Commerce American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group	
Grant Number:	(Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Territorial Marine Laboratory Architectural and Engineering Services	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	American Samoa	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$61,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$61,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: This proposal is for phase two of a plan to develop a Territorial Marine Laboratory. The Laboratory will provide wet and dry labs, storage and office space, and facilities for aquaculture research and development. The Laboratory will tie in with the Marine Science program at the Community College to provide research assistant experience to students, and lab space for their projects. The Site Plan is the first of the two-phase plan to identify several possible sites for the laboratory as well as documenting the laboratory requirements. This grant request is for phase two: hiring an architectural and engineering firm to develop the site design, which will include floor plans and elevations. After the design is completed, the next phase can begin: permitting and NEPA review.

Product(s)/Outcomes: An architectural and engineering plan (and accompanying detailed construction cost estimate)

Performance Criteria: This project promoted and assisted implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by supporting the development of a Marine Laboratory which can eventually be used for research and education by local and off-island scientists and students.

B-2003-1f

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Coral Reef Public Awareness Coordinator
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$31,511
Federal amount granted: \$31,511
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The responsibilities of the Coral Reef Public Awareness Coordinator are to: coordinate the educational efforts of different agencies or other bodies as they relate to CRAG endeavors; act as the lead member of the Population Task Force and Population Implementation Plan; interact with the press; promote awareness of threats to coral reefs; develop and conduct outreach activities and programs; assess and evaluate the success of awareness and education projects undertaken by CRAG; increase awareness of coral reefs through the media (TV, radio and newspaper); organize meetings and liaise with member agencies on task assignments; and coordinate CRAG activities with the local environmental education collaboration Tausagi.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (Coral Reef Public Awareness Coordinator) who will:

- Produce educational materials, including brochures, pamphlets, video, and a website.
- Implement outreach programs targeting the government, schools, and villages.

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by coordinating the educational efforts of different agencies or other bodies as they relate to CRAG endeavors.

B-2003-1g

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Coral Reef Resources Field Guide
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$6,400
Federal amount granted: \$6,400
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The field guide is to help students identify some of the common and popular coral reef animals that they often come across during reef walk excursions. Guides will also be used by technicians working on fisheries surveys in identifying some of the particular species that they are working on. This project will take four weeks to identify/choose some of the commonly found and popular species occurring on coral reefs, to compile this list, to take photos if necessary, and to draft text. An additional two weeks to work with South Pacific Community will be needed. The last step will be to print the booklet, which may take several weeks from the start to delivery.

Product(s)/Outcomes: With the assistance of the South Pacific Community, project managers will develop 30 3" x 5" waterproofs cards that will feature a picture of the animal on one side and biological and conservation information on the other side. 1,000 sets will be made initially and disseminated during school outreach activities.

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by developing field guides of local coral reef species to be used by students and technicians working in fisheries.

B-2003-1h

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Commerce
American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Meeting Participation for the Chairman of the All Island Members
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: American Samoa
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$36,000
Federal amount granted: \$36,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The American Samoa Point of Contact holds the position as Chair to the All Islands Group for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, and as such, travel costs to represent members of this group at the national level are expected. Additionally, funding will provide opportunities for island members to attend professional meetings and conferences to share, collaborate and exchange views on coral reef issues with scientists and managers. This will cover travel costs for up to six trips to meetings related to coral reef activities, and will provide specifically for travel for the Coral Reef Point of Contact and All-Islands Chair to national and regional meetings.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Two individual's travel to the Coral Reef Symposium meeting in Okinawa
- Meeting participation for local professionals (up to four trips)
- Point of Contact and/or other CRI Director travel to CRI meetings (2 trips)
- Travel for All-Islands Chair (cost share)

Performance Criteria: This project will address the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by supporting efforts made by managers of coral ecosystems to gain skills and share information at regional meetings and workshops. They are also able to work with other jurisdictions on efforts that are improved through a greater voice of regional committees. This project promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector through participation in regional meetings. There are often times representatives from non-governmental organizations and private stakeholders at these meetings participate and provide valuable input to conservation plans.

B-2003-2a

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Guam's Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee
(Department of Interior)
Grant Number: Natural Resource Prosecutor
Project Title: Pacific
Region: Guam
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$100,000
Federal amount granted: \$100,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: On-going

Description: Guam has long recognized the limitations in the laws protecting coral reefs. These are divided between the failure of current laws in directly protecting coral reefs and the lack of legal services to enforce existing laws. For this reason, emphasis was placed in hiring a prosecuting attorney that could work on both improving existing laws, as well as assume the prosecution role in any cases associated with coral reef protection. The hiring of a natural resources prosecutor has also been identified as an action item in Guam's local action strategy for the overfishing. This individual will be shared among the agencies of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Planning, Land Management, and Department of Agriculture and have the ability to work on any issue associated with the protection, enhancement or preservation of coastal resources.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (Natural Resource Prosecutor) who will improve and develop regulatory and statutory provisions

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by improving existing laws, developing regulatory and statutory provisions. This prosecutor can also assist various agencies with any cases associated with coral reef protection.

B-2003-2b

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR)
Guam's Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee
(Department of Interior)
Grant Number: Larval Tracking Study
Project Title: Pacific
Region: Guam
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$50,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Continuing the fish and habitat assessment surveys of Guam's marine preserves under the NOAA Coral Monitoring Grants will provide an effective means to determine the preserves' ability to replenish fish stocks and restore essential fish habitat. This proposal by Dr. Mark Tupper of the University of Guam Marine Lab entitled "Connectivity between MPAs and exploited reefs: the role of protected spawning aggregations in supplying recruitment to Guam's reef fishery" will further assist DAWR by demonstrating whether or not larval fish spawned by

large aggregations in marine preserves are recruiting to adjacent areas, resulting in increased fish stocks available to fishermen. This information is crucial for DAWR managers, to help determine whether current marine protected areas are a truly effective management tool for restoring depleted fishery resources and coral reef ecosystems island-wide. All data will ultimately be transferred to the NOAA Coral Reef Information System.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The research products resulting from this study will include: Biophysical data on spawning aggregation sites (habitat characteristics and environmental variables), population structure (density, size frequencies, sex ratios), and reproductive behavior (timing of spawning, coloration, pair vs. group spawning, etc.). These data will be invaluable to fisheries managers attempting to protect spawning aggregations through spatial or temporal closures. Locations and habitat types of spawning aggregations both within and outside current MPA boundaries (if any are found to exist outside MPAs) will be entered as a GIS layer into digital maps of essential fish habitat, which are currently being developed for several reef fish species by the Principal Investigator at University of Guam Marine Laboratory. Research products will also include data on the extent of larval dispersal/retention for *Acanthurus triostegus* and *Parapeneus multifasciatus*, one M.S. thesis (through the University of Guam), two or more peer-reviewed publications in international journals, and two presentations at USCRTF meeting. Each of these products will be useful to Federal and local fisheries managers in developing management policies for coral reef fishes that aggregate to spawn.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease, by collecting biophysical data on spawning aggregation sites and reproductive behavior of representative coral reef fish species. This information will then be used to determine the effectiveness of MPAs in seeding adjacent reef areas.

B-2003-2c

Grantee:	Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Guam's Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee (Department of Interior)	
Grant Number:	Law Enforcement Vehicles	
Project Title:	Pacific	
Region:	Guam	
Jurisdiction:	Federal amount requested: \$90,000	
Funding:	Federal amount granted: \$90,000	
	Non-Federal match: waived	
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project will purchase three enforcement vehicles and double enforcement efforts. This will have a significant impact on making the 20% MPA goal in The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs a functional unit for Guam. This effort is being coupled with an Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management proposal to fund a \$100,000 project to better equip and operate the Law Enforcement Section, again with the focus on the marine protected areas. This focus also corresponds well with the CRI project to hire a natural resource prosecutor. The Conservation Officers are full-fledged Police Officers, carry firearms, and are required to complete the police academy. The vehicles being purchased require four-wheel drive, an enforcement package (radio, lights, siren, megaphone, etc.), and tow capability for jet skis to support on-water enforcement in MPAs.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Three enforcement vehicles which have four-wheel drive, an enforcement package (radio, lights, siren, megaphone, etc.), and tow capability for jet skis to support on-water enforcement in MPAs

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by equipping enforcement officers with the necessary equipment to carry out proper enforcement of regulations.

B-2003-2d

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Guam's Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: School Community Program
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Guam
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$15,000
Federal amount granted: \$15,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Guam has sound information delineating the declines of coral reef resources and can identify the causes of these declines. Unfortunately, it is the lack of will at the public level that is making changing these declines difficult. Large-scale media programs have resulted in minimal success. It is felt that a smaller scale project, with defined end products, will have greater potential for long-term success. This effort is a test of this approach with the hope that adjacent village school programs will want the same opportunity. This proposal is for support to pilot curriculum development in two elementary schools, and to determine if such an educational effort can be used to improve the overall community environmental "I.Q."

Product(s)/Outcomes: • Purchase of microscopes, a multimedia computer and field gear for a dedicated science room at each of the two schools
• Development of a curriculum (a set of modules) in collaboration with the Department of Education and the interested teachers
• Teacher training on the incorporation of coral reef activities into their existing lesson plans
• Pre- and post-effort survey on key coral reef issues
• Evaluation of the effectiveness of student/parent experiences as a means of developing political will on environmental issues

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by working with local schools to develop and promote understanding of environmental issues by providing equipment and support in curriculum development.

B-2003-2e

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Guam's Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee

Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Travel
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Guam
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$10,000
 Federal amount granted: \$10,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: The U.S. Coral Reef Initiative has expanded the scope of its efforts over the last few years tremendously. This success requires workshops, meetings, and negotiations that often require travel, including attending Task Force and regional subcommittee meetings.

Product(s)/Outcomes: These funds will allow personnel to attend meetings requiring representation from Guam on Coral Reef Initiative Issues.

Performance Criteria: This project addresses the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by supporting efforts made by managers of coral ecosystems to gain skills and share information at regional meetings and workshops. Managers are also able to work with other jurisdictions on efforts that are improved through having a greater voice in regional committees. This project promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector through participation in regional meetings. There are often times representatives from non-governmental organizations and private stakeholders participate at these meeting and provide valuable input to conservation plans.

B-2003-2f

Grantee: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
 Guam’s Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee
 Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Local Action Strategy Implementation
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Guam
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$26,500
 Federal amount granted: \$26,500
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: One of the challenges identified in the local action strategy (LAS) for the “land-based sources of pollution” (LBSP) focus area is the lack of public support and participation in understanding and addressing land-based threats to coral reefs. In order to address this challenge, the local LBSP working group identified the following priority action items:

1. Develop informative public outreach materials that reach target audiences and educate the public on the importance of watershed conservation; and
2. Gain public support in opposing actions such as sod-busting, over-application of fertilizers, illegal pesticide applications, illegal burning and additional actions that contribute to excess nutrients and sedimentation in the watershed.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Informative public outreach materials that reach target audiences and educate the public on the importance of watershed conservation

Performance Criteria: This project implements coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by supporting the implementation of the “land based sources of pollution” LAS. This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by developing informative public outreach materials that reach target audiences and educate the public on the importance of watershed conservation.

B-2003-3a

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: CNMI Coral Reef Initiative coordination and representation
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$84,500
Federal amount granted: \$84,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The Coral Reef Coordinator will help to make linkages among stakeholders, help to make collaborative conservation efforts succeed by being a liaison among different interest groups, and be an active participant in many natural resource conservation and management efforts. In addition to providing CRI grant management and communication with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and its committees and working groups, some of the Coordinator’s activities will include the following: (1) overseeing development and implementation of coral reef protection local action strategies, (2) administration of coral reef education small grants and student internship programs, (3) involvement in the Coral Assistantship program as a mentor to the CNMI Coral Assistant, (4) providing information and support for the Governor’s Coral Reef Point of Contact, and (5) helping to coordinate and facilitate the functioning of the potentially new Coral Reef Coordinating Committee and Coral Reef Advisory Group.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator) who will work on:

- 6-month reports;
- Agency allotment and task specific grant tracking;
- Presentations and updates on CNMI CRI activities;
- Summaries of meetings for CNMI Governor and LCRAAG;
- CNMI Coral Reef Focus Area Action Strategies;
- A list of federal, regional, and local partners engaged in CNMI coral reef protection action strategies;
- Obtaining commitments from Federal partners to implement specific actions in strategies; and
- The CNMI CRI Annual Report.

Performance Criteria: This project implements coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by overseeing implementation of CRI funded projects. This project promotes and assists

implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by overseeing CRI funded projects and freeing up CRAG members' time so they can implement their own projects.

B-2003-3b

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Assistant Attorney General Dedicated to Coral Reef Protection Legal Issues
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$75,000
Federal amount granted: \$75,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Funding under this task supports recruitment of a new Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for one year to assist natural resource agency personnel to identify, adapt, and develop sound and appropriate laws and regulations and administrative legal actions for coral reef conservation, protection, and management. The AAG may also seek coordination with other federal, local, and regional entities to ensure consistency in enforcement, jurisdiction, and legal protections of marine environment.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One full time staff member (AAG) who will:

- List coral reef protections and related past activities, current initiatives, and needs;
- List coral reef policy gaps;
- Create a Coral Reef protection strategy and program;
- Reduce duplication of effort and inappropriate allocations of agency staff to issues where authority does not exist;
- Create Enabling laws to take action by appropriate agency;
- Network enforcement personnel to refer violations to proper agency;
- Promulgate legally sufficient regulations with public input;
- Train enforcement personnel;
- Copy all media coverage;
- Copy minutes from public hearings; and
- Respond to the public on how regulations were adapted to concerns expressed.

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by improving existing laws, developing regulatory and statutory provisions. This prosecutor can also assist various agencies with any cases associated with coral reef protection.

B-2003-3c

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Support for the Coral Reef Assistantship Program
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI

Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$39,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$39,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: Funding under this task will support the proposed Coral Reef Assistantship Program.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- CR Assistant position description
- CR Assistant Scope of Work
- Copies of applications
- Minutes from interviews
- Intern selection
- Sub-contractor receives funds, hires interns and organizes intern relocation
- Assistant's work plan

Performance Criteria: This project implemented coral conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing the human capacity to assist with planning and implementing coral reef conservation efforts.

B-2003-3d

Grantee:	CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office	
Grant Number:	(Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Educational Kiosks in Protected Areas for Dynamic Public Education and Outreach	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	CNMI	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$40,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$40,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: Craft educational materials targeted primarily to specific audiences including visiting tourists, non-resident workers, local indigenous peoples, and CNMI residents. Reaching all of the stakeholders, especially those who influence community cultural lines of enforcement and social conscience, is critical to successfully protecting marine resources. This project will reach sectors of the populace through methods that have not been previously approached, as well as users of protected areas. Production and distribution of additional materials (brochures, videos, and mass media) will help reach MPA users and members of the community to increase their understanding of the value and interconnectedness of protected areas. Having an awareness of the benefits of MPAs will assist to elevate awareness and participation in the co-management process including community support for protected area endeavors.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- One educational kiosk each at Bird Island Sanctuary Overlook, Forbidden Island Sanctuary Overlook
- Fully functional and attractive signs
- Demographically focused priority list for dissemination of materials through mass media

- Airtime on Visitor Channel, Evening News, and PSA at Saipan’s movie theatre
- Production and dissemination of bumper stickers
- A full-page news article
- Dissemination through indigenous focused television and radio programs

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation by developing educational kiosks, and other educational outreach materials to promote the understanding of the reasons for and benefits of MPAs by community members.

B-2003-3e

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
 Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: Retention of Law Enforcement Officers
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: CNMI
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$16,000
 Federal amount granted: \$16,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: The proposed funds will be used to retain employment of two Marine Conservation Enforcement Officers through FY2004. These officers were just recently employed.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Qualified enforcement personnel and enforcement activities
 - Citations, seizures of property, and cease and desist orders

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by retaining law enforcement officers to continue effective enforcement activities.

B-2003-3f

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
 Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
 Project Title: CNMI Coral Reef Economic Evaluation
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: CNMI
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$10,000
 Federal amount granted: \$10,000
 Non-Federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: Consultants will be hired to help CNMI identify the questions it would like addressed in the study, develop a RFP for the work, and complete a coral reef economic valuation tailored to the specific needs and unique situations of the CNMI. This task will help reduce the

impacts of increasing development pressure, unmanaged land use and population growth by providing more concrete economic justifications for protecting the health and extent of CNMI coral reef ecosystems.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Consultant hired
 - Copies of products from other similar efforts
 - List of meetings and stakeholders contacted
 - List of desired outputs of CNMI efforts
 - RFP for CNMI coral reef economic valuation
 - Scope of work and timeframe for work completion
 - List of anticipated agreed upon products/focus of valuation
 - Copies of products used to develop CNMI valuation
 - Completed CNMI coral reef economic valuation

Performance Criteria: This project addresses the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by hiring a consultant to conduct an economic evaluation to help reduce the impacts of increasing development pressure, unmanaged land use and population growth by providing more concrete economic justifications for protecting the health and extent of CNMI coral reef ecosystems.

B-2003-3g

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Marine Recreation Environmental Effects Assessment and Management Plan
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$20,500
Federal amount granted: \$20,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: Management concerns over the potential overuse of marine environments by marine sports operators prompted a cap in the number of permits issued by the Coastal Resource Management Office (CRMO). CRMO has identified an ecological assessment as a prime need in being able to effectively manage the marine sport industry and to rationally evaluate the possibility of increasing or reducing the number of marine sports permits issued annually.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Initial assessment report to CRM Administrator
 - Completed data analysis
 - Final report distribution
 - Press release of report summary
 - Regulations ratified
 - Regulations summary brochure
 - New permit applications

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by conducting an ecological assessment related to recreational overuse. This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated

with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by providing assessment results that help managers determine the proper number of annual permits for marine sports.

B-2003-3h

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Public Outreach and Education for Bilge Sock Program
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$6,300
Federal amount granted: \$6,300
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This proposed public outreach campaign will be in conjunction with the CNMI Coastal Nonpoint Program's plans to introduce the bilge sock program to boaters. A Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant will fund the purchase of the socks that will be distributed free to boaters. The free bilge sock, which is a two foot long 3-inch diameter sausage-like object, is to be placed by boaters in the bilge compartment to capture leaking engine and crank case oil or small fuel spills. Several brochures on bilge socks, marine pollution and nonpoint source pollution around marinas will be developed. T-shirts and caps will also have an imprint of a bilge sock and some information, and will be used as an attraction for boaters to attend the event. A marine pollution awareness campaign will be held during Safe Boating Week in June 2004.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- Draft outreach materials
- Brochures, T-Shirts, Caps
- Boaters will be educated on marine pollution and how the bilge sock program will help reduce marine pollution.

Performance Criteria: This project addresses the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by decreasing the amount of oil and fuel that spills into the waters by boats near coral reefs. This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by educating boaters about marine pollution and offering a way for them to actively prevent pollution by using a bilge sock.

B-2003-3i

Grantee: CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office
Grant Number: (Department of Interior)
Project Title: Community Involvement in Coral Reef Education and Management
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: CNMI
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
Federal amount granted: \$30,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This task will fund a number of approaches aimed at involving a variety of key coral reef stakeholders in monitoring, managing and educating students and the public about the importance of coral reefs to CNMI. Funding will provide for approximately two to four small grants to be made available on a competitive basis to support coral reef education and awareness enhancement activities within CNMI. Funding will also provide support for at least three paid internships with resource management agencies for CNMI post-secondary students. The internship will provide hands-on experience for college-level students in marine resource management.

- Product(s)/Outcomes:
- Call for proposals
 - Grant proposals from CNMI schools
 - Press release announcing awards
 - Final awarded proposals
 - Document assessing small grant impact
 - Internship project descriptions
 - Student applications
 - Press release of awards
 - Interns working within resource agencies
 - Final reports from each internship’s project
 - Document assessing internship impact

Performance Criteria: This project promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by getting local schools involved in projects that deal with the marine sciences so that students gain hands-on experience in the field. It also allows students to be interns in the natural resource management field so that they can gain valuable work experience and may influence their decision in choosing marine science/management as a career path.

B-2003-3j

Grantee:	CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office	
Grant Number:	(Department of Interior)	
Project Title:	Defray Page Charges for Publishing Coral Reef Studies	
Region:	Pacific	
Jurisdiction:	CNMI	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$3,500
	Federal amount granted:	\$3,500
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: A number of surveys, inventories, and management actions have been completed in the CNMI by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). All of these studies fall into the realm of coral reef conservation and management. Many of these studies cannot be submitted for scholarly review and publication, because DFW funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sportfish Restoration program specifically excludes work on invertebrates and policy. Additionally, two of the most appropriate journals for such long manuscripts about regional issues (Micronesia and Pacific Science) each have significant page charges.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Revised manuscripts and published study available to all researchers.

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by publishing valuable research about coral reef conservation and management so that a broader audience can utilize the results of these studies.

B-2003-4a

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210

Project Title: Implementing the Framework for Hawaii's Marine Protected Areas

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
Federal amount granted: \$40,000
Non-Federal match: \$55,287

Status: In progress

Description: In FY 2003, DLNR proposed to continue working towards the creation of an effective, integrated network of MPAs using the products developed by the MPA Coordinator. These products include the draft Framework for Hawaii's MPA Network, the Designation Criteria for each category of MPA, and the model collaborative approach for management of MPAs in Hawaii. The focus of the third year of the project will be to export the model for collaborative management of MPAs to interested communities and stakeholder groups to increase the effectiveness of existing MPAs.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will:

- Develop an implementation strategy to guide DLNR and collaborating communities and stakeholder groups as they work together to implement an MPA's management objective;
- Explore the opportunities of working with established local community groups willing to assist DLNR in the management of the MPA;
- Develop and coordinate the following community-assisted management activities: a collaborative outreach program involving the local community, DAR's Information and Education, that uses specialists, the MPA Coordinator, and local schools to deliver an education and outreach program related to the MPA resources and rules and the conservation of marine resources;
- Provide collaborative monitoring studies by the local community, DAR, and the University of Hawaii, such as a community "coast watch" program similar to the popular neighborhood watch programs to assist DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) with the enforcement of the MPA rules;
- Provide a semi-annual progress report, detailing the potential establishment of community-based projects in MPA's; and
- Provide a final progress report and proposed (or adopted) DLNR policy related to MPA Network Framework and Designation Criteria.

Performance Criteria: This project implements coral conservation programs, which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by developing a guidebook for communities to use to implement MPA objectives. This project

promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by working with existing community groups to develop and implement MPA management programs. This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by developing and implementing outreach program with local communities and local schools.

B-2003-4b

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
Project Title: Marine Gap Analysis for the Main Hawaiian Islands
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Hawaii
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$63,000
Federal amount granted: \$63,000
Non-Federal match: \$63,000
Status: In progress

Description: This proposal covers year three of the three-year work plan. In the first year of the Marine Gap Analysis project, a first cut marine biodiversity information database structure was drafted and spatial and tabular data was populated for the Maui County near-shore environment. Also, marine protected areas were compiled and entered into the Hawaii Gap Analysis Program's Stewardship dataset. The third year of the project will finalize database structure and content. It will include a final analysis of the existing Maui County dataset to identify gaps in knowledge as well as gaps in protection and also identify any readily apparent needs for immediate action. It will also include a preliminary analysis of this data statewide. The third year work plan will include populating the marine biodiversity information database for the eight main Hawaiian Islands (Maui county covered in year one), finalizing the integrated data resources for Maui County, and completing a baseline dataset of other counties. Third year funding will include development of the marine component to the Hawaii stewardship dataset, including a detailed accounting of management and protection activities at each MPA. Third year activities are focused on completing the necessary steps to enable comprehensive analysis of the distribution of marine biodiversity and the degree of protection for marine natural resources, and to establish a long-term vision for safeguarding Hawaii's marine environment.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- 3rd Year Plan of Action and Milestones.
- Mid-year status report
- Final report and data set analysis
- Completed Data System Structure
- Final analysis for Maui County
- Preliminary analysis statewide
- Comprehensive Statewide marine resource dataset
- Enhanced marine Stewardship dataset

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by completing the data set that enables analysis of the distribution of marine biodiversity and other factors that help determine long term measures to conserving Hawaii's marine environment.

B-2003-4c

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
Project Title: Operational and Travel Support
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Hawaii
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$49,000
Federal amount granted: \$49,000
Non-Federal match: \$44,000 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: In an effort to upgrade coordination and communication in the region, these funds will be set aside to be used to support travel to workshops and conferences that will assist managers in coral resource management efforts. These funds will also support travel to the bi-annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) meetings, U.S. All Islands Coordinating Committee meetings, annual mapping and monitoring meetings, and regional meetings to link local action strategies.

Product(s)/Outcomes:

- One Hawaii Coastal Zone Management staff member to attend USCRTF or related meetings on two trips
- DLNR Chairperson and Point of Contact to attend USCRTF or related meetings on three trips
- GIS staff salary for three months
- GIS and research-related computer supplies
- Facility development for coral reef program in Kona

Performance Criteria: This project addresss the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products by providing a means for managers to attend meetings where information is exchanged and ideas are fostered that can assist with the development and implementation of projects. This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by maintaining a valuable GIS staff member and providing necessary equipment to continue the member's work on mapping marine ecosystems.

B-2003-4d

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
Project Title: the Local Action Strategy for Land-Based Sources of Pollution
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Hawaii
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$41,000
Federal amount granted: \$41,000
Non-Federal match: \$20,000 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: Based on the results of the first land-based sources of pollution workshop, the selection was narrowed down to two primary watersheds in which to focus the development of local action strategies. These two watersheds are both in Maui County and include sites on South Molokai and West Maui. About 60 participants from both the coral reef and land-based management, research and NGO communities attended this first workshop. The second workshop focused on the needs of these watersheds, and local action strategies were developed following this second workshop. Funds will be applied to the implementation of actions outlined in the strategies.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Implementation of local action strategies, as determined through workshops

Performance Criteria: This project promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by assisting with the implementation of local action strategies for land-based sources of pollution that were developed in collaboration with local communities to address these issues.

B-2003-4e

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210

Project Title: Implementing Hawaii's Coral Reef Outreach Campaign

Region: Pacific

Jurisdiction: Hawaii

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$15,000
Federal amount granted: \$15,000
Non-Federal match: \$15,000

Status: In progress

Description: The FY 2003, funds will be used to continue the coordination function to keep the campaign moving forward and to work with TV stations to assure that the coral reef weekly report is prominently displayed during weather forecasts on local news stations. This is a critical component of the campaign, as there must be a lead agency or organization that coordinates all the materials to be developed and ensures that all agencies that are participating continue to be informed and involved in the process.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Coral reef weekly report prominently displayed during weather forecasts on local news stations

Performance Criteria: This project increased public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by supporting the coral reef outreach campaign through weekly reports during weather forecasts that reach a wide audience with conservation messages.

B-2003-4f

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210

Project Title: Implementing the Local Action Strategy for Coral Reef Fisheries in the Main Hawaiian Islands
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested - \$40,000
 Federal amount granted - \$40,000
 Non-Federal match - \$16,044
 Status: In progress

Description: The core group agreed that efforts in the first year of the action strategy should be focused on obtaining additional data on the recreational shoreline fisheries. Current coverage on the islands of Hawaii, Maui and Oahu is spotty as there are only 2 surveyors each for Hawaii and Maui and 4 for Oahu. There are no surveyors for Kauai. The proposed project will hire additional personnel to increase the coverage of shoreline sites and to add some coverage on Kauai and could check for understanding and compliance new regulations.

Product(s)/Outcomes: 2 Creel Surveyors

Performance Criteria: This project developed sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease by providing two creel surveyors that will gather valuable information on the inshore fishery on Kauai, which can then be used by managers for monitoring and development of management objectives.

B-2003-4g

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
 State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
 Project Title: Understanding Algal Ecology as it Relates to Coral Reef Management in the Hawaiian Islands
 Region: Pacific
 Jurisdiction: Hawaii
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$52,000
 Federal amount granted: \$52,000
 Non-Federal match: \$7,160 (remainder waived)
 Status: In progress

Description: The goal of this project is to provide the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) with important information regarding the management of:

- Alien and invasive macroalgal species in the Hawaiian Islands; and
- Benthic algal communities inside and outside of marine protected areas.

The proposal represents the first year of a 2-year proposal to assist DAR in management of alien algae species on coral reefs and in nearshore habitats.

Product(s)/Outcomes: One new staff member (algal ecologist) who will:

- Hold a series of staff training workshops for DAR and other State agencies and federal partners on the role of algae in Hawaiian coral reef management, algal invasive species management, and the utility of restoring native algal habitat.
- Perform rapid ecological assessments of the nearshore coral reef habitats.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease, by supporting the hiring of one new staff member who will research nearshore coral reef habitats and the impacts of algal invasive species. This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by funding workshops that will train State and Federal agencies on the role of algae in coral reef management.

B-2003-4h

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
Project Title: Hawaii Coral Reef Enforcement Workshop
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Hawaii
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$6,200
Federal amount granted: \$6,200
Non-Federal match: \$7,600
Status: In progress

Description: This proposal is to hold a three-day workshop with the three primary objectives: (1) to provide a forum for natural resource enforcement professionals and resource trustee biologists in Hawai'i for the first time to get together and discuss problems and solutions involving coral reef resources, with the goal of providing for greater inter-agency cooperation and effectiveness in enforcing regulations related to coral reef management; (2) to educate enforcement officers and prosecutors as to the short-term and long-term ecological and economic impacts of illegal and regulated activities as they relate to Hawaiian coral reefs; and (3) to educate natural resource agency biologists on incorporating proper investigative protocols in to their natural resource data collection protocols in order to allow for better use of such data in enforcement proceedings and policy decision-making as it relates to Hawaiian coral reefs.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A three-day enforcement workshop

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by funding a workshop to educate enforcement officers and prosecutors and natural resource biologists on impacts of illegal activities both ecologically and economically and on proper procedures for effective enforcement.

B-2003-4i

Grantee: Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190210
Project Title: Coral Reef Assistantship
Region: Pacific
Jurisdiction: Hawaii
Funding: Federal amount requested - \$20,000*
Federal amount granted - \$20,000*
(* To be withheld by NOAA for this project)

Status: Non-Federal match - \$5,000 (remainder waived)
In progress

Description: This project will assist in funding NOAA's Coral Reef Assistantship Program, which allows each jurisdiction to be allocated a coral reef intern for two years to support the efforts of development, coordination and implementation of the local action strategies. The intern in Hawaii will serve a coordination and facilitation function for the development of the local action strategies, as well as assist in tracking the projects that are funded under the grants.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Coral Reef Intern

Performance Criteria: This project promotes and assists implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector by addressing the human capacity need by the State to develop and implement local action strategies.

B-2003-5a

Grantee: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190208
Project Title: Implementation of the East End Marine Park (EEMP) Management Plan – Enforcement Action Plan
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$78,206
Federal amount granted: \$78,206
Non-federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project supports the salaries of the enforcement officers for the EEMP. The primary law enforcement objective in the EEMP is to achieve resource protection by gaining compliance with the regulations and statutes that apply within the EEMP's boundaries. Enforcement is best achieved by maintaining a sufficient patrol presence within the EEMP to deter violations and by preventing inadvertent violations through a strong education program. This project also supports an interpretive officer for the park that will be a primary contact and information source for the users of the EEMP. Part of the salaries of a marine park coordinator and one administrative staff is also supported.

Products/ Outcomes: Two enforcement officers, one interpretive officer, marine park coordinator, and administrative staff

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs and regulates the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by supporting the enforcement of a marine park and by educating the users of the area.

B-2003-5b

Grantee: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190208
Project Title: Implementation of the East End Marine Park (EEMP) Management Plan – Education and Outreach Plan

Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$81,954
 Federal amount granted: \$81,954
 Non-federal match: waived
 Status: In progress

Description: The funding of this project will support the hiring of a coral reef management assistant who will implement an education and outreach program that is currently being developed for the EEMP. The goals of this program are: 1) to create environmental education opportunities for all EEMP users and the wider population of the Virgin Islands; 2) to show how the EEMP is integrated into a system of supporting and sustaining habitats; 3) to promote stewardship regarding the EEMP specifically and St. Croix and the Virgin Islands generally; and 4) to promote awareness and build support for the EEMP and the Territorial Marine Park System.

Products/ Outcomes: Coral Reef Assistant and implementation of education and outreach program.

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by implementing an education and outreach program for the EEMP.

B-2003-5c

Grantee: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
 Grant Number: NA03NOS4190208
 Project Title: Implementation of the East End Marine Park (EEMP) Management Plan – Research and Monitoring Action Plan
 Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested - \$110,622
 Federal amount granted - \$110,622
 Non-federal match - waived
 Status: In progress

Description: This project supports the development of a monitoring protocol for the shallow water habitats within the EEMP. These habitats comprise the largest areas of submerged lands within the park's restricted zones and consist mainly of seagrass beds with fringing reefs or scattered patch reefs. These highly productive habitats serve as nurseries for many commercially important species and have been suffering from high fishing pressure. The proposed protocol will include data on invertebrates such as conch and lobster, fish populations, and benthic habitats, and will be based on input from a series of multi-agency workshops and assessments. The project will also support a resource use/ user monitoring protocol and survey as well as an economic valuation of the EEMP.

Products/ Outcomes: Biological monitoring protocol, resource use/ user monitoring protocol, and economic valuation of the EEMP

Performance Criteria: This project develops and implements techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs by developing a monitoring protocol for shallow water habitats within the EEMP.

B-2003-5d

Grantee: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190208
Project Title: Implementation of the East End Marine Park (EEMP) Management Plan – Water Quality Monitoring Action Plan
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$45,068
Federal amount granted: \$45,068
Non-federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project supports efforts to identify and categorize the watersheds and coastal wetlands abutting the EEMP. This will allow for a targeted approach to protect those watersheds and coastal wetlands that are critical to protecting the natural resources of the EEMP. This funding also supports the implementation of actions developed by the Local Action Strategy for land-based sources of pollution, and efforts of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to develop and implement 3-year action plans which address major threats to U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Products/ Outcomes: A water quality monitoring action plan, information on the effects of land use practices in the watersheds and coastal wetlands surrounding the EEMP, and implementation of local action strategies to address the effects of land-based sources of pollution on coral reefs

Performance Criteria: This project develops and implements techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of reefs through a water quality monitoring action plan, and implements coral conservation programs (in the form of three year local action strategies) which promote sustainable development and ensure effective long-term conservation of coral reefs.

B-2003-6a

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190207
Project Title: Training of Personnel
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,500
Federal amount granted: \$30,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project provides knowledge on the use and management of information and data available in the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Coastal Zone Division's GIS Data Node to a group of key personnel from DNER's Planning Area. This project will expand expertise to integrate knowledge and existing information in the DNER Coastal Zone Division's GIS data node and transfer it to management actions, and strengthen the capacities of DNER personnel to continue protecting coral reefs and other related marine ecosystems in Puerto Rico.

Products/ Outcomes: Increased coral reef management capacity in DNER

Performance Criteria: This project implements coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by increasing the capacity of local agencies to manage coral reef resources.

B-2003-6b

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190207
Project Title: Coral Reefs and Marine Related Ecosystems Education Strategy
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$15,000
Federal amount granted: \$15,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project will reprint three brochures about coral reefs that were previously developed and distribute them to targeted stakeholders who use and benefit from healthy coral reefs as well as those who may potentially impact coral reefs. The informational brochures are entitled: "Coral Reefs," "Thalassia Sea Grass Beds," and "Mangroves."

Products/ Outcomes: The printing and distribution of three informational brochures on coral reefs and associated habitats (10,000 copies of each brochure)

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by providing informational brochures on coral reef and associated habitats to key stakeholders.

B-2003-6c

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190207
Project Title: Installation of Coral Reef Signage
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
Federal amount granted: \$40,000
Non-Federal match: \$20,000 (in-kind) (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: This is a continuation of a multi-year project. Information resulting from an Island-wide survey of marine related boating and anchoring "hot-spots" was used to identify areas for priority action. Hot spots were then selected based on high use and coral conditions. Signage, markers and buoys are being provided in identified areas to promote and optimized use of critical coral reef and related ecosystems. This year, informational and educational signage will be installed in areas of high frequency recreational activity in Cabo Rojo, a priority area for coral reef conservation on Puerto Rico.

Products/ Outcomes: Signage for users and boaters

Performance Criteria: This project increases public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by improving public awareness on the importance of coral reefs and by discouraging recreational overuse of coral reefs. It also

enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral projects or species associated with coral reefs by improving support for regulations in natural reserves and marine protected areas.

B-2003-6d

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190207
Project Title: Coral Reef Initiative General Administration
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$132,500
Federal amount granted: \$132,500
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project supports a coral reef coordinator position, a coral reef management assistant position, computer equipment needs, and the rental of meeting facilities and services for workshops which support the continued development and implementation of three year local actions strategies which address major threats to coral reef ecosystems in Puerto Rico. The coordinator has the primary responsibility for all of the tasks of Puerto Rico's Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) program, including: assembling the information for semi-annual progress reports, organizing meetings with coastal managers, biologists, agencies, researchers and other stakeholders, and developing a network of information centers for CRI activities and public education and outreach. The coral reef management assistant will work to develop a management plan for Puerto Rico's coral reefs based on the local action strategies. DNER will conduct meetings with coastal managers, biologists, local agencies, federal agencies, researchers and other stakeholders in order to receive inputs and obtain consensus for the preparation of a Puerto Rico Coral Reef Plan based on the identified local action strategies.

Products/ Outcomes: Coordinator in place at DNER working to coordinate all PR-CRI activities, and a coral management assistant at DNER to contribute to the development of a coral reef plan for Puerto Rico

Performance Criteria: This project will support DNER's efforts to implement coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs.

B-2003-6e

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190207
Project Title: Coral Reef Law Enforcement
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$22,000
Federal amount granted: \$22,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: This project would provide funding for a special Coral Reef Enforcement Team of the DNER Rangers who enforce Puerto Rico's many laws concerning coral reefs and related ecosystems. The funding will be used for vessel repairs, supplies and per diem expenses for the

coral reef rangers to support their participation in educational activities, key meetings and actions concerning surveillance and enforcement of coral reef laws and regulations.

Products/ Outcomes: Improved surveillance and enforcement on coral reef ecosystems, strengthened Rangers' education on coral reef laws and regulations and enhanced education of the public on coral reef laws and regulations through interventions by Rangers

Performance Criteria: This project enhances compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems by improving the capacity of DNER Rangers to enforce laws protecting coral reefs and related ecosystems in Puerto Rico.

B-2003-7a

Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190209
Project Title: Development of GIS Maps of Nearshore Habitats in Palm Beach County.
Region: Atlantic
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$210,000
Federal amount granted: \$210,000
Non-federal match: \$210,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project is an effort to map coral reefs and other benthic habitats found off the coast of Palm Beach County using high-resolution, shipborne acoustic bottom classification. The area to be mapped covers approximately 29 square miles. The habitat data collected is being classified according to NOAA established guidelines.

Products/ Outcomes: Benthic habitat maps of Southeast Florida reefs in Palm Beach County.

Performance Criteria: This project maps the location and distribution of coral reefs.

B-2003-7b

Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant Number: NA03NOS4190209
Project Title: Development of Southeast Florida Local Action Strategies for Coral Reef Conservation and Management
Region: Atlantic
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$115,000
Federal amount granted: \$115,000
Non-federal match: \$115,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project will result in the development of three-year local action strategies which attempt to address major threats to coral reef ecosystems in Southeast Florida. They will be developed by an interagency group called the Southeast Florida Local Action Strategy Team (SEAFASST). The suite of strategies will use knowledge-based, consensus-building, integrated, and continuous management with frequent public review.

Products/ Outcomes: Three-year local action strategies for the management of key threats to coral reefs in Southeast Florida

Performance Criteria: This project promotes the implementation of cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and others in the private sector by involving these different stakeholders in a process to develop local action strategies to manage Southeast Florida reefs.

C. International Coral Reef Conservation Grants

C-2003-1

Grantee: Toledo Institute of Development and Environment (TIDE)
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630224
Project Title: Port Honduras Adaptive Management Project
Region: International/Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$ 40,000
Federal funds granted: \$ 35,000
Non-federal match: \$ 35,000
Status: In progress

Description: The Port Honduras Marine Reserve is a 500 square mile reserve in Belize, Central America, that is integral to the coral reef system of Belize and has been managed by the TIDE for three years. Initially started by volunteers, TIDE has grown to include twenty staff members dedicated to addressing the environmental and development needs of the Toledo District in Belize. The project will measure the success of the management program in terms of preservation of coral reef ecosystems and socioeconomic factors, and determine how well the Reserve is meeting the stated objectives of its management plan. The project will include prioritizing project goals and objectives as well as developing indicators to measure project success.

Product(s)/Outcome: Adaptive Management Framework

Performance Criteria: The Adaptive Management Framework developed in this project will promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs. The process of creating the framework will also increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation and implement techniques to monitor and assess the management, status, and condition of coral reefs at the Port Honduras Marine Reserve.

C-2003-2

Grantee: University of Guam
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630223
Project Title: Testing Indicators of MPA Management Effectiveness in Kosrae, FSM.
Region: International/Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$39,936
Federal funds granted: \$35,000
Non-federal match: \$30,510 (remainder waived)

Status: In progress

Description: This project will assess the management effectiveness of two pilot Marine Protected Area sites in Kosrae, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): the Utwe-Walung Marine Park and the Trochus Sanctuary. In order to improve the management of FSM's MPAs, the collaborators propose to develop, refine, and test indicators of MPA effectiveness in conjunction with a larger international effort. Management effectiveness will be measured using a suite of biophysical, socioeconomic, and governance indicators appropriate to the local conditions and that influence the performance of Kosrae's MPAs. These indicators were developed by the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), NOAA and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in a joint initiative aimed at improving the management of MPAs.

Product(s)/Outcome: Tests of predictive and real-time indicators of MPA management effectiveness; guidelines for MPA managers wishing to use these indicators as measures of MPA site and system effectiveness; data set on the effectiveness of Utwe-Walung Marine Park and the Trochus Sanctuary

Performance Criteria: The data set developed in this project will promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing information that can be used to adapt management to future needs. The process will also develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems. The project will be a model for the implementation of the World Commission on Protected Areas-Marine and World Wildlife Fund's Management Effectiveness methodology.

C-2003-3

Grantee: International Marinelifelife Alliance
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630225
Project Title: Identification and Characterization of Reef Fish Spawning Aggregation Sites in MPAs of Northern Vietnam and the Western Philippines
Region: International/Southeast Asia
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$40,000
Federal funds granted: \$39,700
Non-federal match: \$39,700
Status: In progress

Description: Spawning areas have been detected in protected or designated protected areas in the Ha Long Bay region of Vietnam and the northern Palawan region of the Philippines. This proposed project is designed to identify and characterize spawning aggregations and sites of two species groups, the humphead wrasse (a resident aggregating species), and various groupers (transient aggregating species that migrate to aggregation sites), at these two localities. Aggregations and sites will be characterized by relating standard measures of biological and physical parameters, and by mapping of sites. Local managers will be trained in these methods during the course of the project. The results of the project are intended to help formulate strategies that expand the level of protection afforded these species by strengthening management measures at these sites.

Product(s)/Outcome: Document describing identification of one or more *Cheilinus undulatus* resident and grouper transient spawning aggregation sites in the selected MPAs or designated MPAs in Vietnam and the Philippines; description of physical characteristics and bathymetric

maps of the populations and the aggregation's characteristics; local management personnel trained in standard methods of reef fish spawning aggregation assessment and monitoring

Performance Criteria: The data set developed in this project will develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems by identifying and describing the status of spawning aggregations associated with the reefs. Since fishing activity poses a threat to both fish species population viability and coral reef community structure, the resulting recommendations can be used to help guide the further development of coral reef conservation programs in Vietnam and the Philippines.

C-2003-4

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630226
Project Title: Evaluating Monitoring Protocols at Marine Protected Areas in Belize and the Bahamas
Region: International/Atlantic-Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$25,503
Federal funds granted: \$25,500
Non-federal match: \$25,500
Status: In progress

Description: There is an increasing need for marine reserve managers to be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of their management programs. The Wildlife Conservation Society will facilitate the exchange of established monitoring protocols between Belize and the Bahamas, providing managers with comparisons of effectiveness and flexibility, and with a wider range of options in implementing monitoring programs for the reserves under their jurisdiction. This will be conducted through a technical exchange program, training opportunities and development of a web-based information sharing system.

Product(s)/Outcome: Results of the project are expected to endure through a WCS Working Paper which will outline the project's findings and ongoing enrichment of the web-based information sharing system.

Performance Criteria: The data set developed in this project will facilitate techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs in the Bahamas and Belize by developing information sharing systems to increase the efficacy of marine reserve monitoring not only at the project sites in Belize and the Bahamas, but also at other sites across the Caribbean.

C-2003-5

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630227
Project Title: Establishing a Socioeconomic Monitoring Program for Glover's Reef Atoll, Belize
Region: International/Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$20,325
Federal funds granted: \$20,300
Non-federal match: \$20,300
Status: In progress

Description: This project will establish and implement a socioeconomic monitoring program for Belize's Glovers Reef Atoll, which includes the Glovers Reef Marine Reserve. Benefits will include enhancement of existing conservation activities, awareness about future management efforts, and a provision of a mechanism to balance conservation objectives with community needs and concerns over the long-term. A coastal socio-economic assessment and monitoring program will be conducted.

Product(s)/Outcome: (1) A final report that includes an Executive Summary, Introduction, Description of Methods, Detailed and Summary Descriptions of Results, Discussion of Results, Recommendations for Further Actions, and Description of Planned Follow-up Activities; (2) A brief written guide to implementing the Glover's Reef Socioeconomic Monitoring Program for use in the next phases of the monitoring program; (3) A Belizean social scientist trained in the SocMon protocol; (4) Pre- and post-survey workshops with the Advisory Committee and local communities; and (5) Outreach and education materials about the monitoring program's findings

Performance Criteria: This project will make it possible to implement coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing timely and relevant results of socioeconomic monitoring to the management decision process. It will also increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by incorporating local stakeholder groups into the process. Future implications of this project include building support for marine protected areas in Belize through improved management and demonstrating the benefits of the Glover's Reef Marine Reserve.

C-2003-6

Grantee:	Terangi: The Indonesian Coral Reef Foundation
Grant No.:	NA03NOS4630228
Project Title:	Socio-Economic Assessment in the Use of Reef Resources by Local Community and other Direct Stakeholders
Region:	International/Southeast Asia
Funding:	Federal funds requested: \$24,552 Federal funds granted: \$24,500 Non-federal match: \$3,392 (remainder waived)
Status:	In progress

Description: The Seribu Islands are a widespread archipelago within Jakarta Bay, Indonesia, which consists of 108 islands. The great number of stakeholders involved in managing and using the potential resources of the Seribu Islands creates an opportunity to collect necessary data that can be integrated into decision making processes that are beginning as the islands become a new district subject to decentralization. Terangi will conduct a socio-economic assessment to develop a demographic profile of the local community of the 108-island Seribu Archipelago and review benefits of MPA management for the community.

Product(s)/Outcome: A demographic profile of the local community at Kepulauan Seribu and a description of reef resources used by direct stakeholders

Performance Criteria: This project will make it possible to implement coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing timely and relevant results of socioeconomic monitoring to the management decision process. It will also increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef

ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by incorporating local stakeholder groups into the process.

C-2003-7

Grantee: UNESCO Bangkok Office
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630229
Project Title: A Place for Indigenous People Living in Thailand's Andaman Sea's MPA's
Region: International/Southeast Asia
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$20,000
Federal funds granted: \$20,000
Non-federal match: \$20,000
Status: In progress

Description: The rapid development occurring along Thailand's Andaman coast over the past few decades has deprived many of the local and indigenous people from access to their traditional marine resources and curtailed their freedom of movement. This project will assist in developing a model for equitable governance for the sustained conservation of the natural and cultural diversity in the marine protected areas of the Andaman Sea. The project collaborators will create a balance between park conservation objectives and local needs and aspirations of indigenous people and communities living in and around marine protected areas of the Andaman Sea. The project will conduct a socio-economic assessment to collect systematic information on the Moken and Urak Lawoi communities to understand their socio-economic status, and to monitor overall impacts of management on livelihood.

Product(s)/Outcome: Report on the socioeconomic characteristics of the Moken and Urak Lawoi communities of Thailand

Performance Criteria: This project will make it possible to implement coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by providing timely and relevant results of socioeconomic monitoring to the management decision process. It will also increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long-term conservation by incorporating local stakeholder groups into the process. This project will assist Thailand partners to create a balance between park conservation objectives and the local needs and aspirations of indigenous people and communities living in and around marine protected areas of the Andaman Sea. The project will specifically address the challenges of conservation of biodiversity with the rights and knowledge of indigenous people by building equity in resource governance, recognizing the traditional knowledge and practices and the informal economy they uphold, and preventing alienation of local people and loss of cultural and biological diversity.

C-2003-8

Grantee: Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
Grant No.: NA03NOS4630230
Project Title: Promoting Watershed Management in Wider Caribbean Nations
Region: International/Caribbean
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$75,000
Federal funds granted: \$70,000
Non-federal match: \$70,000

Status: In progress

Description: Soufriere, St. Lucia, is the site of one of the most successful marine management initiatives in the Caribbean. The Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) is managed by the Soufriere Marine Management Association and was established to secure the sustainable use of various resources. Although the site contains St. Lucia's best and most substantial reef system on the island, the area also receives sediment and other inputs from the Soufriere River that flows into the bay, posing a substantial threat to the reef systems. Since no equivalent management system is in place to address the threats posed to the reefs, this project will seek to establish a permanent interagency structure linked to the SMMA with the prime purpose of securing the necessary interventions in the Soufriere watershed. The aim will be to reduce the harmful inputs into the Soufriere Bay using the same community-focused and partnership approach that was adopted by the SMMA. The project will seek to employ environmentally sound resource-use practices supported by a comprehensive public awareness and sensitization campaign.

Product(s)/Outcome: An adaptive management framework; documented environmentally sound watershed practices

Performance Criteria: This project will make it possible to implement coral reef conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs by establishing watershed best practices in St. Lucia. By developing a model for watershed management which would be replicable in other small island States, this project will address conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs.

D. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

D-2003-1

Grantee:	Western Pacific Fishery Management Council	
Grant number:	NA03NMF4630	
Project Title:	Assessment and Management of Western Pacific Coral Reef Ecosystem Resources and Habitat	
Region:	Pacific	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$750,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$750,000
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project is supporting staff, travel and workshop activities needed to assist in gathering critical information in order to facilitate coral reef ecosystem resource management decisions, improve coral reef protection and maintain healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. One component of the project also involves continued mapping efforts, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands multi-beam bathymetry and backscatter cruise, Project Deep Reef, the CNMI Mapping project, and an assessment, characterization and mapping of important bottomfish habitat in the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve (KIR). A third component involves a study on Hawaii's lobster resources (spiny lobsters and slipper lobsters), their cultural significance, biology and life history information, past resource assessments, and past and current research. The lobster study will provide insight about how, and when the recreational lobster fishery is

conducted, and with whom; about the impacts on each of the lobster species, what grounds are fished, what gears are preferred and whether nursery grounds exist. A fourth component involves work to track home range sizes of three commercially important fish species in the Managaha Reserve within CNMI. The fifth component involves an investigation of the diets of taape and some important native fishery species that occur in the same habitats to quantify the level of interactions between native and introduced species. The final component involves additional work to evaluate the use of bait stations as a tool to monitor abundance and size frequency of nearshore and deep-water coral reef ecosystem fish species.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Several workshops, an improved GIS database, maps of bottom habitat, outreach and education materials, and data and reports on various fishery species

Performance Criteria: This project continues to support the Council's efforts in managing commercially important fishery resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Pacific, with emphasis on an ecosystem approach. Information generated from this project will also provide the Council with information to assess the need for additional management measures for lobster fisheries in Federal waters of the Main Hawaiian Islands, and techniques to assess commercially important fishery species and habitat utilization patterns.

D-2003-2

Grantee:	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council		
Grant number:	NA03NMF4410351		
Project Title:	Studies of the Florida Middle Grounds and characterization of the mid-shelf bank in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico		
Region:	Caribbean		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$250,000	
	Federal amount granted:	\$195,000	
	Non-Federal match:	waived	
Status:	In progress		

Description: The project involves mapping and habitat characterization in two distinct areas within the Gulf of Mexico. The first piece will map and evaluate an area of essential fish habitat in the Florida Middle Grounds. This will include obtaining acoustic imagery (high-resolution, 300 kHz multibeam bathymetry and backscatter data of the high relief areas within the Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)). These data will be combined with previous multibeam bathymetry, backscatter, and seismic data collected in this area with additional seafloor sampling to provide an integrated data interpretation and data product covering most (if not all) of the HAPC. The second component involves mapping of offshore coral reef banks that overlie topographic highs in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and assessing their importance to corals and reef fishes. Efforts will concentrate on one of the prominent mid-shelf banks (Sonmier Bank) in the northwest Gulf of Mexico and evaluate the importance of this natural bank as essential fish habitat (EFH), particularly as nursery grounds of important reef associated species (e.g., snapper, groupers).

Product(s)/Outcomes: Development of acoustic maps of the sea floor. These will include classification of the major geomorphologic features of the Florida Middle Grounds and a description of the surficial geology using a few selected sediment samples as ground-truth data.

Performance Criteria: This project involves mapping and habitat characterization of various areas within the Gulf of Mexico to determine the nature of this benthic habitat and whether it, or

parts of it, should be designated as a marine reserve or if other actions should be taken to afford additional protection of the habitat and its associated marine resources. Part of the Florida Middle Grounds is protected from coral harvest and the use of fishing gear that could damage coral communities, including bottom longlines, traps, pots, bottom trawls, dredges, and toxic chemicals. However, no other fishing restrictions occur, anchoring is permitted and hook-and-line fishing is intense but largely unquantified. The results of this study will be used to determine whether it should be designated as a marine reserve, protecting the area from extractive use.

D-2003-3

Grantee: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Grant number: NA03NMF4410350
Project Title: SAFMC Coral Reef Conservation Activities to Conserve and Manage Fishery Resources and Protect EFH
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$250,000
Federal amount granted: \$183,800
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: The project is building on a previous grant involving the creation of an Arc IMS system with links to downloadable coral, coral reef and bottom type data, browsable metadata prior to download, and substantial program information including links to related sites. One component includes purchase of additional hardware to complete the Central GIS System and expand presentation and field GIS capabilities and additional training of staff responsible for building the geodatabase and use of analytical software. The third component involves field verification of a representative sample of near-shore coral live/hard bottom habitat designated as EFH as presented in the SEAMAP Bottom Mapping Project.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A downloadable interactive web-mapping capability allowing data browsing, query, and spatial operation including buffering and area and distance calculations; photography and video clips of representative coral and associated bottom habitat types; and metadata interface. In addition, an ArcGIS ArcPad System will be used to verify location, and photography and video will be compiled for presenting visual representations of resources managed under the Coral Fishery Management Plan.

Performance Criteria: This project will improve our understanding of important coral reef and hard bottom habitats within the Gulf of Mexico through mapping and habitat characterization. It will also improve public education on the location, community composition and status of fishery resources and bottom communities within this region as well as compliance with existing laws and regulations through an interactive web site with downloadable data and the ability to create digital maps. The data obtained through this study will assist the Gulf Council in determining whether existing management measures are sufficient or new measures, such as expansion of MPAs, are needed to conserve fish stocks.

D-2003-4

Grantee: Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Grant number: NA03NMF4410352

Project Title: Inventory and Atlas of Corals and Coral Reefs, with Emphasis on Deep-Water Coral Reefs from the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone, Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Region: Caribbean

Funding: Federal amount requested: \$250,000
 Federal amount granted: \$175,000
 Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: This project will provide a comprehensive search, review and synthesis of the scientific information available on deep reef communities around Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, including a baseline characterization of the upper insular slope communities off Puerto Canoas Reef, Isla Desecheo, in the Mona Passage. A digital map will be assembled from the existing substrate information on nautical charts, archival sounding surveys and substrate descriptions of the insular shelf slope by the Johnson Sea-Link II expedition team and other historical and/or anecdotal information as gathered throughout the literature review process. At Puerto Canoas Reef, a quantitative and qualitative baseline characterization on the upper reef slope communities will be completed, including characterization of sessile-benthic, motile megabenthic and reef fish communities via direct underwater (diver and automated video) surveys down to 45 meters and by collection of specimen samples using fish traps of various mesh openings down to 100 meters.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A benthic habitat map of deep reefs (down to a depth contour of 400 fathoms) and a digital photographic and video album of deep reef communities from Puerto Canoas Reef in Isla Desecheo

Performance Criteria: This project will provide the basis for an assessment of fishery stocks on selected populations and supply additional information on habitat utilization by different size classes of fishes and megabenthic invertebrates. In addition, it will serve as baseline for evaluation of the effectiveness of the “no-take” designation as a management option once implemented along with a prospective monitoring program for this site. This work will supplement (NOAA-DNER sponsored) ongoing research on habitat utilization by coral reef populations in neritic sections of the insular shelf, contributing to our present understanding of the life cycles of selected reef populations.

E. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grants

E-2003-1

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)

Grant number: NA03NOS4260108

Project Title: Baseline Characterization and Monitoring of Coral Reef Communities at Desecheo Island, Rincon, and Mayaguez Bay, Puerto Rico

Region: Caribbean

Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000
 Federal amount granted: \$100,000
 Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: The project aims to establish a baseline quantitative characterization and a monitoring program of coral reef communities at three current or proposed Natural Reserves in Puerto Rico. The monitoring program will include determinations of percent substrate cover by reef sessile-benthic categories based on a continuous intercept technique along permanent transects at various depths. Taxonomic composition, species diversity, and abundance of reef fishes and of motile megabenthic invertebrates will be included as part of the initial community. The project builds upon data collected from 2000-2001 under this grant program, and provides a targeted baseline for areas considered from previous work to be healthy, rich in fish and coral diversity, and suitable for MPA designation. The project includes an action plan to monitor these locations for a minimum of three years (2003-2005).

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce a report quantifying reef fish community structure associated with current or potential MPAs, and will be used by PRDNER to assess the efficacy of these protected areas in the future (if established). Grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 “State of the Reef Report” describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Puerto Rico. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2000-FY2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared. Data generated will be used by PRDNER to affect local resource management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Puerto Rico. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of PRDNER’s techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-2

Grantee:	U.S. Virgin Islands, Dept of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)	
Grant number:	NA03NOS4260107	
Project Title:	Monitoring and Assessment of Coral Reef Ecosystems in the U.S. Virgin Islands	
Region:	Caribbean	
Funding:	Federal funds requested:	\$131,500
	Federal amount granted:	\$131,500
	Non-Federal match:	waived
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project provides continued support for monitoring sites throughout the USVI using the monitoring protocols established under the FY2002 grant. To improve implementation of the newly established St. Croix East End Marine Park, efforts also will be put into additional assessment of the park resources and toward the development of a Marine Park Monitoring Plan.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the third in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial trends in benthic cover and condition along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. Data collected will be used by DPNR to assess the efficacy of coastal management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 “State of the Reef Report” describing historical trends in the coral reef

ecosystem communities of the USVI. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2000-FY2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of DPNR's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-3

Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant number: NA03NOS4260114
Project Title: Expansion of Coral Reef evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP) to Southeast Florida Coral Reefs
Region: Atlantic
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$100,000
Federal amount granted: \$100,000
Non-Federal match: \$100,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project provides continued support for the expansion of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Coral Reef Monitoring Project (initiated in 1996) northward into Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. This represents the second year of funding to support this monitoring activity. In addition to the activities established in FY2002, density and size of the bioeroding sponge (*Cliona*), an indicator of organic enrichment, will be documented.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce a report describing state-wide trends in benthic cover and condition throughout southern Florida. Data will be used by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP) and the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) to assess the efficacy of coastal management. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Florida. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2002-FY2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared. The project will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of southern Florida. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of FLDEP and FMRI's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-4

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources (DMWR)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260110
Project Title: American Samoa Coral Reef Monitoring Program
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$99,728
Federal amount granted: \$99,728
Non-Federal match: waived

Status: In progress

Description: As in previous years, funding to American Samoa's DMWR supported a series of projects recommended by the local Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG). The advisory group decided the following three activities represented American Samoa's priorities towards coral ecosystem management: 1) Continued support to assess population dynamics and fishery characteristics for lobsters; 2) Development of a community based fisheries management program (FMP) monitoring strategy; and 3) Support for the expansion of American Samoa EPA (ASEPA) water quality monitoring to include stations situated in coral reef environments. The FMP will help local villages develop fisheries management plans for those coral reefs under "traditional" control with the assistance of DMWR.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of reports describing the state of the lobster population and fishery in American Samoa. In addition, the standard EPA 305(b) water quality report will be generated for coral reef areas. Data generated will be used by DMWR and CRAG for continued adaptive management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of American Samoa. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2000-2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of American Samoa. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of DMWR and CRAG member techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-5

Grantee:	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)		
Grant number:	NA03N0S4260109		
Project Title:	CNMI Coral Reef Ecosystems Monitoring Grant FY 2002-2005		
Region:	Pacific		
Funding:	Federal funds requested:	\$98,363	
	Federal amount granted:	\$98,363	
	Non-Federal match:	waived	
Status:	In progress		

Description: This project provides the 4th year of support for CNMI's Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) assessment, inventory, and monitoring of coral reefs under its jurisdiction. This monitoring program was established in 2000 with support from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. Monitoring activities, including habitat assessments, mapping activities, and biological and water quality characterizations, have been designed to assess areas negatively impacted by anthropogenic activities, as well as to track changes in coral reef community structure (benthic and fishes) over time. Work is focusing on the reef tracts of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Islands.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the 3rd in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover and condition along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure and water quality at each of the monitored sites. All of this information will be used by CRMO to assess the efficacy of coastal management, and will

contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of the Commonwealth. This chapter also will include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2000-2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the CNMI. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-6

Grantee: Guam Department of Agriculture
Grant number: NA03NOS4260111
Project Title: Guam Coral Reef Monitoring Grant
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal funds requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$50,000
Non-Federal match: waived
Status: In progress

Description: As in previous years, funded projects were recommended by a local Coral Reef Initiative Advisory Committee, and included the following activities: 1) Continued support to monitor the effectiveness of five newly established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to preserve food fish populations and corresponding habitats; 2) Support for local "Reef Check" community based monitoring activities; and 3) Support for the development of Guam's contribution to the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report." In addition to funding these projects, Coral Reef Conservation Program funds have been used to provide much needed personnel support for the Department. A coral reef monitoring assistant is being supported for one year to help with field activities and product development.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of reports on the efficacy of MPAs in preserving fish populations and the habitats upon which they depend. The data generated from these efforts will provide information critical to understanding the effects of management action through MPA designation, and will also provide input for adaptive management of Guam's coral reef resources. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Guam. This chapter also will include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2002-FY2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared. Data collected will contribute to the overall coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Guam. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-7

Grantee: Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)
Grant number: NA03NOS4260115
Project Title: Palau Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project

Region: Pacific
 Funding: Federal funds requested: \$21,716
 Federal amount granted: \$21,716
 Non-Federal match: \$29,116
 Status: In progress

Description: This project is a continuation of support for Palau’s program to assess, inventory, map, and monitor coral reef ecosystems, and to build the internal capacity to maintain these activities as a long-term monitoring program. The maintenance of this program, initiated with FY2002 funds, will continue to fill local priority gaps and information needs for coral reef monitoring and assessment, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce the second in a series of annual reports describing spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover along with a robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. Data generated will be used by PICRC to affect resource management throughout Palau and the greater Freely Associated States. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 “State of the Reef Report” describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Palau. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2002-FY2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Palau. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of local resource management agency techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-8

Grantee: State of Hawaii, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant number: NA03NOS4260112
 Project Title: Hawaii Coral Reef Monitoring Program
 Region: Pacific
 Funding: Federal funds requested: \$115,000
 Federal amount granted: \$115,000
 Non-Federal match: \$147,049
 Status: In progress

Description: Funds will be used by the State of Hawaii to continue long-term regional coral reef ecosystem monitoring activities initiated in FY2001. This grant will expand the monitoring program to additional islands. The objective of this program is to effectively monitor coral reef ecosystems, associated biological communities, and water quality under its jurisdiction using appropriate, comprehensive, and scientifically defensible methodologies. Furthermore, funds will be used by DLNR’s Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) scientists to develop “remote islet” coral reef rapid ecological assessments (REA’s). REAs will be used to map species distributions, diversity, habitat complexity and a range of other metrics in an effort to document both native and alien flora and fauna in locations that have rarely or never been studied. This is particularly critical in light of the high degree of endemism in the islands.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project has will produce the 3rd in a series of annual reports describing large-scale spatial and temporal trends in benthic cover and condition, along with a

robust assessment of the fish community structure at each of the monitored sites. The monitoring program report will also provide population estimates for fishes impacted by the aquarium trade, which is very active in the region. Furthermore, grant recipients will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Hawaii. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program (FY2001-2003), which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared. Data generated will be used by DAR to affect local resource management, and will contribute to the coordinated network of monitoring activities for all U.S. coral reef ecosystems.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of the main eight Hawaiian Islands. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of DAR's techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

E-2003-9

Grantee:	Kosrae Island Resource Management Program	
Grant number:	NA03NOS4260113	
Project Title:	Kosrae State Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program	
Region:	Pacific	
Funding:	Federal funds requested:	\$20,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$20,000
	Non-Federal match:	\$24,347
Status:	In progress	

Description: This first year project provides the funding necessary to supplement and enhance the capacity within Kosrae's resource management agencies, local NGOs, and volunteer organizations to establish and implement a long-term Kosrae State Coral Reef Monitoring Program. This program will include the collection, analysis, and reporting a coral reef ecosystem monitoring data pursuant to scientifically valid methodologies and protocols. Project activities include high-resolution benthic habitat mapping, the development of comprehensive biological resource inventories (including corals, fishes, macroinvertebrates, and algae), and preliminary assessments of water quality. These integrated activities are particularly critical because little is known of about the status of Kosrae's coral ecosystem resources.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Because of the lack of existing information, this project will necessarily provide information to implement meaningful management strategies for Kosrae. The project will result in an integrated assessment of coral habitat distributions, biological abundance and distribution, and water quality. Furthermore, grantees will generate a chapter for the FY2004 "State of the Reef Report" describing historical trends in the coral reef ecosystem communities of Kosrae. This chapter will also include an explicit analysis of data collected under this grant program, which is to serve as a benchmark against which future estimates can be compared.

Performance Criteria: This project develops sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems of Kosrae. In addition, this project enhances the development and implementation of techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of these reefs.

F. General Coral Reef Conservation Grants

F-2003-1

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, TRAFFIC
Grant number: NA03NMF4630332
Project Title: Update and dissemination of a comprehensive identification manual for the worlds known seahorses (genus Hippocampus)
Region: Pacific and Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$30,000
Federal Amount granted: \$30,000
Non-Federal match: \$30,000
Status: In progress

Description: TRAFFIC North America, in partnership with Project Seahorse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is developing a comprehensive identification manual for the world's known seahorses (genus *Hippocampus*). This manual will facilitate the enforcement of trade regulations and domestic management for seahorses under CITES, thereby reducing the impacts from illegal and unreported international trade and fishing on these coral reef resources.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Photographic identification manual for all seahorse species in international trade for distribution to law enforcement, customs and wildlife inspectors in the U.S. and to all CITES parties that export or import seahorses.

Performance Criteria: This project will enhance compliance with a recently adopted Appendix II listing for seahorses designed to prevent detrimental trade in these species. The final product will facilitate implementation of recently adopted CITES trade measures and thereby further the conservation of seahorses and the coral reef ecosystems in which they live.

F-2003-2

Grantee: Consultores Educativos Ambientales, C.S.P
Grant number: NA03NMF4630333
Project Title: A public education campaign to promote care of the coral reef in Puerto Rico
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$35,860
Federal amount granted: \$10,000
Non-Federal match: \$10,000
Status: In progress

Description: This project will design and implement an 18 month public education campaign consisting of field and classroom activities directed to boat owners, fishermen, town folks and campers; production of written material on coral reef conservation in the form of a comic book; and development of a weather proof poster illustrating the code of conduct necessary around coral reefs that will be posted in strategic areas such as coastal community centers, town squares, marinas and camping sites in Fajardo, Culebra and La Parguera (Lajas).

Product(s)/Outcomes: A comic book on coral reef conservation; posters

Performance Criteria: This project is addressing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and associated management activities, and public education and outreach activities. It will contribute to better enforcement of rules and regulations regarding boating in coral reef areas and allowable activities in MPAs, and it will contribute to greater awareness and strategies to mitigate damage associated with recreational overuse.

F-2003-3

Grantee: DLF & Associates
Grant number: NA03NMF4630347
Project Title: Professional Training for Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resource Maritime Rangers
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$31,260
Non-Federal match: \$20,852 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: This project is providing a series of training workshops for 50 DNER maritime unit rangers on laws and regulations affecting coral reef ecosystems in Puerto Rico, and the legal process for prosecuting violators. It will also enhance skills of rangers in knowledge of coral reefs and most appropriate and successful tactics when interacting with coral reef users.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Workshops and hands-on training sessions for DNER rangers.

Performance Criteria: This project will improve compliance with coral reef laws and enhance enforcement capabilities of rangers through the training in the development of management skills to deal with a diversity of population that makes up the marine users community.

F-2003-4

Grantee: Florida State University
Grant number: NA03NMF4630330
Project Title: Coral reef conservation through outreach: Education traveling exhibit, phase 1
Region: Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$14,200
Non-Federal match: \$14,200
Status: In progress

Description: This is an educational outreach and public awareness project that is updating the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's 1996 exhibition (*Nuestros Arrecifes: Unidos por el Caribe/Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections*). The update is needed because many reefs in the wider Caribbean have seriously deteriorated since 1996, our understanding of their threats has greatly increased, and new strategies for management or remediation are being introduced. Its regional focus conforms to natural geographic and oceanographic boundaries and incorporates an ecologically coherent biogeographic province. Key topics for inclusion are diseases, fishing, greenhouse gases, management, recreation, and runoff. Overseeing the exhibit's development is an advisory group that includes well-regarded coral reef scientists.

Product(s)/Outcomes: A coral reef exhibit constructed with modular design that can be displayed at libraries, ecological centers, airports, auditoriums, cruise ships, conference halls and other locations. Phase I will be in English, with a Spanish version to be produced in the second year.

Performance Criteria: This project will increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems, threats affecting their long-term conservation, and possible measures that the public can take to assist in conservation.

F-2003-5

Grantee: Hawaii Wildlife Fund
Grant number: NA03NMF4630335
Project Title: Community Based Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in Maui, Hawaii
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$50,000
Non-Federal match: \$49,995 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: This project consists of three components that will assist local communities in Maui, Hawaii in sustainably managing coral reef resources. The first component is designed to help communities organize and build capacity for coral reef management through the initiation of the establishment of local resource councils. These councils will serve as the main body for community members to discuss their concerns and make strategic decisions regarding coral reef conservation. The second component involves establishing a *Conservation Awareness and Involvement Program* including community monitoring of coral reef ecosystems and alien algae. This will include training community members in R.E.E.F. monitoring techniques and hosting meetings where results of surveys are shared with the public. It also includes implementation of the ReefWatcher program. The third component involves working with the marine tourism industry to initiate a conservation fund.

Product(s)/Outcomes: The products and outcomes will include dissemination of monitoring techniques and training in the use of these techniques; establishment of local resource councils that are educated on coral reef issues and can effectively work with state governments on local conservation needs; and a report on the willingness of tourists to pay for access to Maui's coral reef resources.

Performance Criteria: This project will promote sustainable development and long-term conservation of Maui's reefs by establishing a local resource council that is better able to contribute to the development of management plans and regulations. It is also implementing a coral reef monitoring program that will provide data on the status and trends of fishery resources and threats affecting the sustainability of these reefs. Finally, it is promoting the implementation of coral reef conservation projects that would be funded through the marine tourism industry by charging user fees.

F-2003-6

Grantee: Marine Aquarium Council
Grant number: NA03NMF4630324
Project Title: Wise management and sustainable use of the Hawaii aquarium fishery through MAC certification for reef management and best practices
Region: Pacific/Caribbean
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,000
Federal amount granted: \$35,000
Non-Federal match: \$35,000
Status: In progress

Description: The project will work with marine aquarium trade stakeholders in Hawaii, especially the industry, to promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources. Specific elements include: 1) building awareness of management alternatives for a sustainable marine aquarium trade in Hawaii through multi-stakeholder consultations and outreach; 2) developing management plans for reef areas subject to marine ornamentals collection through stakeholder participation; and 3) facilitating marine aquarium fish collectors and companies to understand and achieve Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) Certification for "best practices."

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will produce several reports; disseminate education and outreach materials; conduct workshops; and contribute towards the development of a management plan. The products and outcomes include: 1) an in-depth stakeholder analysis study, including identification, characterization, interaction, and strategic analysis and positioning of relevant stakeholders related to the Kona coast and its coral reef ecosystems; 2) community outreach materials for specific target audiences, including MAC brochures booklets and information and educational kits; 3) informational meetings, multi-stakeholder consultations, and community workshops on the issues and potential solutions regarding Kona coast marine aquarium industry operations; 4) a group of marine aquarium collectors and companies that are well informed about MAC Certification and begin actively working to become "early adopters" of industry best practices and MAC Certification in Hawaii; and 5) improved industry support and respect for State of Hawaii coral reef fisheries management, MPAs, FRAs and regulations.

Performance Criteria: This project is addressing the unsustainable trade in ornamental reef fishes in Hawaii. It is resulting in an improvement of reef fishery management strategies; improved outreach and education to fishermen and other stakeholders on the concerns surrounding the ornamental trade in coral reef species; improved use and management of Marine Protected Areas; and reduced impacts from the trade in coral reef species.

F-2003-7

Grantee: Palau Conservation Society (PCS)
Grant number: NA03NMF4630342
Project Title: Minimizing visitors' impacts on coral reefs through tour guide training in Palau
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$34,344
Federal amount granted: \$34,344
Non-Federal match: \$36,390
Status: In progress

Description: The Palau Conservation Society is implementing a training program and an outreach program in coral reef ecology for tour guides. The primary goal of the training program is to provide basic information to the tour guides about coral reef ecology and the ways to minimize the impacts of visitors in the marine environment. The focus of the outreach program will be on the importance of protecting the health of the marine environment and of the tour guides' role in promoting a healthy marine environment in Palau. The aim of this project is to raise the awareness of the working tour guides in Palau about the importance of their role in protecting the marine environment. PCS is implementing the project in partnership with Koror State Office of Conservation and Law Enforcement.

Product(s)/Outcomes: This project will present radio announcements, newspaper ads and conduct public meetings, and also distribute outreach materials. In addition the project will develop a course curriculum for the training of tour guides.

Performance Criteria: This project is developing a strategy for offering an environmental training course to existing tour guides and dive shop employees in Palau, including the development of course curriculum, training materials and long term plans to continue the training beyond the duration of this grant through a course at a local university.

F-2003-8

Grantee:	Project Aware Foundation	
Grant number:	NA03NMF4630348	
Project Title:	Protect the Living Reef Public Education Campaign	
Region:	Pacific/Caribbean	
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$25,000
	Federal amount granted:	\$25,000
	Non-Federal match:	\$44,010
Status:	In progress	

Description: This project is improving education by increasing public knowledge on coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation through the dissemination of educational materials, public service announcements and targeted discussions with user groups on possible local conservation practices. Protect the Living Reef educational materials specifically communicate to these audiences why coral reefs need our protection, their vast importance and "10 Things You Can Do" to sustain coral reef resources. In addition to targeting user groups, this project will expand upon their successful 2002 Public Service Announcements involving well known Academy Award Nominees Ed Harris and Selma Hayek, who will present coral reef conservation messages to the general public.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Protect the Living Reef campaign brochures, posters, and decals are being distributed to the public through partner dive centers, resorts, tour operators, marine parks, aquariums and public events. Project Aware is also issuing educational public service announcements on television, cable networks, and tour facilities in target regions.

Performance Criteria: The Protect the Living Reef campaign is designed to increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems, threats and possible conservation strategies through dissemination of outreach materials to constituents. Project Aware is unique in that they are reaching large numbers of divers, snorkelers and tourists through strong partnership with Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), as well as with marine parks, aquariums and environmental organizations, dive centers, resorts and tour operators. The campaign is also

coordinating directly with many local and regional non-governmental organizations, as well as with government regulated marine parks and NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries to disseminate educational materials to tourists and recreational visitors.

F-2003-9

Grantee: University of Guam
Grant number: NA03NMF4630323
Project Title: Defining and mapping fish habitat for reef fishes in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia
Region: Pacific
Funding: Federal amount requested: \$50,000
Federal amount granted: \$39,908
Non-Federal match: \$27,110 (remainder waived)
Status: In progress

Description: This project is identifying essential spawning and nursery habitats for large, vulnerable, and commercially important reef fishes in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. The researcher is monitoring recruitment, growth, movement, reproductive behavior and mortality of camouflage grouper (*Epinephelus polykephadion*), squaretail coral grouper (*Plectropomus areolatus*), Napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) and bumphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*) in a range of habitats. Spectral Mixture Analysis and visual interpretation of IKONOS high-resolution satellite imagery are being used to assess habitat and classify specific locations on the images. The spatially referenced habitat data will be used in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to generate spatial databases and maps of available shallow nearshore habitats, focusing on critical nursery and spawning habitats.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Digital benthic habitat maps of the coral reefs of Kosrae; definitions and digital maps of essential fish habitat for camouflage grouper, squaretail coral grouper, humphead wrasse and bumphead parrotfish; a masters thesis; and scientific papers, presentations and a popular article that outlines to the public the current status of U.S. Western Pacific coral reefs and essential reef fish habitat, and the importance of conservation measures to the health of reefs and their associated fisheries.

Performance Criteria: This project is the first study to determine habitat-specific patterns in ecological processes (settlement, growth, movement, mortality, reproduction) for four large reef fish species that are economically important throughout the tropical Western Pacific. It is providing important data on the location and extent of habitat types in Kosrae, in the form of digital benthic habitat maps that can be used for ecosystem-based management of a range of coral reef resources. One possible use includes changes in marine protected area boundaries to include essential habitats, based on observed rates of settlement, growth and mortality in different habitat types.

F-2003-10

Grantee: The University of the Virgin Islands
Grant number: NA03NMF4630329
Project Title: Comparative investigations of Red Hind (*Epinephalus guttatus*) spawning aggregations under different management strategies: fully protected marine reserves in the U.S. Virgin Islands and seasonal closures in the British Virgin Islands

Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$40,444
 Federal amount granted: \$70,000
 Non-Federal match: \$20,332 (remainder waived)
 Status: In progress

Description: The project will focus on a collaborative effort between the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) and the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to collect and assimilate biological data on a critical habitat in the BVI with the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in mind. One component will focus on a scientific investigation of a large traditional red hind grouper (*Epinephalus guttatus*) spawning aggregation site in the British Virgin Islands, located on the Anegada Bank. The spatial area of the aggregation site will be determined as well as the density of spawners, sex ratio, size frequency, habitat type, benthic complexity, and fish community structure. In addition, a tag and release program will be implemented. Data from the Anegada site will be compared to that from the MCD and the use of MPAs as a management technique will be assessed for the sustainability of a fisheries resource (red hind grouper). With the near collapse of several fish stocks in the USVI and Puerto Rico and the proximity of under-exploited BVI fisheries, regional cooperation and management should be of paramount interest to managers of both the USVI and BVI.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Scientific data on the status of the red hind grouper within the USVI and BVI; A video on spawning aggregations and the results of the study for display on public television

Performance Criteria: This project will provide scientific data necessary to develop and implement management plans and other strategies such as MPAs to protect vulnerable grouper populations in the USVI and BVI. It will include training for BVI government researchers and managers in spawning aggregation investigative biology. It will allow an assessment of current territorial fisheries management practices. The project also emphasizes education of stakeholders and the general public in both the USVI and BVI, and participation by local fishermen in the project.

F-2003-11

Grantee: World Resource Institute
 Grant number: NA03NMF4630325
 Project Title: Reefs at Risk: Improving the information available for sound management and protection of coral reefs in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands
 Region: Caribbean
 Funding: Federal amount requested: \$47,300
 Federal amount granted: \$45,000
 Non-Federal match: \$45,000
 Status: In progress

Description: The project will implement a detailed analysis of watersheds and an assessment of the vulnerability of protected coral reefs to threats from anthropogenic sources. This proposal builds upon the *Reefs at Risk Caribbean* project, a region wide analysis of threats to coral reefs using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The model and expertise that have been developed will be focused on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to develop critical information for the management of the coral reef resource. The first task is to carry out detailed

watershed modeling, analyzing how changes inland affect coral reef health. The second task focuses on the protection of the reefs and anthropogenic threats that come from outside the areas of protection. The results will be used to better identify the link between inland development and coral reef degradation in order to guide watershed management. This effort will build on present initiatives and support local strategies for addressing the issues regarding coral reef conservation.

Product(s)/Outcomes: Detailed watershed maps and GIS data layers that include principle anthropogenic threats to coral reefs in Puerto Rico and USVI coastal waters; estimates of threat from coastal development, land-based sources of pollution and sediment, overfishing, and pollution from marine-based sources; and MPA locations and management effectiveness

Performance Criteria: The project is designed to complement and support existing initiatives by building on those activities and coordinating with the responsible agencies. The project will provide critical information that will help managers gain a better understanding of the sources of threats to coral reefs and then be able to use the information to address the public awareness issues that are the key to improving the overall coral reef management. The information will include an assessment of level of protection afforded coral reefs; identification of major threats to reefs within established protected areas; identification of gaps in protection of coral reefs; and priority setting of monitoring activities. The information provided will be utilized in priority setting of activities and as leverage in the advocacy for better protection if the resource is to be preserved.

F-2003-12

Grantee:	Coral Reef Alliance		
Grant number:	NA03NMF4630307		
Project Title:	Direct support to coral park practitioners in the Freely Associated States of the Pacific: Palau, Marshalls, Pohnpei		
Region:	Pacific		
Funding:	Federal amount requested:	\$45,000	
	Federal amount granted:	\$45,000	
	Non-Federal match:	\$97,250	
Status:	In progress		

Description: The project being conducted by Coral Reef Alliance's (CORAL) Parks Program, and is designed to help coral park managers leverage tourism to build local investment in the conservation of coral reef parks. This project focuses on building the capacity of key coral park stakeholders, including park managers, local tour and dive operators and local community members. CORAL will train and provide technical assistance to two local groups of park managers, dive operators and residents in the Freely Associated States of the Pacific, as a way of building pro-active partnerships for coral reef conservation. By providing training in two sites to these mixed groups of reef stakeholders, we anticipate a measurable increase in the ability of participating park managers to engage community support for reef protection, an increase in the number of tour/dive operators who actively collaborate with park managers on reef conservation and a measurable increase in the number of dive and tour businesses that provide customers with conservation education. The project will occur in Rock Islands, Palau; Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Product(s)/Outcomes: CORAL will deliver a three-module workshop series in two locations in the Freely Associated States (FAS) of the Pacific. The first module is an overview of coral reef ecology, reef threats and reef conservation strategies. The second module focuses on strategies

for collaborating in local reef conservation efforts. The third module presents a framework for discovering and developing collaborative solutions, which responds to each site's specific needs, be they fundraising, moorings, user-fees, low-impact tourism or another issues. Other products include articles in CORAL's newsletters and on their website and press releases to relevant media, and diver and ecotourist publications such as *Sport Diver* and *Rodale's Scuba Diving Magazine*.

Performance Criteria: The project is building the capacity of Pacific coral park managers and other park practitioners to partner with local tour/dive operators and other community stakeholders in coral reef conservation. Such mutually beneficial, public-private partnerships capitalize on the shared interests of these diverse groups.

Appendix

Appendix A

Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000

[P.L. 106-562; 16 UNITED STATES C. 6401 et seq; December 23, 2000]

TITLE II--CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the 'Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000'.

SEC. 202. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are--

- (1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
- (2) to promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation;
- (3) to develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems;
- (4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting conservation programs, including projects that involve affected local communities and nongovernmental organizations;
- (5) to provide financial resources for those programs and projects; and
- (6) to establish a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

SEC. 203. NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL**- Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and publish in the Federal Register a national coral reef action strategy, consistent with the purposes of this title. The Administrator shall periodically review and revise the strategy as necessary. In developing this national strategy, the Secretary may consult with the Coral Reef Task Force established under Executive Order 13089 (June 11, 1998).

(b) **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**- The action strategy shall include a statement of goals and objectives as well as an implementation plan, including a description of the

funds obligated each fiscal year to advance coral reef conservation. The action strategy and implementation plan shall include discussion of--

- (1) coastal uses and management;
- (2) water and air quality;
- (3) mapping and information management;
- (4) research, monitoring, and assessment;
- (5) international and regional issues;
- (6) outreach and education;
- (7) local strategies developed by the States or Federal agencies, including regional fishery management councils; and
- (8) conservation, including how the use of marine protected areas to serve as replenishment zones will be developed consistent with local practices and traditions.

SEC. 204. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS- The Secretary, through the Administrator and subject to the availability of funds, shall provide grants of financial assistance for projects for the conservation of coral reefs (hereafter in this title referred to as 'coral conservation projects'), for proposals approved by the Administrator in accordance with this section.

(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS-

(1) Fifty percent- Except as provided in paragraph (2), Federal funds for any coral conservation project under this section may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of such project. For purposes of this paragraph, the non-Federal share of project costs may be provided by in-kind contributions and other noncash support.

(2) WAIVER- The Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines that no reasonable means are available through which applicants can meet the matching requirement and the probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

(c) ELIGIBILITY- Any natural resource management authority of a State or other government authority with jurisdiction over coral reefs or whose activities directly or indirectly affect coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems, or educational or nongovernmental institutions with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of coral

reefs, may submit to the Administrator a coral conservation proposal under subsection (e).

(d) GEOGRAPHIC AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY- The Administrator shall ensure that funding for grants awarded under subsection (b) during a fiscal year are distributed in the following manner:

(1) No less than 40 percent of funds available shall be awarded for coral conservation projects in the Pacific Ocean within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

(2) No less than 40 percent of the funds available shall be awarded for coral conservation projects in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

(3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for projects that address emerging priorities or threats, including international priorities or threats, identified by the Administrator. When identifying emerging threats or priorities, the Administrator may consult with the Coral Reef Task Force.

(e) PROJECT PROPOSALS- Each proposal for a grant under this section shall include the following:

(1) The name of the individual or entity responsible for conducting the project.

(2) A description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project.

(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of the project.

(4) An estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project.

(5) Evidence of support for the project by appropriate representatives of States or other government jurisdictions in which the project will be conducted.

(6) Information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available to the applicant.

(7) A description of how the project meets one or more of the criteria in subsection (g).

(8) Any other information the Administrator considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this title.

(f) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Administrator shall review each coral conservation project proposal to determine if it meets the criteria set forth in subsection (g).

(2) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL- Not later than 6 months after receiving a project proposal under this section, the Administrator shall--

(A) request and consider written comments on the proposal from each Federal agency, State government, or other government jurisdiction, including the relevant regional fishery management councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanctuary, with jurisdiction or management authority over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, including the extent to which the project is consistent with locally-established priorities;

(B) provide for the merit-based peer review of the proposal and require standardized documentation of that peer review;

(C) after considering any written comments and recommendations based on the reviews under subparagraphs (A) and (B), approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(D) provide written notification of that approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, and each of those States and other government jurisdictions that provided comments under subparagraph (A).

(g) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL- The Administrator may not approve a project proposal under this section unless the project is consistent with the coral reef action strategy under section 203 and will enhance the conservation of coral reefs by--

(1) implementing coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs;

(2) addressing the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products;

(3) enhancing compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

(4) developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease;

- (5) promoting and assisting to implement cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or others in the private sector;
- (6) increasing public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation;
- (7) mapping the location and distribution of coral reefs;
- (8) developing and implementing techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs;
- (9) developing and implementing cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems; or
- (10) promoting ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs.

(h) **PROJECT REPORTING-** Each grantee under this section shall provide periodic reports as required by the Administrator. Each report shall include all information required by the Administrator for evaluating the progress and success of the project.

(i) **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE-** The Administrator may consult with the Coral Reef Task Force to obtain guidance in establishing coral conservation project priorities under this section.

(j) **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES-** Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate necessary guidelines for implementing this section. In developing those guidelines, the Administrator shall consult with State, regional, and local entities involved in setting priorities for conservation of coral reefs and provide for appropriate public notice and opportunity for comment.

SEC. 205. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) **FUND-** The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization that promotes coral reef conservation authorizing such organization to receive, hold, and administer funds received pursuant to this section. The organization shall invest, reinvest, and otherwise administer the funds and maintain such funds and any interest or revenues earned in a separate interest bearing account, hereafter referred to as the Fund, established by such organization solely to support partnerships between the public and private sectors that further the purposes of this Act and are consistent with the national coral reef action strategy under section 203.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS-** Pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a) of this section, an organization may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift to further the purposes of this title. Any

moneys received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained in the Fund established by the organization under subsection (a).

(c) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE- The Administrator shall conduct a continuing review of the grant program administered by an organization under this section. Each review shall include a written assessment concerning the extent to which that organization has implemented the goals and requirements of this section and the national coral reef action strategy under section 203.

(d) ADMINISTRATION- Under an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to an organization. Amounts received by an organization under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or property) made to the organization by private persons and State and local government agencies.

SEC. 206. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

The Administrator may make grants to any State, local, or territorial government agency with jurisdiction over coral reefs for emergencies to address unforeseen or disaster-related circumstance pertaining to coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems.

SEC. 207. NATIONAL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL- Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may conduct activities to conserve coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems, that are consistent with this title, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES- Activities authorized under subsection (a) include-

- (1) mapping, monitoring, assessment, restoration, and scientific research that benefit the understanding, sustainable use, and long-term conservation of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;
- (2) enhancing public awareness, education, understanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;
- (3) providing assistance to States in removing abandoned fishing gear, marine debris, and abandoned vessels from coral reefs to conserve living marine resources; and
- (4) cooperative conservation and management of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems with local, regional, or international programs and partners.

SEC. 208. EFFECTIVENESS REPORTS.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM- Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report that documents the effectiveness of the grant program under section 204 in meeting the purposes of this title. The report shall include a State-by-State summary of Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the costs of each project.

(b) NATIONAL PROGRAM- Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator publishes the national coral reef strategy under section 203 and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing all activities undertaken to implement that strategy, under section 203, including a description of the funds obligated each fiscal year to advance coral reef conservation.

SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL- There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title \$16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, which may remain available until expended.

(b) ADMINISTRATION- Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 10 percent of the amounts appropriated, may be used for program administration or for overhead costs incurred by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Department of Commerce and assessed as an administrative charge.

(c) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM- From the amounts appropriated under subsection (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 for coral reef conservation activities under section 204.

(d) NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTIVITIES- From the amounts appropriated under subsection (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 for activities under section 207.

SEC. 210. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR- The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) CONSERVATION- The term `conservation' means the use of methods and procedures necessary to preserve or sustain corals and associated species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems, including all activities associated with resource management, such as assessment, conservation, protection, restoration, sustainable use, and management of habitat; mapping; habitat monitoring; assistance in the development of management strategies for marine protected areas and marine resources consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); law enforcement; conflict resolution initiatives; community outreach and education; and that promote safe and ecologically sound navigation.

(3) CORAL- The term `coral' means species of the phylum Cnidaria, including--

(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft corals), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and

(B) all species of the order Hydrocorallina (fire corals and hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa.

(4) CORAL REEF- The term `coral reef' means any reefs or shoals composed primarily of corals.

(5) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM- The term `coral reef ecosystem' means coral and other species of reef organisms (including reef plants) associated with coral reefs, and the nonliving environmental factors that directly affect coral reefs, that together function as an ecological unit in nature.

(6) CORAL PRODUCTS- The term `coral products' means any living or dead specimens, parts, or derivatives, or any product containing specimens, parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in paragraph (3).

(7) SECRETARY- The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(8) STATE- The term `State' means any State of the United States that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States, or separate sovereign in free association with the United States, that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries.

Appendix B

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

Implementation Guidelines

ACTION: Postponement of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology announces that it is postponing the public meeting to gather information and data relating to the World Trade Center disaster for building and fire safety purposes, previously scheduled for April 22, 2002.

DATES: The meeting previously scheduled for April 22, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. is postponed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Cauffman, (301) 975-6051 or by e-mail at stephen.cauffman@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 8, 2002, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 16728) a public meeting to gather information and data relating to the World Trade Center disaster for building and fire safety purposes. The meeting was scheduled for April 22, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New York Marriott Hotel, Financial Center, in New York, NY.

The meeting will be rescheduled after two critical documents are available to potential presenters at the meeting: (1) The upcoming report on the Building Performance Assessment Team (BPAT) study of the disaster conducted by the coalition led by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and (2) the proposed NIST investigation approach, which will be based in part on the BPAT report. The NIST plan will be made available after the BPAT report is released.

The postponement will allow the public a greater opportunity to provide informed comment on the scope of NIST's plan, which will help guide the planned NIST investigation.

Submissions already received by NIST will be given full consideration when the meeting is rescheduled; those submissions may be amended to reflect the additional information that will be made available to the public.

Dated: April 16, 2002.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 02-9664 Filed 4-18-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.: 011113275-2037-02; I.D. 030602A]

RIN 0648-ZB11

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), Commerce.

ACTION: Final Implementation Guidelines for the Coral Reef Conservation Program.

SUMMARY: This document provides NOAA's Implementation Guidelines (Guidelines) for the Coral Reef Conservation Program (Program) under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), through the NOAA Administrator (Administrator) and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects under the Act (Coral Reef Conservation Program). As per the Act, NOAA has developed these Implementation Guidelines for the Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 through FY 2004. Proposed Implementation Guidelines were published in the **Federal Register** for review and comment on December 10, 2001. NOAA will use several existing grant programs and mechanisms to implement the Program. Specific Program information including available funding, dates, and detailed application requirements and proposal evaluation criteria for FY 2002 are published concurrently with these Guidelines in a separate **Federal Register** Notice of Availability of financial assistance for coral reef conservation activities. NOAA is in the final stages of completing the National Coral Reef Action Strategy (Strategy), in consultation with the United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), as required under the Act. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an implementation plan to advance coral reef conservation, including basis for funding allocations to be made under the Program. Upon final completion of the Strategy, NOAA will publish notice of the Availability of the Strategy in the **Federal Register** and at: www.coralreef.noaa.gov/. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001, will be applicable to

the funding guidance under this Program. This document is not a solicitation for FY 2002 project proposals.

DATES: Effective April 19, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Program Coordinator, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Fax: 301-713-4389; Bill Millhouser, Pacific Regional Manager, CPD/OCRM, N/ORM3, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov; or Tom Hourigan, Biodiversity Program Leader, NOAA Watershed Division, HC-1, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2319, extension 121 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Overview

The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 was enacted on December 14, 2000, for the following purposes:

1. To preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
2. To promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation;
3. To develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems;
4. To assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting conservation programs, including projects that involve affected local communities and non-governmental organizations;
5. To provide financial resources for those programs and projects; and
6. To establish a formal mechanism for the collecting and allocating of monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

Under section 6403 of the Act, the Program authorizes the Secretary, through the Administrator and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching financial assistance awards for coral reef conservation projects. Section 6408(c) of the Act authorizes up to \$8,000,000 in each of FY 2001 through FY 2004 for projects under the Program.

NOAA will use several existing grant programs and mechanisms to implement the Program. Each fiscal year the Program will publish a **Federal**

Register Notice to describe the availability of funds and solicit project proposals. The annual funding guidance, beginning in FY 2002, will provide greater detail on the year's program priorities, application process, and proposal evaluation criteria.

B. Comments and Responses, and Changes to the Proposed Guidelines

The following summarizes the comments submitted in response to the Draft Guidelines published in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 2001, and NOAA's responses:

Comment 1: A commenter representing the coral reef research community raises concerns regarding the lack of support for long term funding for coral reef research, noting that if the goal of the funding is to support meaningful science and conservation projects, at least half the funds should be earmarked for 3–5 year projects. Moreover, the portion of the Guidelines that gives preference to projects that will be completed within 12 months of award distribution basically precludes funding much high quality, meaningful science, which generally requires multi-year efforts. The commenter notes that this language in Section IX. contradicts statements in Section VII. Funding Categories, and Mechanisms, and Section X. Project Review, which are concerned with long-term coral monitoring data and long-lasting conservation activities.

Response: NOAA generally agrees with the comment that there is a need to support a long range coral reef research funding program. However, NOAA is limited in its ability to initiate such a effort given the uncertainty that recent increases in Federal Coral Reef funding will be sustained over the next 3–4 years. Although the FY 2003 budget proposal maintains current funding levels for coral reef conservation activities, there are many competing budget priorities that can affect the final budget. NOAA will further consider funding long range research if continued budget support becomes more certain. In the interim NOAA has added a funding category for coral reef ecosystem research projects for the purpose of developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or threats to such ecosystems (see section VII(3) below). In FY 2002, funding under this category will be targeted at improving coral monitoring technologies. In addition, National Ocean Service (NOS) published in the **Federal Register** on February 28, 2002, an announcement of funding opportunity to submit proposals for the coral ecosystem

studies which is for long term coral reef ecosystem research.

Comment 2: A commenter with experience in coral reef research states that the proposed guidelines are thorough and that NOAA's focus on education, local partnerships, coral health/vitality, mapping, and restoration is key and much needed. The commenter suggests adding marine protected areas (MPAs) and/or adaptive management research to the list of Eligible Conservation Activities in section V of the Guidelines, citing recommendations from the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium and states that more research is needed on the shape and use of buffer zones in MPA implementation. For example, mixed research results indicate an uncertain relationship between MPA size and success. Clearly more research is needed to dissect the cause and effect relationship between the success of MPAs and their size, location, connectivity, and the association with the surrounding environment.

Response: NOAA agrees with the comment as to the need to fund projects which develop a better understanding of the characteristics of successful MPAs. Research activities to improve the design and effectiveness of marine protected areas in coral reef ecosystems are eligible for funding under the State and Territorial coral reef management, general coral reef conservation, regional fishery management council, and international grant categories in FY 2002. We have not changed section V of the Guidelines; however, the language in this section reflects the specific statutory language of section 204(g) of the Act. NOAA is also undertaking such analyses with regard to specific areas of the Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary, and Hawaii and Guam are evaluating the effectiveness of the existing MPAs and beginning to examine the types of issues noted in the comment. In addition, the need for this type of research is specifically noted in several sections of the Strategy (Conduct Strategic Research and Improve The Use of Marine Protected Areas).

A commenter representing coastal states and territories, provides specific comments on a number of sections of the Guidelines:

Comment 3: The commenter reiterates the importance of language in Section IV. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, that gives a low priority to grants to Federal agencies and the requirement that proposed Federal agency projects must be in collaboration and coordination with state or local public or non-governmental organizations. The intent of the program is to benefit local

coral reef initiatives within the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea.

Response: NOAA agrees with the comment that the Guidelines should give a low priority to funding Federal agencies, unless specific conditions are met; the final Guidelines maintain the language of the draft Guidelines in this regard. Please note, that section 6403(d)(3) of the Act also provides for the funding of international projects, as provided in the Guidelines.

Comment 4: The Strategy should be reconciled and integrated with other required Federal reports and studies such as the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Oversight Policy, as well as other grants-related requests and information to reduce redundancy and effort.

Response: NOAA agrees that the various reporting requirements noted above should be consolidated as much as possible. NOAA will continue to work with state and territorial grantees and the Coral Reef Task Force agencies to address this issue over the coming year.

Comment 5: The Guidelines and the Strategy include a discussion of the interrelationship and integrated nature of coral reef management with response to the objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act and federally approved coastal zone management programs. It is also recommended that the project reporting under the implementation guidelines include information regarding project coordination with the goals and objectives of federally approved coastal zone management (CZM) programs.

Response: NOAA believes that coral reef conservation and coastal management share many conservation and management objectives. In most cases, the same state or territorial agency is the lead for both coastal management and coral management functions; in cases where they are not, good local coordination is in place. The Guidelines and the FY 2002 Funding Guidance also require that state and territorial coral reef projects must be developed in partnership with all relevant local agencies, including the coastal zone management, water quality, and the wildlife and/or marine resource agencies. Given the high degree of coordination that currently exists, NOAA does not believe that specific reporting on project coordination with CZM goals is necessary.

Comment 6: The language in Section VI instructing the Administrator to consult with the Coral Reef Task force when identifying emerging threats or priorities should be changed from "may" to "shall whenever possible."

The commenter also notes the possible disparity between national and local level priorities, recommends close coordination at the local level to identify priorities for funding and recommends flexibility in determining priorities as they relate to criteria for grant approval.

Response: NOAA agrees with the need to carefully balance National goals and priorities with local conditions, objectives and customs. NOAA believes that the Guidelines and the FY 2002 funding guidance provide such a balance. With regard to the suggested language change regarding consultation with the Coral Reef Task Force, the Guidelines restate the statutory language of the Act, section 6403(d); therefore, the language has not been changed. Please note that the Coral Reef Task Force Working Groups, and states and territories have been consulted with, and have had substantial input into, the development of the Strategy.

Comment 7: The proposed implementation guidelines, in section VII. Funding Categories and Mechanisms, should be clarified to ensure that while one state agency may be the lead for managing grants or cooperative agreements, funds may be made available for use by any approved state agency.

Response: The Guidelines require that state and territorial proposals be developed in partnership with all relevant local agencies and organizations which have responsibilities for the management and conservation of coral reefs in that jurisdiction. The funding provided to any one agency should reflect local priorities and needs and be commensurate with that agency's responsibility and authority to achieve improved protection of coral reef ecosystem resources.

Comment 8: The implementation Guidelines should clarify the relationship between the grants or cooperative agreements made pursuant to the Act and these guidelines, and guidance and corresponding authorized cites for each funding category, e.g., the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) section 310; CFDA 11.426; and CFDA 11.463.

Response: As noted above, projects funded pursuant to the CZMA and the Act should complement each other. Based on our experience to date, NOAA does not see a need to provide more explicit guidance on this issue.

Comment 9: The language in Section X. Project Review relating to state and territorial review of projects, should be changed from "projects in state or

territorial waters" to "projects affecting state territorial waters."

Response: NOAA believes the language contained in the draft Guidelines is consistent with the statutory construction of section 6403(f)(2)(A) of the Act which requires review by agencies "with jurisdiction or management authority over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted." NOAA has therefore retained that language in the final Guidelines. As the commenter has suggested language used in the application of the Federal Consistency provisions of the CZMA, NOAA notes that Federal consistency provisions do apply to Federal funding under the Coral Reef Conservation Program. Applicants should refer to the Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Regulations at 15 CFR part 930, to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Comment 10: A commenter representing a field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, agrees with the objective to support coral reef conservation through a grant system. However, the commenter expresses concern that the guidelines are too vague regarding review and approval of projects occurring in areas administered by the Department of the Interior, specifically National Wildlife Refuges. The commenter recommends that the annual solicitations for project proposals inform readers that proposals submitted for activities within National Wildlife Refuges will be reviewed by the Service pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Improvement Act of 1997 and other relevant authorities. The commenter recommends adding a new sentence to Section IX. Application Process (subsection 5), as follows: "Proposed projects within National Wildlife Refuges must be determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Improvement Act of 1997, to be compatible with established refuge purposes and management objectives in order for the Service to issue a Special Use Permit to conduct the proposed activities."

Response: NOAA agrees with the need for projects that occur within National Wildlife Refuges to obtain all necessary authorizations and permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We believe that the language in Section IX of the guidelines are clear in requiring applicants to submit all applicable Federal permits. We have added language to the end of Section X of the guidelines which states that agencies with jurisdiction over

proposed project, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide assurance that the applicant is proceeding to obtain a permit or other authorization from that jurisdiction in order to conduct the project, and the status of that process. As noted in Section X(3)(b)(v) of the guidelines, NOAA will require applicants to obtain all required state and Federal permits as a condition of making an award.

Comment 11: A commenter representing a U.S. Territory recommends that the process for establishing national priorities include close consultation at the local level. The commenter also recommends shortening the time frame for NOAA's review and approval of proposed projects from 6 months to 2-4 months so that projects may begin on time.

Response: NOAA believes that the process used to develop the Guidelines and the Strategy has included adequate consultation regarding local priorities and needs, and further, that the coral grants program provides the necessary flexibility to meet those needs. NOAA agrees with the objective of reducing the time necessary for the review of coral grant applications; we believe the time line described in the FY 2002 is reasonable given the Act's requirements for application review by peers and affected jurisdictions, and NOAA's internal grant process.

In summary the Guidelines have been substantively changed in the following areas:

1. A new funding category has been added at Section VII (3) to provide potential funding for coral reef ecosystem research projects for the purpose of developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or threats to such ecosystems.

2. Section X has been modified to request that agencies that are reviewing applications provide NOAA with information on the need for the applicant to obtain a permit or other authorization from the agency in order to conduct the project, and the status of that process.

II. Electronic Access

The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and information on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, established June 11, 1998 under Executive Order 13089, can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

III. Coral Reef Conservation Program

The objective of the Program is to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects consistent with the Act and the Strategy. NOAA's

role in administering the Program is to strengthen and support the development and implementation of sound coral reef conservation projects, as well as ensure that the most beneficial projects are recommended for funding.

IV. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

As per section 6403(c) of the Act, eligible applicants include: Any natural resource management authority of a state or other government authority with jurisdiction over coral reefs or whose activities directly or indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems, or educational or non-governmental institutions with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of coral reefs. Each subcategory of funding under this Program, as described in Section VII of this document, encompasses a specific subgroup of eligible applicants.

As a matter of policy, funding Federal agency activities under this Program will be a low priority unless such activities are an essential part of a cooperative project with other eligible governmental or non-governmental entities. In order for a Federal agency to receive an award under this program, it must provide the requisite statutory authority to receive funds from a federal agency for these purposes. Please note that the Economy Act, 31 USC 1535, is not sufficient legal authority because NOAA is not procuring goods or services from the federal agency.

NOAA agencies are not eligible for funding under this Program, as funding for such activities is provided for under section 6406 of the Act (National Program).

V. Eligible Coral Reef Conservation Activities

As described in section 6403(g) of the Act, projects considered for funding under this Program must be consistent with the Strategy, published concurrently in the **Federal Register**. In addition, per the same section, the Administrator may not approve a project proposal unless it will enhance the conservation of coral reefs by addressing at least one of the following:

1. Implementing coral conservation programs which promote sustainable development and ensure effective, long-term conservation of coral reefs;
2. Addressing the conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products;
3. Enhancing compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

4. Developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats to such ecosystems, including factors that cause coral disease;

5. Promoting and assisting to implement cooperative coral reef conservation projects that involve affected local communities, non-governmental organizations, or others in the private sector;

6. Increasing public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their long term conservation;

7. Mapping the location and distribution of coral reefs;

8. Developing and implementing techniques to monitor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs;

9. Developing and implementing cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems; or

10. Promoting ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs.

VI. Program Funding and Distribution

Section 6408(c) of the Act authorizes up to \$8,000,000 for use by the Secretary for FY 2001 through FY 2004 for the Program. The number of individual awards to be made each year will depend on the total amount of funds appropriated for coral reef activities within NOAA and the portion of those funds that are allocated to this Program. The total annual Program funding amount, suggested ranges for funding requests, and specific funding categories under which an applicant may choose to apply will be published in the Program's annual **Federal Register** funding guidance.

Program funding awarded during any given fiscal year will be distributed, per section 6403(d) of the Act, in the following manner:

- (1) No less than 40 percent of funds available shall be awarded for coral reef conservation projects in the Pacific Ocean within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States;
- (2) No less than 40 percent of funds available shall be awarded for coral reef conservation projects in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States; and
- (3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for projects that address emerging priorities or threats, including international priorities or threats, identified by the Administrator. When identifying emerging threats or priorities, the Administrator may consult with the Coral Reef Task Force.

VII. Funding Categories and Mechanisms

In order to ensure adequate funding for each of the purposes envisioned under the Act and provide for a balanced overall Program, existing NOAA programs will be used to award funds in the six funding categories described below. Each of the six categories references the general activity and applicant eligibility requirements associated with proposals submitted therein. Specific activity and applicant eligibility information and proposal evaluation criteria for each category for FY 2002, consistent with Guideline sections IV. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, VI. Funding and Funding Distribution, VIII. Matching Funds, IX. Application Process, and X. Project Review, are found in the FY 2002 funding guidance, published concurrently with these Guidelines.

(1) *U.S. state and territorial government coral reef conservation activities*, as described in Section V(1-10) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g) of the Act) for the purpose of comprehensively managing coral reef ecosystems and associated fisheries within their jurisdictions. Eligibility to receive an award is limited to one agency in each state or territory with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors. These proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the National Ocean Service (NOS) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), pursuant to section 310 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, under title, *Coastal Zone Management Program*, CFDA 11.419.

(2) *U.S. state and territorial government coral reef ecosystem monitoring and/or assessment activities*, as described in Section V(8) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g)(8) of the Act). Such activities include the collection, analysis, and reporting of long-term coral reef monitoring data pursuant to scientifically valid methodologies and protocols. Eligible applicants are limited to one natural resource management authority in each U.S. state or territory, or Freely Associated State with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors or other applicable senior jurisdictional officials. Cooperative agreements between these agencies and the NOS National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) will be developed without competition under title, *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*, CFDA 11.426.

(3) *Coral reef ecosystem research projects for the purpose of developing sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems or threats to such ecosystems*, including research to develop monitoring and assessment technologies, as described in section V(4) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g)(4) of the Act). Eligible applicants include all those described under section 6403(c) of the Act (section IV of the Guidelines). These proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the NOS National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science under title, *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*, CFDA 11.426.

(4) *U.S. state, territorial, or other governmental and non-governmental entities, not eligible under other categories*, for the purpose of implementing cooperative coral reef conservation, protection, restoration, research, or education projects, as described in Section V(1–10) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g) of the Act). These proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC) under title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA 11.463.

(5) *Projects to develop, improve, or amend Fishery Management Plans to conserve, protect and restore coral reef habitats and associated fishery populations within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone*, with the overall goal of improving the management of coral reefs and associated organisms through the avoidance of fishing impacts, ecosystem management or similar approaches and practices as described in Section V(3) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g)(3) of the Act). Eligible applicants include Regional Fishery Management Councils with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). These proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation under title, *Regional Fishery Management Councils*, CFDA 11.441.

(6) *International coral reef conservation projects* for the purpose of implementing cooperative coral reef conservation activities as described in Section V(1–10) of the Guidelines (section 6403(g) of the Act). Eligible applicants include all international governmental and non-governmental entities, including those in the Freely Associated States of the Pacific. These proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the NOS International Programs Office or the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, as appropriate, under

title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA 11.463.

The FY 2002 funding guidance establishes the range of funds available and specific evaluation criteria for each of these six categories. NOAA may add additional funding categories in the annual funding guidance based on available funding and/or coral reef conservation priorities under the Strategy. Applicants will be required to specify in their application the category(s) under which they are applying for funding. Selected applications may be funded and awards administered by NOAA, through either NMFS or NOS. Generally, one award will be made for each proposal accepted for funding.

NOAA will determine the most appropriate funding mechanisms (grant, cooperative agreement, or interagency agreement) for selected individual projects, in consultation with the applicant, based on the type of recipient and on the degree of direct NOAA involvement with the project.

Proposals from non-Federal applicants that are selected for funding will be funded either through a project grant or cooperative agreement. Selected Federal proposals will be funded through interagency agreements; however, under the Program, such agreements must also include a local sponsor of the coral reef conservation project.

VIII. Matching Funds

As per section 6403(b)(1) of the Act, Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under this Program may not exceed 50 percent of the total costs of such project. The match may comprise a variety of public and private sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. NOAA strongly encourages applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. Federal funds may not be considered as matching funds.

For applicants who can not meet the match requirement, as per section 6403(b)(2) of the Act, the Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements:

- (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and
- (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the source and amount of the proposed match and may be asked to provide letters of commitment to

confirm stated contributions. In the case of a waiver request, the applicant must provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the waiver, as described in Section IX(6) of these Guidelines.

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, and in accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), this Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contributions) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

IX. Application Process

NOAA will publish in the **Federal Register** one annual funding guidance soliciting project proposals, pursuant to these Guidelines. Applications submitted in response to this guidance will be screened for eligibility and conformance with the Program Guidelines.

To submit a proposal, a complete Federal financial assistance awards application package must be filed in accordance with the guidelines in this document and instructions in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001.

A more detailed description of specific application requirements will be published in the annual funding guidance; however, pursuant to section 6403(e) of the Act and NOAA, each application must include the following elements:

- (1) A cover sheet with the name of the individual or entity responsible for conducting the project;
- (2) A description of the qualifications of the individual(s) who will conduct the project;
- (3) A succinct statement of the purposes of the project, including the specific geographic location where the project will be carried out;
- (4) An estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project including: a detailed breakdown by category of cost estimates as they relate to specific aspects of the project, with appropriate justification for both the Federal and non-Federal shares;
- (5) Evidence of support for the project by appropriate representatives of states or other government jurisdictions in which the project will be conducted, including obtaining or proceeding to obtain all applicable State and/or Federal permits, consultations, and

consistencies. U.S. state or territorial applicants must also provide evidence of coordination with all relevant state or territorial agencies, including a list of agencies consulted in developing the proposal;

(6) Information regarding the amount of matching funding available to the applicant. In the case of a waiver request, the applicant must provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the waiver including attempts to obtain sources of matching funds, how the benefit of the project outweighs the public interest in providing match, and any other extenuating circumstances preventing the availability of match;

(7) A description of how the project meets one or more of the goals and objectives stated in Section V of the Guidelines (section 6403(g) of the Act); and

(8) Any other information the Administrator considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this title.

In order to streamline the application and award process, and to allow NOAA to fully evaluate all coral reef conservation applications in the context of the overall Program, applicants must indicate under which category(s) (as described in Section VII of these Guidelines) they are seeking funds, and are encouraged to submit only one comprehensive application per funding guidance. The Program will give preference to projects where requested funding will be used to complete proposed coral reef conservation activities within a period of 12 to 18 months from the time the awards are distributed.

X. Project Review

As per section 6203(f) of the Act, NOAA will review eligible coral reef conservation proposals using an external governmental review and merit-based peer review. After such reviews, NOAA will implement an internal ranking and selection process. The overall project review and selection process will include the following five steps:

1. NOAA will request and consider written comments on the proposal from each Federal agency, state government, or other government jurisdiction, including the relevant regional Fishery Management Councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), or any National Marine Sanctuary, with jurisdiction or management authority over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted. Pursuant to this

requirement of the Act, NOAA will apply the following standard in requesting comments:

(a) Proposals for projects in state or territorial waters, including Federal marine protected areas in such waters (e.g., National Marine Sanctuaries), will be submitted to that state or territorial government's designated U.S. Coral Reef Task Force point of contact for comment;

(b) Proposals for projects in Federal waters will be submitted to the relevant Fishery Management Council for comment;

(c) Proposals for projects which require Federal permits will be submitted to the Federal agency which issued the permit for comment;

(d) Proposals for projects in Federal marine protected areas managed by Federal agencies (e.g., National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Marine Sanctuaries, *etc.*) will be submitted to the respective Federal management authority for comment; and

(e) NOAA will seek comments from other government entities, authorities, and/or jurisdictions, including international entities for projects proposed outside of U.S. waters, as necessary based on the nature and scope of the proposed project.

Specifically, agencies will be requested to comment on: the extent to which the project is consistent with its coral reef conservation objectives, priorities and projects; whether the project has been coordinated with existing or planned projects; suggestions for improving project coordination and/or technical approach; the need for the applicant to obtain a permit or other authorization from the agency in order to conduct the project, and the status of that process; and, appropriate staff points of contact. Each entity will be provided 21 days to review and comment on subject proposals. Comments submitted will be part of the public record.

2. Each NOAA Program Office will provide for a merit-based peer review and standardized documentation of that review for proposals considered appropriate for funding under their respective category(s). Each proposal will be reviewed by a minimum of three individuals with knowledge of the subject of the proposal. The identities of the peer reviewers will be kept anonymous, to the extent permitted by law. Specific evaluation criteria for projects submitted under each funding category will be published in each annual **Federal Register** funding guidance.

3. Each NOAA Program Office will subsequently implement an internal review process to rank each proposal that is appropriate for funding under their program based upon consideration of: comments and recommendations from the reviews under paragraphs (1) and (2), and their evaluation of each proposal using the following five equally weighted criteria:

(a) *Direct Benefit to Coral Reef Resources and Ecosystems*: NOAA will evaluate proposals based on the potential of the project to meet goals and objectives as stated in this document, per section 6403(g) of the Act.

(b) *Technical Merit and Adequacy of Implementation Plan*: Proposals will be evaluated on the technical feasibility of the project and the qualifications of project leaders and/or partners based on demonstrated abilities to:

(i) Deliver the conservation objective stated in the proposal;

(ii) Provide educational benefits, where appropriate;

(iii) Incorporate assessment of project success in terms of meeting the proposed objectives;

(iv) Demonstrate that the conservation activity will be sustainable and long-lasting; and,

(v) Provide assurance that implementation of the project will meet all state environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements by obtaining or proceeding to obtain applicable permits and consultations.

(c) *Past Performance*: Proposals will be evaluated on the previous accomplishments of the applicants in achieving coral reef conservation objectives similar to those outlined in Section V. Eligible Coral Reef Conservation Activities of these Guidelines. Applicants submitting their first coral reef conservation project should document past experience in related activities.

(d) *Consistency with the National Coral Reef Action Strategy and the National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*: Proposals will be evaluated on how well they meet the specific programmatic goals and objectives of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy, developed pursuant to section 6402 of the Act, and the *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs* (U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, 2000), <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review both documents and identify specific conservation objectives that their project proposal will address.

(e) *Cost-effectiveness and Budget Justification*: Proposals will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate

that significant benefit will be generated for the most reasonable cost. Projects will also be reviewed in terms of their need for funding and the ability of NOAA funds to act as a catalyst to implement projects and precipitate partnerships and other sources of funding to achieve conservation objectives. Preference will be given to projects that will be completed within a period of 12 to 18 months from the time the awards are distributed.

4. A NOAA review panel made up of representatives from each NOAA Program Office will review the project selections and ensure that all requirements of the Act are met, particularly those regarding the geographic funding distribution and consistency with the Strategy. This group will present recommendations to the NOAA Administrator, or his designee, for final approval. NOAA reserves the right to consult with applicants, prior to making an award, to determine the exact amount of funds to be awarded, as well as the most appropriate funding category and mechanism under which to consider the project for funding.

5. NOAA will provide written notification of a proposal's approval or disapproval to each applicant within 6 months of submitting a coral reef conservation proposal. Similarly, NOAA will also provide written notification of a project's approval to each State or other government jurisdiction that provided comments and/or reviews. Unsuccessful proposals will be held in the Program Office until the cooperative agreement or grant is awarded to the selected recipients and then will be destroyed.

Definitions

In this Program:

(1) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) *Conservation* means the use of methods and procedures necessary to preserve or sustain corals and associated species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems, including all activities associated with resource management, such as assessment, conservation, protection, restoration, sustainable use, and management of habitat; mapping; habitat monitoring; assistance in the development of management strategies for marine protected areas and marine resources consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*); law enforcement; conflict resolution

initiatives; community outreach and education; and that promote safe and ecologically sound navigation.

(3) *Cooperative Agreement* means a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Department of Commerce (DoC) and a recipient whenever: (1) The principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer money, property, services or anything of value to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute, and (2) substantial involvement (*e.g.*, collaboration, participation, or intervention by DoC in the management of the project) is anticipated between DoC and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

(4) *Coral* means species of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

(a) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Gorgonacea (horny corals), and Stolonifera (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft corals), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and,

(b) all species of the order Hydrocorallina (fire corals and hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa.

(5) *Coral Reef* means any reefs or shoals composed primarily of corals.

(6) *Coral Reef Ecosystem* means coral and other species of reef organisms (including reef plants) associated with coral reefs, and the non-living environmental factors that directly affect coral reefs, that together function as an ecological unit in nature.

(7) *Coral Products* means any living or dead specimens, parts, or derivatives, or any product containing specimens, parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in paragraph (3).

(8) *Grant* means a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between DoC and a recipient whenever: (1) The principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer money, property, services, or anything of value in order to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute and (2) no substantial involvement is anticipated between DoC and the recipient during the performance of the contemplated activity.

(9) *Interagency Agreement*, for the purposes of these Guidelines, means a written document containing specific provisions of governing authorities, responsibilities, and funding, entered into between NOAA and another Federal agency where NOAA is funding the other Federal agency, pursuant to the Act.

(10) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) *State* means any State of the United States that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States, or separate sovereign in free association with the United States, that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries.

Classifications

This is a new Program and will be added to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act (11.419), Financial Assistance for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (11.426), and Habitat Conservation (11.463). The Program uses the Federal financial assistance award package requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

The program will determine National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance on a project by project basis.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

The use of the Federal financial assistance award package referred to in this notice involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046.

The Guidelines also contain new collection-of-information requirements subject the Paperwork Reduction Act and which have been approved by OMB under control number 0648-0448. Public reporting burden for these collections of information is estimated to average one hour per request for a matching funds waiver (section IX(6) of these Guidelines) and one hour per comment on proposals (section X(1) of these Guidelines). These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspect of these data collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, N/ ORR, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and to Office of Management

and Budget (OMB) at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: NOAA Desk Officer.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: April 15, 2002.

Alan Neuschatz,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-9682 Filed 4-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P; 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.: 011113275-2038-03; I.D. 030602B]

RIN 0648-ZB11

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2002 Funding Guidance

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Federal assistance for coral reef conservation activities.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to advise the public that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting proposals for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program (Program), pursuant to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), through the NOAA Administrator (Administrator) and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects under the Program. This document provides the specific Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 Funding Guidance (Guidance) necessary to award \$5,500,000, of which NOAA is providing \$5,150,000 and the Department of Interior is providing \$350,000 in Federal assistance, consistent with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines (Guidelines), published concurrently with this Guidance. The Proposed Guidelines were published in the **Federal Register** for public comment on December 10, 2001. The information

published in this Guidance includes: specific program eligibility criteria, available funding, proposal submission and selection dates, and detailed application requirements and proposal evaluation criteria. All applications submitted pursuant to this notice must be consistent with the requirements stated herein and in the Guidelines, and be consistent with the National Coral Reef Action Strategy (Strategy). NOAA is in the final stages of completing the Strategy, in consultation with the United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), as required under the Act. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an implementation plan to advance coral reef conservation, including a basis for funding allocations to be made under the Program. Upon final completion of the Strategy, NOAA will publish notice of the Availability of the Strategy in the **Federal Register** and at: www.coralreef.noaa.gov/. Until such notice is provided, NOAA and applicants for coral reef grant funds provided under this notice shall use the *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs* (National Action Plan), dated March 2, 2000, in place of the Strategy. The Strategy and the National Action Plan share the same basic goals and objectives, thereby ensuring that the National Action Plan can provide sufficient guidance for the development and review of grant applications pursuant to this notice. The National Action Plan can be found at: <http://coralreef.gov/>. Applicants may also request copies of the National Action Plan from the contacts listed below.

DATES: Effective April 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send all proposals to: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Program Coordinator, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Fax: 301-713-4389. Only written proposals will be accepted, no electronic mail applications will be accepted. Envelopes or faxes should be sent to the attention of one of the following proposal categories, as appropriate: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; Coral Reef Monitoring and Research; General Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for telephone and e-mail addresses of contacts for this program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Contacts for Specific Information

Administrative questions should be directed to Bill Millhouser, 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Management is Bill Millhouser, 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Monitoring and Research is Ruth Kelly, 301-713-3020, extension 133 or e-mail at ruth.kelly@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for General Coral Reef Conservation is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-2319, extension 121 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-2319, extension 121 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for International Coral Reef Conservation is Arthur Paterson, 301-713-3078, extension 217 or e-mail at arthur.e.paterson@noaa.gov.

NOAA announces the availability of \$5,500,000 of Federal assistance in FY 2002 for Coral Conservation Activities. NOAA is providing \$5,150,000 and the Department of Interior (DOI) is providing \$350,000. These funds will be used to support the following six program areas: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; State and Territory Coral Reef Monitoring; State and Territory Research to support monitoring technologies; General Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation. The amount of funds available, and the application requirements for each program area are defined in Sections IV-IX of this notice. Selected recipients will enter into either a cooperative agreement with the NOAA Office responsible for the program or receive a grant depending upon the amount of NOAA's involvement in the project. Substantial involvement means a cooperative agreement, while independent work requires a grant.

All applicants are required to submit a Federal financial assistance awards package and proposal write-up as described in the relevant program section below. The financial assistance awards package (which includes forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and SF-LLL) can be obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/grants/pdf>. For each proposal submitted, applicants are required to prepare one original and two

Appendix C

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2002 Funding Guidance

and Budget (OMB) at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: NOAA Desk Officer.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: April 15, 2002.

Alan Neuschatz,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-9682 Filed 4-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P; 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.: 011113275-2038-03; I.D. 030602B]

RIN 0648-ZB11

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2002 Funding Guidance

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Federal assistance for coral reef conservation activities.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to advise the public that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting proposals for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program (Program), pursuant to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), through the NOAA Administrator (Administrator) and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects under the Program. This document provides the specific Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 Funding Guidance (Guidance) necessary to award \$5,500,000, of which NOAA is providing \$5,150,000 and the Department of Interior is providing \$350,000 in Federal assistance, consistent with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines (Guidelines), published concurrently with this Guidance. The Proposed Guidelines were published in the **Federal Register** for public comment on December 10, 2001. The information

published in this Guidance includes: specific program eligibility criteria, available funding, proposal submission and selection dates, and detailed application requirements and proposal evaluation criteria. All applications submitted pursuant to this notice must be consistent with the requirements stated herein and in the Guidelines, and be consistent with the National Coral Reef Action Strategy (Strategy). NOAA is in the final stages of completing the Strategy, in consultation with the United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), as required under the Act. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an implementation plan to advance coral reef conservation, including a basis for funding allocations to be made under the Program. Upon final completion of the Strategy, NOAA will publish notice of the Availability of the Strategy in the **Federal Register** and at: www.coralreef.noaa.gov/. Until such notice is provided, NOAA and applicants for coral reef grant funds provided under this notice shall use the *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs* (National Action Plan), dated March 2, 2000, in place of the Strategy. The Strategy and the National Action Plan share the same basic goals and objectives, thereby ensuring that the National Action Plan can provide sufficient guidance for the development and review of grant applications pursuant to this notice. The National Action Plan can be found at: <http://coralreef.gov/>. Applicants may also request copies of the National Action Plan from the contacts listed below.

DATES: Effective April 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send all proposals to: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Program Coordinator, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Fax: 301-713-4389. Only written proposals will be accepted, no electronic mail applications will be accepted. Envelopes or faxes should be sent to the attention of one of the following proposal categories, as appropriate: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; Coral Reef Monitoring and Research; General Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for telephone and e-mail addresses of contacts for this program.

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Technical point of contact for General Coral Reef Conservation is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-2319, extension 121 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-2319, extension 121 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for International Coral Reef Conservation is Arthur Paterson, 301-713-3078, extension 217 or e-mail at arthur.e.paterson@noaa.gov.

NOAA announces the availability of \$5,500,000 of Federal assistance in FY 2002 for Coral Conservation Activities. NOAA is providing \$5,150,000 and the Department of Interior (DOI) is providing \$350,000. These funds will be used to support the following six program areas: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; State and Territory Coral Reef Monitoring; State and Territory Research to support monitoring technologies; General Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation. The amount of funds available, and the application requirements for each program area are defined in Sections IV-IX of this notice. Selected recipients will enter into either a cooperative agreement with the NOAA Office responsible for the program or receive a grant depending upon the amount of NOAA's involvement in the project. Substantial involvement means a cooperative agreement, while independent work requires a grant.

All applicants are required to submit a Federal financial assistance awards package and proposal write-up as described in the relevant program section below. The financial assistance awards package (which includes forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and SF-LLL) can be obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/grants/pdf/>. For each proposal submitted, applicants are required to prepare one original and two

signed copies for each application package.

The number of awards made under this Program as a result of this solicitation will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the amount of funds requested by eligible applicants, the merit review and ranking of the proposals, the application of the geographic and biological diversity requirements of 16 U.S.C. 6403(d), and how well the proposal satisfied the criteria in 16 U.S.C. 6403(g). As a result, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest scoring proposals. Successful applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of an award. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD), and the relevant NOAA staff. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until a notice of award document is received from the NOAA GMD. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or obligate all or any part of available funds.

I. Authority

Statutory authority is provided under Section 6403 (Coral Reef Conservation Program) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403 *et seq.*). Each program's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number can be found in the specific program information included below, Sections IV–IX.

II. General Background

Rather than develop a new grant program under the Act, NOAA's approach to implementing this Program was to draw together existing financial assistance programs under the umbrella of the Program.

III. Application and Selection Schedule

Applications must be received by NOAA before 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on the dates specified below. Applicants should consider the delivery time when submitting their applications from international or remote areas. Selected proposals will receive funding no later than October 1, 2002. The following review and selection timetable applies to all proposals under the Program:

Applications due to NOAA—May 24, 2002

NOAA returns proposal comments and notice of intent to fund to applicants—June 28, 2002

Final Applications due to NOAA—July 19, 2002

The NOAA Grants Officer or the Program Officer for each grant program, as appropriate, will provide each applicant with written notice of the final funding decision on or before September 30, 2002.

IV. State and Territory Coral Reef Management

A. Program Description

This description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA and DOI in FY 2002 to support comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa.

NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC), and DOI Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) are jointly providing approximately \$2,100,000 in funding for cooperative agreements to support state and territorial coral reef and coral reef fishery management and conservation activities as listed in E(2) below.

Each jurisdiction need only develop and submit one comprehensive coral reef management application for the funds available under this section. The Federal agencies will coordinate their reviews of each application to ensure comparability and continuity. It is anticipated that OCRM will make awards to four of the seven jurisdictions and that DOI/OIA will make awards to the remaining three jurisdictions.

B. Eligibility Criteria

The eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef activities in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and USVI. To be eligible for FY 2002 funding, the jurisdiction must have made reasonable progress in completing tasks under applicable FY 2000 and FY 2001 coral management awards, as evidenced in the required performance and financial reports.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanism

1. Funding Available

Approximately \$2,100,000 in FY 2002 funding is available for Coral Reef and Coral Reef Fishery Management cooperative agreements. Support in out years after FY 2002 is contingent upon the availability of funds and the requirements of the Federal agency supporting the project. Each jurisdiction is eligible to receive an award ranging from a minimum of \$225,000 to a maximum of approximately \$400,000.

2. Funding Mechanism

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to each eligible jurisdiction. Proposals should cover a project period of 12 to 18 months with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2002.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII of the Guidelines are applicable to funding available under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Proposal Content and Format Section below.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Proposal Content

Applications should reflect the National Coral Reef Action Strategy, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs, and local strategies for coral reef management, such as the 1999, U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Initiative Strategy, as modified by the events and activities of the last 3 years. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA coral reef mapping, monitoring, coastal zone and fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

In developing the application, state and territorial applicants must consult with all relevant governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in their respective jurisdictions. Those agencies consulted must include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Funding under this award is also intended to support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. As such, applicants should include in their proposal, anticipated travel costs associated with attendance and participation at U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other relevant meetings and conferences.

Applicants may submit applications covering up to an 18-month period. Applicants must meet all applicable Department of Commerce (DOC) or DOI grant requirements, and submit, with the final application package, all required Federal financial assistance awards forms. One original and two signed copies of the complete application must be submitted by the applicant to NOAA by the indicated due date.

2. Proposal Format

In developing the proposal, the applicant must organize proposed tasks into the following eleven (11) categories, which are based on those found in the National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs:

a. *Coral Reef and Associated Coastal Management Activities Including Marine Protected Area Management and Development*, e.g., tasks to forward the conservation and management of coral reefs through planning, designation, implementation and evaluation of marine protected areas; including personnel training, equipment procurement, signage, monitoring and enforcement, etc.,

b. *Mapping, Aerial Photography, and Digital/Satellite Imagery for Reef Conservation*, e.g., developing benthic habitat maps or other Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers, etc., (such activities should be coordinated with the NOS coral mapping program),

c. *Monitoring and Assessment of Coral Reefs or Reef Resources*, e.g., baseline characterizations of reef ecosystems, workshops to standardize methods, database system development, purchase of equipment, training, etc. (Note: most, if not all of proposed monitoring projects, should be funded under the National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) Coral Reef Monitoring grant program discussed in Section V. below),

d. *Targeted Research to Support Management*, e.g., nutrient input modeling, coral recruitment studies, etc.,

e. *Socio-economic and Resource Valuation*, e.g., economic valuations, alternative income generation workshops, etc.,

f. *Reducing Habitat Destruction*, e.g., coastal zone management, vessel grounding prevention and management, mooring buoy installation, etc.,

g. *Reducing Pollution:*

(1) Oil-spill prevention and response, e.g., developing response plans, personnel training, interagency coordination, etc.;

(2) Marine debris prevention and removal, e.g., developing prevention policies, collection and disposal of debris, etc.; and

(3) Reducing impacts from land-based/watershed pollution source, e.g., Best Management Practices (BMP) planning and implementation, watershed restoration projects, etc.

h. *Invasive Alien Species Management*, e.g., policy development, mitigation projects, etc.,

i. *Coral Reef Restoration*, e.g., damage mitigation, coral transplantation, monitoring of restoration sites, etc.,

j. *Public Education and Outreach*, e.g., brochures and other informational materials, public meetings and workshops, etc., and,

k. *Coral Reef Fisheries Management*, in FY 2002, NMFS OHC has provided \$350,000 of the total \$2,100,000 to fund priority state and territorial coral reef fishery management activities. Proposed funding for coral reef fishery management tasks should range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per jurisdiction, and should be budgeted within the jurisdiction's \$225,000 to \$400,000 comprehensive proposal. The mandate of NMFS is to build sustainable fisheries, recover protected species, and sustain healthy habitats for these species. These tasks should be developed in the same format as the other coral reef management tasks and included and submitted in the comprehensive application. Examples of eligible projects include:

(1) Assessment and monitoring of fish and fishery resources, collection of fishery information;

(2) Analysis of fishery impacts on reefs and support for the implementation of fishery gear restrictions or other priority regulations;

(3) Development of fishery reserves;

(4) Activities to improve management of ornamental reef species for the aquarium industry;

(5) Hiring or training of enforcement officers; and,

(6) Outreach and education on fishery and endangered species issues.

Large equipment and/or infrastructure acquisitions are not a priority for funding under this program. Such purchases proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management objectives of this and the local coral reef program.

For each category in which a task is proposed, the applicant should include the following information:

a. A brief introduction that describes the status of the issue in the jurisdiction as addressed by the proposed task; recent actions undertaken to address the

issues, with a focus on the status of previous federally funded tasks; the jurisdiction's strategy to address critical needs over the medium term; and, a justification for the proposed task.

b. A description of each proposed task that must include:

(1) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the work, relationship to ongoing projects and how the project fits into the jurisdiction's strategy for addressing the issue;

(2) How the project coordinates with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA or DOI regional activities;

(3) Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly-defined work products; and,

(4) Project priority as compared to all other proposed projects.

c. A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, pursuant to Section IX(6) of the Guidelines. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed by individuals with coral reef and fisheries management experience on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria, as evidenced by information in the application:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef management activity to fill gaps in the jurisdiction's management capacity;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed management activity; and,

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed.

Subsequently, a Federal agency team of representatives from NMFS, OCRM, and OIA will review the applications, pursuant to equally weighted criteria described in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers. Based on this review, the team will make preliminary funding allocation recommendations for each jurisdiction.

2. Selection Criteria

OCRM will then provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and the Federal agency team and are intended for use in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal financial assistance forms, the Federal agency team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the response to comments that were returned to the applicant. The team will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

If one or more applicants are ineligible to receive an award, NOAA and DOI will consult with the eligible applicants on the use of any residual funds. NOAA and DOI will work with each jurisdiction to ensure the greatest degree of success in meeting local, state, territorial, and national coral reef management needs.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for the NOAA program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. NOAA proposals will be reviewed and awarded by OCRM under title, *Coastal Zone Management Program*, CFDA Number: 11.419.

V. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring

A. Program Description

This description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to the NOAA in FY 2002 to support state and territorial coral reef ecosystem monitoring. This program will be administered by NOS's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science.

NOAA and its partners designed and are implementing a nationally coordinated, comprehensive, long-term program to monitor and predict the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems. This program was requested by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which, along with the nation's coral reef program managers and the public, endorsed and called for implementation of "A National Program to Assess, Inventory, and Monitor U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems."

NOAA began implementing the Program in 2000 and continues to administer it with Congressional appropriations for coral reef conservation. The Program includes the collection, analysis, and reporting of

long-term coral reef ecosystem monitoring data pursuant to scientifically valid methodologies and protocols and is a key priority of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy.

The implementation plan calls for integration of now-disparate monitoring sites into a coordinated national network, sharing of monitoring information among U.S. coral reef resource managers and scientists, and filling gaps in monitoring coverage nationwide. Through this Program, U.S. Federal, state, commonwealth, and territorial agencies support a variety of local and regional assessments, inventories, and monitoring of U.S. coral reef resources. Additionally, there are several regional volunteer and community monitoring programs regularly assessing reef resources. A nationally coordinated coral monitoring infrastructure will enable the preparation of a biennial science-based report on the condition or "health" of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and support local coral reef management efforts.

The nation's coral reef resource managers have recommended a minimum suite of key biotic and abiotic parameters that should be monitored at all local sites in the national monitoring network:

1. Benthic habitat characterization (*e.g.*, depth, habitat delineation, and/or percent live/dead cover of corals, submerged aquatic vegetation, macroalgae, sponges, rugosity, diversity, etc.);
2. Associated biological community structure including fish condition (*e.g.*, abundance, density, size, diversity, disease, harvest trends) and large motile and sessile invertebrates condition (abundance, density, size, diversity, disease, harvest trends); and,
3. Water/substrate quality (*e.g.*, temperature, nutrient enrichment, toxic chemicals, turbidity).

Proposed work should include multi-organizational partnerships (local, regional, Federal, and even international) that build local capacity for maintaining long-term monitoring sites as part of a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network. NOAA will be an active partner in the development and implementation of the award; thus, proposals should be structured as cooperative agreements between NOAA and the principal investigators. For these proposals, it is appropriate to include the equipment necessary to build capacity to archive biotic transects (*e.g.*, one or more digital videography cameras with underwater housing, museum maintenance of reference specimen collections, etc.).

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are limited to the natural resource management agency in each U.S. state or territory, or Freely Associated State with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors or other applicable senior jurisdictional official. NOAA is requesting proposals from Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Federal agencies are not eligible for funding under this Program.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Available

Approximately \$800,000 will be available in FY 2002 for coral reef ecosystem monitoring activities under this program. FY 2002 awards to each jurisdiction are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

2. Funding Mechanism

Funds will be administered through non-competitive cooperative agreements between eligible organizations and NCCOS. Applicants may submit proposals up to 3 years in duration, at funding levels between \$50,000–100,000 per year (*i.e.*, up to \$300,000 for 3 year continuation proposals). FY 2002 awards, however, will only provide funding for the monitoring activities proposed for FY 2002, and funding for out years is contingent on subsequent years' appropriations. Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year. Annual projects should follow the Federal fiscal year, beginning on October 1 and ending September 30.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII of the Guidelines are applicable to funding available under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Proposal Content and Format section below.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Content

Proposal content should be developed and submitted according to the following guidelines:

- a. *First time applicants for monitoring awards:* Eligible activities for the first year of proposed funding (*i.e.*, FY 2002) include an initial characterization of baseline ecosystem condition, an inventory/mapping of biotic resources,

and an assessment of anthropogenic stressors (e.g., contaminants in lagoon sediments, sedimentation conditions, eutrophication, etc.) if these studies are prerequisite to establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Activities can also include database development and training of field crew. Proposed second and third year work should follow the guidelines for previous recipients below.

b. *Previous recipients of NCCOS monitoring awards:* Proposals from previous recipients should detail the monitoring design, sampling parameters and protocols, data management, and the need/context for establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Proposals should describe how the proposed monitoring meets local coral conservation needs and fits into ongoing long-term assessments, inventories, and monitoring within the jurisdiction and/or region. Each proposal must provide enough specificity on the parameters to be monitored, the design and frequency of sampling, methods used, data management and quality assurance, and other information for peer-reviewers to judge the quality of proposed work. Of particular importance to creating a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network, each proposal must also address (1) how compatible the proposed data (e.g., data confidence limits, standardized protocols) will be with other jurisdictional and regional databases, and (2) when and in what format the data will be available to NOAA. The information produced through these awards is intended to fill gaps in knowledge of coral reef ecosystems nationwide, track and predict changes in coral reef ecosystems nationwide, and serve as the foundation for biennial reporting in the *Report of the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems*.

In addition, each jurisdiction's proposal for FY 2002 must include the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of coral reef ecosystem health in FY 2003. This will be each jurisdiction's contribution to the *Report on the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems: 2004*. Toward this end, FY 2002 proposals may budget for travel to at least one national workshop, costs for preparing and printing a jurisdictional report on the condition of coral reef ecosystems, and related expenses.

2. Proposal Format

Applicants must submit proposals in the following format: a. *A Statement of Work* (i.e., narrative description) for each proposed task that includes: the specific priority management questions that are driving the effort, how data

collected will be translated and transferred to the local management community, project objectives, and a timetable with project milestones;

b. *A Summary Budget* that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section IX(6) of the Guidelines. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds with the final application. Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year;

c. *Curriculum Vitae* for principal investigators;

d. *Summary Project Abstract*; and,

e. *All required NOAA Federal financial assistance awards* forms (see below). One original and two copies of the jurisdiction's application must be submitted to NOAA by the indicated due date.

The NOAA Grants Management Division program web site, <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/grants/index.html>, provides detailed application instructions and electronic versions of Federal financial assistance forms. The two most relevant sections at this web site are, "C. Instructions and Guidelines," and, "D. Application Forms for Initial Proposal Submission." Applicants should review their application package prior to submission and be sure that all blocks on forms SF 424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and SF-LLL have been filled in completely.

Special note for monitoring program applicants filling out form SF-424: A paragraph explaining the qualification of the principal investigator's organization to do this work should be included in the Description of Work. The title should be *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*. In Block 13, the start date is always the first of the month; for ease in administering these as a block of grants, NOAA would prefer October 1, 2002, as the start date for all these cooperative agreements.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be peer-reviewed by a small panel of representatives from relevant state, Federal and island agencies as well as the jurisdictional coral reef Points of Contact (POCs) (each POC will be asked to review one or

more proposals from other jurisdictions, but never their own). Proposals will be peer-reviewed on the following criteria:

a. The jurisdiction's need for such work to fill gaps in monitoring coverage and build local capacity for long-term monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

b. The quality of the proposed science and potential for the resulting data to be incorporated into a National Monitoring Network;

c. The ability of the principal investigators to conduct such work; and,

d. Support for the All Islands Coral Reef Initiative, in applicable jurisdictions.

Reviewer results will be shared with applicants, and applicants will be given the opportunity to revise their application and/or respond to reviewer comments. Taking into consideration comments received from peer reviewers, NCCOS will evaluate each proposal and develop funding recommendations based on the criteria in Section X(3) of the Guidelines. In evaluating the technical merit and adequacy of the implementation plan, NCCOS will apply the following three equally weighted criteria:

a. *Relevance to establishing a national monitoring network.* The principal objective of the proposals should be to fill priority gaps or needs in coral reef monitoring and assessment programs, such that they contribute to the creation of a comprehensive and coordinated network of monitoring sites for U.S. coral reef ecosystems. In subsequent years, the project should be monitoring the "minimum suite of key biotic and abiotic parameters," (as listed in the program description) at least once a year, at one or more sites;

b. *Quality assurance and error estimates for parameter measurements.* Flexibility of methodologies for acquiring measurements is allowable, as long as they are done in situ and are quantitatively reliable within a jurisdiction and across a region. Where possible, NOAA favors a stratified random sampling design for site selection (i.e., ideally based on reliable habitat maps), multi-methodological monitoring of the ecosystem (i.e., line transects for cryptic species, point-count surveys for large pelagic species), and sample archiving (i.e., species reference collections, transect/survey videographic records); and

c. *Potential to meet data reporting requirements and the ability of transferring the data to the local or regional management community.* Data from proposals must be useful in preparing the biennial report on the *Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems*.

Grant recipients will provide raw or synthesized data to NCCOS no later than 3 months after data collection. The data generated in the National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program will be used by NOAA and its partners to develop regional and national state of the reef reports and disseminated to the public via NOAA's Coral Reef Information (CoRIS) Web site, currently under development. Biotic data integrity is critical for sharing of information and detection of national/regional trends and hotspots. Each jurisdiction will need to have basic data management quality controls and quality assurances for its data. Funding eligibility for future funding years will be contingent on meeting data submission deadlines including all reporting requirements and data transfers.

2. Proposal Selection

Based on these reviews, NCCOS will provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and the Federal agency team and are intended for use in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, the Federal agency team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. NCCOS will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by NCCOS under title, *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*, CFDA 11.426.

VI. State and Territory Research to Support Development of Monitoring Technologies and Assessments

A. Program Description

This program supports the development and field-testing of methods to assess and monitor coral reef ecosystem health, function, and resilience. These are critical components of a research program to support the monitoring of coral reef ecosystems as outlined in the Strategy. Advances in technologies and assessment techniques using remote sensing, in situ observations, high-end computing, and integrative biological and physical measurements need to be

incorporated into the "toolbox" available to coral reef ecosystem managers. For example, models and assessments will assist resource managers in evaluating alternative management strategies to improve the health of coral reef ecosystems.

Research is also needed to address development of appropriate indicators to define coral ecosystem health and function of reef ecosystems, such as coral and fish recruitment sources and sinks and explicit coupling of biological and physical models. These activities will directly support the NCCOS National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program's key research questions relevant to establishing monitoring techniques that provide quantitative measures of coral ecosystem health, including reproduction, recruitment, growth, and survival of coral communities. In addition, the benefits from these research activities and subsequent products are directly applicable and will be applied to monitoring programs throughout the regions where they are conducted, as well as nationally.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are those U.S. state and territory organizations eligible for cooperative agreements under the State and Territory Coral Reef Monitoring program described above. As such, eligible applicants are limited to the natural resource management agency with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors, in Puerto Rico, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Multi-organizational partnerships with local, regional, Federal, international and academic partners, are highly encouraged. Federal agencies are not eligible for direct funding under this program.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Available

Approximately \$300,000 will be available in FY 2002 for targeted research that supports the NCCOS National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program. Two awards of approximately \$150,000 each will be made to eligible organizations. One award each will be made to an organization in the Pacific and Caribbean Regions. These funds are intended to enhance FY 2002 coral reef ecosystem monitoring awards to territory and state cooperative partners

under the National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

2. Funding Mechanism

Funds will be awarded through cooperative agreements developed between NCCOS and the selected agency. Proposals must be included as an addendum to the Coral Monitoring application submitted by the eligible agency under that program; however, multi-organizational partnerships with local, regional, Federal, international and academic partners, are highly encouraged. As such, a joint monitoring and research grant application package must be submitted. The application must include separate monitoring and research budget sheets and project descriptions.

Applicants may submit proposals up to 3 years in duration, at funding levels up to \$150,000 per year (*i.e.*, up to \$450,000 for 3 year continuation proposals). FY 2002 awards, however, will only provide funding for the activities proposed for FY 2002, and funding for out-years is contingent on subsequent years' appropriations. Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements described under the State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring program apply to funding available under this program.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Proposal Content

Due to limited funding, only proposals that address the following two national monitoring program research priorities will be considered for funding:

- a. Development of coral health indicators using remotely sensed oceanographic data; specifically developing meso-scale characterizations of bio-optical water quality to predict coral health at locations affected by land based run-off and/or other point and non-point source pollution; and,
- b. Development of indices that identify threshold criteria of reproductive stress, recruitment failure, and/or mortality.

Applications must include an integrated research team made up of appropriate coral managers, research organizations, and other relevant local, regional, Federal, and international partners. Applicants must demonstrate capacity to perform such research, provide a topical publication history, and have a well-established field and laboratory infrastructure to be considered for this research grant.

Proposals that have rigorous quality assurance and error estimates for parameter measurements are encouraged. There will be flexibility of methodologies for acquiring measurements as long as they are done in situ and are quantitatively reliable within a jurisdiction and across a region.

Products and data from proposals must be useful in developing coral management strategies under the appropriate authorities, and in the development of future biennial reports on the health of U.S. coral reef ecosystems (through monitoring). As such, applicants who have demonstrated working relationships with management authorities are preferred.

All data must be made accessible to NOAA in a timely fashion for data archiving. Summaries of data will be required on at least an annual basis. Each proposal must address what specific, priority management questions are driving the effort and how its data will be translated and transferred to the local and regional management community.

2. Proposal Format

Applicants must submit proposals in the following format:

- a. *Introduction* explaining how the project will help the National Monitoring Network;
- b. *Rationale*;
- c. *Link to Existing Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Study* in the jurisdiction where the project is proposed;
- d. *Anticipated Outcomes*;
- e. *Milestone Dates*;
- f. A *Summary Budget* that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section IX(6) of the Guidelines. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds; and,
- g. *Personnel*.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be peer-reviewed by a small panel of representatives from relevant state, Federal and island agencies as well as the jurisdictional coral reef Points of Contact (POCs). Each POC will be asked to review one or

more proposals from other jurisdictions. Reviewer results will be shared with applicants, and applicants will be given the opportunity to revise their application and/or respond to reviewer comments. Proposals will be peer-evaluated on the following equally weighted criteria:

- a. The potential to meet reporting requirements in a timely manner, to provide data and research products to NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) Web site, currently under development;
- b. The demonstrated capacity of the applicant to perform the proposed research; and,
- c. The proposed quality assurance and error estimates and their relevance to the development of coral reef ecosystem management strategies and the biennial reports on the health of U.S. coral reef ecosystems. As such, applicants who have demonstrated working relationships with management authorities are preferred.

Taking into consideration comments received from peer reviewers, NCCOS will review the applications, pursuant to equally weighted criteria described in Section X(3) of the Guidelines. Based on this programmatic review, the team will make preliminary funding decisions.

2. Selection Criteria

NCCOS will then provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and NCCOS review and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, NCCOS will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. NCCOS will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by NCCOS under title, *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*, CFDA Number 11.426.

VII. General Coral Reef Conservation

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2002 to support efforts by governmental and

non-governmental entities to conserve the coral reef ecosystems of the United States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific (Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia). This program will be administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC).

The objective of this program is to support programs and projects in U.S. states and territories and the Freely Associated States, including projects that involve local communities and non-governmental organizations, to:

1. Help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
2. Promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources;
3. Develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems; and
4. Increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments and natural resource management authorities with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of coral reefs, or with jurisdiction over coral reefs, or whose activities directly or indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems. Proposals from U.S. state and territory government agencies will only be accepted for projects which promote advances in coral reef conservation and management issues of National or Regional importance and include partnerships with organizations not eligible under other sections. Core state and territorial coral reef management activities should be funded under Section IV above. Federal agencies are eligible under this program; however, pursuant to Section IV of the Guidelines, such proposals will be a low priority unless they are an essential part of a cooperative project with other eligible governmental or non-governmental entities. In order for a Federal agency to receive an award under this program, it must provide the requisite statutory authority to receive funds from a federal agency for these purposes. Please note that the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535, is not sufficient legal authority because NOAA is not procuring goods or services from the federal agency. Regional Fishery Management Councils are not eligible under this program.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Available

Approximately \$500,000 in funding is available in FY 2002 for awards under this program. It is expected that most awards will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of approximately \$75,000.

2. Funding Mechanism

Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this document. Proposals selected for funding from Federal agencies will be funded through an interagency agreement. Generally, NMFS will make awards only to those projects where requested funding will be used to complete proposed activities within a period of 18 months from the approved start date of the project.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII of the Guidelines are applicable to funding available under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Proposal Content and Format section here.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Proposal Content

Applications should support the National Coral Reef Action Strategy and the following goals of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*: A.II. Assess and Monitor Reef Health; A.III. Conduct Strategic Research; A.IV. Understand Social and Economic Factors; B.I. Improve Use of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); B.II. Reduce Impacts of Fishing; B.IV. Reduce Pollution; B.V. Restore Damaged Reefs; and B.VI. Improve Education. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA mapping, monitoring, and coral reef or fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

Applicants must consult with all relevant state, territorial, and local governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in developing the application. Local government agencies that must be consulted include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Applicants may submit applications covering a 12 to 18-month period, and must meet all applicable DOC grant

requirements, and submit, with the final application package, all required Federal financial assistance forms. One original and two signed copies of the complete application must be submitted by the applicant to NOAA by the indicated due date.

2. Proposal Format

In developing the proposal, the applicant must categorize proposed tasks into the following 8 categories, which are based on a subset of those found in the *National Action Plan*:

a. *Monitoring and Assessment of coral reefs or reef resources*; e.g., community or non-governmental organization monitoring or assessment programs that complement State or Territorial coral reef monitoring programs funded out of the NCCOS Coral Reef Monitoring Award,

b. *Targeted research*, e.g., studies that improve the understanding of coral reef ecosystems, their ecology and processes, and that are necessary to improve the management of these ecosystems,

c. *Socio-economic and Resource Valuation*, e.g., community assessments, economic valuations, alternative income generation workshops, etc.,

d. *Marine Protected Areas and associated management activities*, especially assessment of the gaps in protection of existing marine protected area systems, and outreach and education efforts,

e. *Coral Reef Fisheries Management*, e.g., resource assessments, collection of fishery information, outreach to fishers, co-management of coral reef fisheries by fishing communities, etc.,

f. *Reducing Pollution*, e.g., marine debris prevention and removal, reducing impacts from land-based/watershed pollution sources, etc.,

g. *Coral Reef Restoration*, e.g., restoration of coral reef habitats resulting from physical and biological disturbances such as orphan vessel groundings, storm events, coral disease and coral predator outbreaks, and anthropogenic disturbances, particularly projects utilizing innovative coral restoration technologies and/or comprehensive evaluation of restoration sites, and

h. *Public Education and Outreach activities*, e.g., brochures and other informational materials, public meetings and workshops, etc., particularly those which address the needs of local user groups.

The following projects will not be eligible for funding:

(1) Activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or

otherwise governed by state or Federal law;

(2) activities that constitute mitigation for natural resource damages under Federal or state law, and

(3) activities that are required by a separate consent decree, court order, statute or regulation.

Funding available under this program may be sought to enhance coral reef conservation activities beyond the scope legally required by these activities.

For each project proposed, the applicant should include the following:

1. An introduction, not to exceed one page, that describes:

a. The status and magnitude of the issues in the jurisdiction where the project will take place;

b. Recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on federally-funded tasks; and

c. How the project fits into the jurisdiction's strategy to addressing critical coral reef conservation needs the next two to three years.;

2. A description of each proposed task that includes:

a. Clear identification of the work to be completed and who will perform the work;

b. How the project coordinates with relevant state, territorial, or local governmental and non-governmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA regional activities;

c. A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, pursuant to Section IX(6) of the Guidelines. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds; and

d. Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly defined work products.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be peer-reviewed on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria by individuals with coral reef conservation experience:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed (projects that can be completed within 18 months of the start date will receive a higher ranking); and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems.

NOAA will also request and consider written comments on proposed projects from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, pursuant to Section X(1) of the Guidelines.

NMFS will then review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers and jurisdictions. Based on this review, NMFS will make preliminary funding decisions. These preliminary funding decisions will be submitted to the NOAA review team, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines. The review team will ensure that the preliminary funding decisions are consistent with the geographic distribution requirements of 16 U.S.C. 6403(d).

2. Selection Criteria

Based on these cumulative reviews, NMFS will provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers, the solicited jurisdictions, and the NMFS review, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final proposal.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, NMFS will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. NMFS will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines. The review panel will ensure that funding decisions are consistent with the geographic distribution requirements of 16 U.S.C. 6403(d). As a result, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest scoring proposals.

If insufficient eligible projects are received, NOAA may shift residual funds from this program area to another program area.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the National Marine Fisheries Service Office

of Habitat Conservation under title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA 11.463.

VIII. Regional Fishery Management Council Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2002 to support conservation and management of coral reef fisheries by Regional Fishery Management Councils with responsibilities for Fishery Management Plans that include shallow water coral reefs or fishery resources that depend on these reef ecosystems, as established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). This program will be administered by the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC).

B. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants are limited to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Available

NMFS OHC will provide approximately \$1,500,000 in FY 2002 funding for cooperative agreements to support coral reef conservation activities under this program. In order to ensure the regional balance called for by the Act, a maximum of \$750,000 will be available for activities in the Western Pacific, and a maximum of \$750,000 will be available for activities in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean.

2. Funding Mechanism

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to each eligible Regional Fishery Management Council. Proposals should cover a project period of 12 to 18 months with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2002.

D. Matching Funds

The Administrator has waived the matching requirement of Section VIII of the Guidelines for the Fishery Management Councils. This waiver is based on the fact that the Councils are funded solely by awards from the U.S. Federal Government, and, therefore, do not have the ability to generate matching funds.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Proposal Content

Applications should support the *National Action Strategy* and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA mapping, monitoring, and fishery management initiatives, and State and Territorial coral reef conservation initiatives in their own waters contiguous to the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone.

Fishery Management Councils must consult with state and territorial agencies and all other relevant local governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in developing applications.

Applicants may submit applications covering a 12 to 18-month period, and must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements, and submit, with the final application package, all required Federal financial assistance forms. One original and two signed copies of the complete application must be submitted by the applicant to NOAA by the indicated due date.

Eligible activities are those that support the objectives of the Strategy's goal of Reducing the Adverse Impacts of Fishing and other Extractive Uses on Coral Reefs and incorporating these objectives into existing or new Federal fishery management plans. Proposed activities should be in addition to those currently supported by NMFS and should not replace support for existing Council staff. The following represent priority activities for funding:

a. Identifying, mapping and characterizing important essential fish habitat, habitat areas of particular concern, and spawning populations in U.S. coral reef ecosystems, especially those associated with areas that are currently, permanently, or seasonally closed to fishing or that may merit inclusion in an expanded network of no-take ecological reserves. Eligible activities would include multi-beam or sidescan sonar mapping and characterization of such areas on deeper coral reefs, banks and beds;

b. Monitoring reef fish stocks in existing no-take marine reserves and reference sites to evaluate the effectiveness of reserves;

c. Developing proposals to reduce over-fishing of coral reef resources, including background information on currently unassessed coral reef fishery stocks;

d. Identifying adverse effects of fishing and fishing gear on essential fish

habitat and implementing actions to reduce these effects;

e. Eliminating destructive and habitat-damaging fishing practices;

f. Assessing the adequacy of current fishing regulations and the need for additional gear and anchoring restrictions to reduce habitat damage;

g. Providing enhanced education and outreach to recreational and commercial fishers to reduce the adverse impacts of fishing on coral reef ecosystems;

h. Incorporating ecosystem-scale considerations into coral reef fishery management plans;

i. Conducting targeted research to understand ecosystem effects of fishing, including: the development of models and studies to improve our understanding of larval pathways, trophic interactions and their ecosystem impacts associated with fishing, and habitat impacts associated with certain types of fishing gear and practices; and

j. Reducing the overexploitation of reef organisms for the aquarium trade.

2. Proposal Format

For each discrete task or activity, the applicant must include:

a. An introduction, not exceeding one page, that describes:

(1) The status and magnitude of the issues in the Council's jurisdiction;

(2) Recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on federally funded tasks; and,

(3) The Council's strategy to address critical needs over the medium term (the next 2 to 3 years).

b. A description of each proposed task that should include:

(1) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the work, and how the project fits into the Council's strategy for addressing the larger issue;

(2) How the project coordinates with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA regional activities;

(3) Summary budget;

(4) Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly defined work products; and,

(5) Project priority as compared to all other proposed projects.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be peer-reviewed on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria by individuals with coral reef conservation experience:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction of the Council;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed; and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems.

NOAA will also request and consider written comments on proposed projects from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, pursuant to Section X(1) of the Guidelines.

A NMFS team of representatives from the OHC, the Southeast Region, the Southeast Fishery Science Center, the Pacific Islands Area Office and the Southwest Fishery Science Center's Honolulu Laboratory will review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and consider comments received from peer reviewers and appropriate management authorities.

Based on this review, the team will make preliminary funding decisions. These preliminary funding decisions will be submitted to the NOAA review team, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

2. Selection Criteria

Based on these cumulative reviews, NMFS will provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers, jurisdictions, the NMFS review team, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final proposal.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal financial assistance forms, the NMFS team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. The team will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

If proposals from one or more Councils are ineligible to receive funding, NOAA may award those residual funds for eligible activities proposed by another Council or move the residual funds to a different program area. NOAA will work with each Council to ensure the greatest degree of

success in meeting that the goals of the Strategy.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this announcement is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. These cooperative agreements will be reviewed and awarded by the NMFS OHC under title, *Regional Fishery Management Councils*, CFDA Number: 11.441.

IX. International Coral Reef Conservation

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2002 to support the international conservation and management of coral reef ecosystems. These funds will be administered by NOS International Program Office (IPO).

The Act authorizes cooperative conservation and management of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems with local, regional, or international programs and partners. The *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs* (National Action Plan) calls on the U.S. to, "exercise global leadership in the international arena in shaping and developing environmentally sound and comprehensive coral reef policy, strengthen international conventions and foster strategic partnerships with other countries, international organizations and institutions, the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations to address international threats to coral reef ecosystems."

This program has four objectives:

1. *Promote Monitoring of Coral Ecosystems*: The *National Action Plan* gives priority to collaboration with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), recognizing the importance of its biennial *Status of Coral Reefs of the World* reports, and extensive partnerships with regional and national monitoring efforts. Therefore, activities will focus on expanding biophysical monitoring networks that contribute to understanding the status of coral reefs, promoting public awareness, and contributing to local management objectives. In FY 2002, emphasis will be placed on community participation in monitoring programs, communication of results to policy makers, and commitment to make data available to the GCRMN Data Centre at the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources.

2. *Enhance Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*: The *National Action Plan* calls for

strengthening the protection of resources within existing MPAs. NOAA has launched strategic partnerships with the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International to improve the management of MPAs by providing managers, planners, and other decision-makers with methods for assessing the effectiveness of MPA sites and national systems of MPAs. Therefore, funded activities will focus on assessing the effectiveness of management at those pilot coral MPAs that apply and test the approach and indicators developed therein.

3. *Encourage Regional Approaches to Further Marine Reserves in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia:* The *National Action Plan* highlights the role that highly protected areas (*i.e.*, no-take ecological reserves) play in creating a network of coral marine protected areas for biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Through this program, IPO will fund activities that support the development of networks of marine reserves in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. IPO will fund regional-level activities that promote the design and implementation of no-take marine reserves such as awareness campaigns on the value of marine reserves for government officials and policy makers throughout the region, or training workshops on sustainable financing mechanisms for marine reserve management. The Caribbean and Southeast Asia regions were selected in part because of the substantial interest and existing experience with marine reserves.

4. *Promote the Use of Socio-Economic Assessments in Marine Protected Areas:* The *National Action Plan* recognizes that the human dimension is often overlooked in developing coral reef management strategies and calls for measures to enhance understanding of stakeholder benefits and resolve important user conflicts. Recognizing the importance of the human dimension, the GCRMN, in partnership with NOAA, WCPA, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), recently published *The Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management*, a guide to conducting socioeconomic assessments of reef user groups.

As follow-up, the GCRMN and NOAA are working to develop socioeconomic monitoring approaches specific to Southeast Asia and the Caribbean and are planning training workshops for reef managers to learn how to conduct these assessments. The final, critical phase will be for the workshop participants to

return to their sites and establish socioeconomic monitoring programs.

Through this program, IPO will fund the establishment of socioeconomic monitoring programs at MPA sites in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. These monitoring programs are intended to help managers better understand the communities whose activities affect the MPA and who are affected by MPA management decisions. The socioeconomic information from the monitoring programs is, therefore, intended to be used in MPA management.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants include all international governmental and non-governmental entities, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as noted below. Specific guidance for each type of project is noted below:

1. Applications for projects to "Promote Monitoring of Coral Ecosystems" must include:

a. A strategy for submission of data to the GCRMN, as well as the means to document transmission of data to the GCRMN data center at the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management in the evaluation section of the report.

b. Evidence of commitment and capability to continue periodic monitoring after the grant period ends. Monitoring may include training at national or regional levels or in situ data collection.

2. Applications for projects to "Enhance Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas" must include:

a. Incorporation of the approach being developed by the WCPA-Marine/WWF International MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative, in particular, use of the Initiative's effectiveness indicators (<http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/mgmteffect/indicatorlists.html>). Projects should use these indicators to test their applicability and to determine if the indicators provide results on the effectiveness of a site's management goals and objectives;

b. The method to implement these indicators should be based on the IUCN publication, *Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing the Management of Protected Areas* (<http://wcpa.iucn.org/pubs/pdfs/evaluating—effect.pdf>). Project leaders should be in consultation with the WCPA-Marine/WWF International MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative, and follow the ongoing development of the draft guidelines for MPAs; and

c. In order to be selected, project sites must:

(1) Have a management program in place, including a management plan, on-site staff, and infrastructure to carry out effectiveness assessments;

(2) Be able to implement the WCPA approach and test biophysical, socioeconomic and governance indicators;

(3) Demonstrate the intent to incorporate the assessment of indicators into management planning and review process; and

(4) Include a letter of support from the MPA managing authority or site supervisor, which also demonstrates the involvement of the authority/supervisor in the project if the agency is not proposing the work.

3. Applications for projects to "Encourage Regional Approaches to Further Marine Reserves in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia" must:

a. Benefit more than one particular site;

b. Be supported by regional-level conservation organizations and/or at least three marine reserve sites; and,

c. Address a recognized regional need as demonstrated by documentation in regional reports, conference statements or elsewhere.

4. Applications for projects to "Promote the Use of Socio-Economic Assessments in Marine Protected Areas" must:

a. Link with an existing or planned marine resource management program (*e.g.*, MPA, fisheries management program, coastal management program) with clearly defined goals (note: these would preferably include socioeconomic goals, such as improve livelihood, increase environmental awareness, etc.);

b. Include a letter of support from the marine resource management authority;

c. Incorporate one or more of the approaches outlined in the *Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management* (<http://www.reefbase.org/>);

d. Demonstrate commitment to participating in the planned socioeconomic training workshop;

e. Identify the people who will conduct the socioeconomic monitoring either from staff or others (*e.g.*, local university);

f. Demonstrate involvement of marine management staff in the proposed monitoring even if personnel not engaged in site-management are overseeing the monitoring;

g. Identify how the people conducting the assessments will be involved in marine management beyond the periodic monitoring (*i.e.*, as opposed to an outside entity conducting the assessment and then leaving); and,

h. Identify how the socioeconomic data resulting from the monitoring program will be incorporated into decision-making for the marine resource management program.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Available

Approximately \$300,000 will be available in FY 2002 to support grants and cooperative agreements under this program. Approximately \$75,000 will be allocated to each of the four program areas described below. Most awards will range from \$30,000-\$40,000. Support in out-years after FY 2002 is contingent upon the availability of funds and any new guidance issued in the **Federal Register**.

2. Funding Mechanism

Grants and cooperative agreements will be reviewed and awarded by the International Program Office. Full proposals should cover a project period of 12 to 18 months with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2002.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under section VIII of the Guidelines are applicable to funding available under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Proposal Content and Format Section below.

E. Proposal Content and Format

1. Proposal Content

Each of the four International Program themes are priorities of the National Action Plan. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12 to 18-month period, must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements, and submit with the final application package, all required Federal financial assistance forms. A complete Federal financial assistance awards package is required. One original and two signed copies of the proposal must be submitted to NOAA.

2. Proposal Format

Each application must include the following elements:

- a. A cover sheet with the following:
 - (1) Name of the individual or entity responsible for conducting the project;
 - (2) Nature of Applicant: nonprofit, university, government, individual, etc.;
 - (3) Project name;
 - (4) One paragraph project summary;
 - (5) Location of Project and site;
 - (6) Indication of the relevant International Project Category; and,
 - (7) Grant Request and matching funds.

b. A description of the qualifications of the individual(s) who will conduct the project

c. Project Description which must address the specific project category eligibility criteria described in B above and also include:

- (1) Project need;
- (2) Objectives;
- (3) Implementation strategy;
- (4) Identification of how project fits into applicant (and site) strategy for management;
- (5) Project products and outcomes;
- (6) Partner justification and roles;
- (7) A methodology to evaluate the success of the project;
- (8) A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section IX(6) of the Guidelines. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds; and,

(9) Task timetable with interim benchmarks linked to clearly defined work projects.

d. Evidence of support for the project from the local management authority where the work is conducted at specific sites to support local management objectives. In those cases where training is envisaged, (e.g., training in monitoring), indication that participants will apply new techniques at their local sites is requested. Evidence of coordination with relevant national and regional project partners, including a list of agencies consulted in developing the proposal.

F. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

IPO will provide for a merit-based peer review and standardized documentation of that review for proposals that meet the eligibility requirements. Each proposal will be reviewed by a minimum of three individuals with knowledge of the subject of the proposal. Each reviewer will submit a separate and individual review and reviewers will not provide a consensus opinion. The identities of the peer reviewers will be kept anonymous to the degree permitted by law. Peer reviewers will apply the following equally weighted evaluation criteria:

- a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing national and regional reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed; and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems.

NOAA may also request and consider written comments on proposed projects from agencies with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, as described in Section X(1) of the Guidelines. Under the international grant program, NOAA will request and consider written comments on the proposal from relevant U.S. government agencies such as the Agency for International Development and Department of the Interior; foreign governments and their coral management agencies; and other international entities as necessary. Each entity will be provided 21 days to review and comment on subject proposals. Comments submitted will be part of the public record.

IPO will then review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer, agency, and jurisdiction reviewers. Based on this review, the team will make preliminary funding decisions.

2. Selection Criteria

Based on these cumulative reviews, IPO will provide a notice of intent to fund and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers, agencies, jurisdictions, and IPO, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final proposal.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, IPO will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of, and response to, comments that were returned to the applicant. IPO will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines to ensure that the Act's requirements for geographic funding distribution and consistency with the overall program goals outlined in the Strategy.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Grants and

cooperative agreements will be reviewed and awarded by the NOS International Program Office under title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA: 11.463.

X. General Information for All Programs

The budget may include an amount for indirect costs if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government. Indirect costs are essentially overhead costs for basic operational functions (e.g., lights, rent, water, insurance) that are incurred for common or joint objectives and, therefore, cannot be identified specifically within a particular project. For this solicitation, the Federal share of the indirect costs must not exceed the lesser of either the indirect costs the applicant would be entitled to if the negotiated Federal indirect cost rate were used or 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed. For those situations in which the use of the applicant's indirect cost rate would result in indirect costs greater than 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed, the difference may be counted as part of the non-Federal share. A copy of the current, approved negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal Government should be included with the application. If the applicant does not have a current negotiated rate and plans to seek reimbursement for indirect costs, documentation necessary to establish a rate must be submitted within 90 days of receiving an award.

Applicants receiving funding will be required to submit semiannual performance reports and copies of all products that are developed under the award. The specific information, products, or data to be submitted to NOAA will be determined by the program office and applicant in pre-award negotiations.

If an application is selected for funding, NOAA has no obligation to provide any additional prospective funding in connection with that award in subsequent years. Any subsequent proposal to continue work on an existing project must be submitted to the competitive process for consideration and will not receive preferential treatment. Renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NOAA.

The recipients must comply with Executive Order 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee

Content Standard for digital geospatial data.

Classification

This is a new Program and will be added to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act (11.419), Financial Assistance for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (11.426), and Habitat Conservation (11.463). The Program uses only the existing NOAA Federal financial assistance awards package requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** Notice of October 1, 2001, will be applicable to solicitations under this Program. However, please note that the Department of Commerce will not implement the requirements of Executive Order 13202, pursuant to guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in light of a court opinion which found that the Executive Order was not legally authorized. See *Building and Construction Trades Department v. Allbaugh*, 172 F. Supp. 2d 138 (D.D.C. 2001). This decision is currently on appeal. When the case is finally resolved, the Department will provide further information on implementation of Executive Order 13202.

The program will determine National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance on a project by project basis.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The use of the Federal financial assistance awards package referred to in this notice involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046.

This notice also contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act and which has been approved by OMB under control number 0648-0448. The public reporting burden is estimated to average one hour per response for comments on a proposed project from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspect of these data collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 Attention: NOAA Desk Officer.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: April 15, 2002.

Alan Neuschatz,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-9683 Filed 4-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODES 3510-JE-S and 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040902G]

Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of affirmative finding renewal.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) has renewed the affirmative finding for the Republic of Ecuador under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The renewal of Ecuador's affirmative finding allows for the continued importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and yellowfin tuna products harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) after March 3, 1999, by Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessels with a carrying capacity greater than 400 short tons (362.8 metric tons) or purse seine vessels with a carrying capacity greater than 400 short tons operating under Ecuadorian jurisdiction. The affirmative finding renewal was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Republic of Ecuador and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Department of State. This finding is

Appendix D

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2003 Funding Guidance

Williams Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc., Chatsworth, CA
 Williams Machine, Inc., Lake Elsinore, CA
 Williams Machining Co., Edinboro, PA
 Windsor Tool & Die, Inc., Cleveland, OH
 Wintech Industries Inc., Tempe, AZ
 Wire Cut Company, Inc., Buena Park, CA
 Wire Tech E D M, Inc., Los Alamitos, CA
 Wire-Tech, Inc., Tempe, AZ
 Wirecut Technologies Inc., Indianapolis, IN
 WireCut E D M, Inc., Dallas, TX
 Wisconsin Engraving Company/Unitex, New Berlin, WI
 Wise Machine Co., Inc., Butler, PA
 Wolverine Bronze Company, Roseville, MI
 Wolverine Tool & Engineering, Belmont, MI
 Wolverine Tool Company, St. Clair Shores, MI
 Woodruff Corporation, Torrance, CA
 Wright Brothers Welding & Sheet Metal, Inc., Hollister, CA
 WADKO Precision, Inc., Eagle Lake, TX
 WGI Inc., Southwick, MA
 WSI Industries, Inc., Osseo, MN
 X-L Machine Company, Inc., Three Rivers, MI
 XLI Corporation, Rochester, NY
 Yarde Metals, Inc., Bristol, CT
 Yates Tool, Inc., Medina, OH
 Yoder Die Casting Corporation, Dayton, OH
 Youngberg Industries, Inc., Belvidere, IL
 Youngers and Sons Manufacturing, Company, Inc., Viola, KS
 Youngstown Plastic Tooling & Machinery, Inc., Youngstown, OH
 Z & Z Machine Products Inc., Racine, WI
 Z M D Mold & Die Inc., Mentor, OH
 Zircon Precision Products, Inc., Tempe, AZ
 Zuelzke Tool & Engineering, Milwaukee, WI
 4 Axis Machining, Inc., Denver, CO

[FR Doc. 03-1097 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Ocean Service

[Docket No. 021226332-2332-01; I.D. 121202C]

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Fiscal Year 2003 Funding Guidance

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Federal assistance for coral reef conservation activities.

SUMMARY: This document advises the public that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting proposals for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program (Program), pursuant to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), through the NOAA

Administrator (Administrator), and subject to the availability of funds, to provide matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects under the Program. This document provides the specific Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Funding Guidance (Guidance) necessary to award \$5,590,000 in Federal assistance, of which NOAA is providing \$5,240,000 and the Department of the Interior (DOI) is providing \$350,000, consistent with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines (Guidelines) published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, April 19, 2002. The Guidelines can be found at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/>. The information published in this Guidance includes: specific program eligibility criteria, Funding Availability, proposal submittal and selection dates, and detailed application requirements and Application Evaluation criteria. All applications submitted pursuant to this notice must be consistent with the requirements stated herein, the Guidelines, and with "A National Coral Reef Action Strategy" (Strategy), completed in September 2002. The Strategy can also be found at: <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/>. Applicants may also request copies of the Strategy from the contacts listed below. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

DATES: Applications must be received by NOAA before 5 P.M. Eastern Time on the dates specified below. Initial applications can be submitted by either electronic mail (e-mail) or surface mail; however, one original and two signed copies of the final application must be submitted by surface mail. Applicants should consider the delivery time when submitting their applications from international or remote areas. NOAA intends to provide funding to selected applicants no later than September 30, 2003. The following review and selection timetable applies to all applications under the Program, except the Coral Reef Research Ecosystem Program (see section IV):

Initial Applications due to NOAA—March 14, 2003

NOAA returns proposal comments to applicants—May 9, 2003

Final Applications due to NOAA—June 6, 2003

The NOAA Grants Officer will provide written notice to each successful applicant with written notice of the final funding selection on or before September 30, 2003. It is the goal of the NOAA Program Officer to also provide notice to each unsuccessful applicant before September 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Initial applications may be submitted by surface mail or e-mail. Submissions by e-mail are preferred. If submitting by surface mail, applicants are encouraged to include a copy of the initial application in electronic format on disk or cd and mail both to: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Coordinator, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Applications submitted by e-mail must be sent to coral.grants@noaa.gov. Fax submittals will not be accepted except for the International Coral Reef Conservation proposals, Section VII (Fax: 301-713-4389).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Administrative questions should be directed to Bill Millhouser, 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Management is Bill Millhouser, 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring is John Christensen, 301-713-3028, extension 153 or e-mail at john.christensen@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for Coral Reef Ecosystem Research is Kimberly Puglise, 301-713-2427, extension 199 or e-mail at kimberly.puglise@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for General Coral Reef Conservation is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-3459, extension 122 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans is Tom Hourigan, 301-713-3459, extension 122 or e-mail at tom.hourigan@noaa.gov.

Technical point of contact for International Coral Reef Conservation is Arthur Paterson, 301-713-3078, extension 217 or e-mail at arthur.e.paterson@noaa.gov.

For general information on NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, contact Roger Griffis, 301-713-3989, extension 115 or e-mail at roger.b.griffis@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA announces the availability of \$5,590,000 of Federal assistance in FY 2003 for Coral Conservation Activities. NOAA is providing \$5,240,000 and DOI is providing \$350,000. These funds will be used to support grants of financial assistance under the following six program categories: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem

Monitoring; Coral Reef Ecosystem Research; Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation.

Please Note: The Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Program mentioned here will solicit proposals through NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) on a different schedule than described in this Guidance. Applicants interested in submitting applications for coral research should consult section IV. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.

The amount of funds available and the application requirements for each program category are established in Sections II - VII of this notice. In addition to this specific program information, all applicants should carefully read section VIII. General Information for All Applicants.

For applications submitted in electronic format, the preferred format is Adobe Acrobat (.PDF); however, WordPerfect or Microsoft Word files are acceptable. All applications must meet the information and formatting requirements specified in this Guidance. Federal financial assistance forms are not required to be submitted with the initial application; however, one original and two signed copies must be submitted with the final application.

Each application must include a cover sheet with the following information:

- (a) Project title;
- (b) Applicant organization;
- (c) Principal investigator or contact;
- (d) Contact information including address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
- (e) Program category (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below);
- (f) Geographic location of the project;
- (g) Amount of grant funds requested;
- (h) Amount of matching funds provided; and,
- (i) Concise paragraph project summary.

NOAA will select projects based on a review of applications pursuant to criteria contained in the Guidelines, the Strategy, and this Guidance. In addition, each program office will ensure where appropriate in their evaluation criteria, commitment to effective education and outreach consistent with NOAA's mission to protect coral reef resources. Selected recipients will enter into either a cooperative agreement with the NOAA Office responsible for the program or receive a grant depending upon the amount of NOAA's involvement in the project. Substantial involvement means a cooperative agreement, while independent work requires a grant. Examples of substantial involvement include:

(1) Requirements that the appropriate DOC official collaborate with the recipient by working jointly with a recipient scientist or technician in carrying out the scope of work;

(2) Specify direction or redirection of the scope of work due to the relationships with other projects; and,

(3) Review scope of work and closely monitor the program operations during the performance period.

Applicants whose initial applications are preliminarily selected must then submit a final Federal financial assistance award application package, including proposed projects and supporting documentation, and all required Federal financial assistance forms as described in the relevant program section below. The required Federal financial assistance forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL, can be obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf>. Applicants are required to include one original and two signed hard/paper copies for each final application package submitted.

The number of awards made under this funding Guidance may vary. See each program description in sections II - VII for more information. Successful applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to submittal of the final application. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD), and relevant NOAA staff. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until a notice of award document is received from NOAA GMD. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or obligate all or any part of the available funds.

I. Authority

Statutory authority is provided under Section 6403 (Coral Reef Conservation Program) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.*). Each program's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number can be found in the specific program information included in sections II - VII below.

II. State and Territory Coral Reef Management

A. Program Description

This description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA and DOI in FY 2003 to support comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa.

NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC), and DOI Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) are jointly providing approximately \$2,100,000 in funding for cooperative agreements to support state and territorial coral reef and coral reef fishery management and conservation activities as listed in E(2) below.

Each jurisdiction need only develop and submit one comprehensive coral reef management application for the funds available under this section. The Federal agencies will coordinate their reviews of each application to ensure comparability and continuity. It is anticipated that OCRM will make awards to four of the seven jurisdictions and that DOI/OIA will make awards to the remaining three jurisdictions.

B. Eligibility Criteria

The eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef activities in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and USVI.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanism

1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$2,100,000 in FY 2003 funding is available for Coral Reef and Coral Reef Fishery Management cooperative agreements. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations. Support in out years after FY 2003 is contingent upon the availability of funds and the requirements of the Federal agency supporting the project. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum \$400,000.

2. Funding Mechanism

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to each eligible jurisdiction. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12- to 18-month period with

an anticipated start date of October 1, 2003.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format Section below.

E. Application Content and Format

1. Application Content

Applications should reflect the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*, and local strategies for coral reef management, such as the 1999, *U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Initiative Strategy*, as modified by the events and activities of the last 3 years. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA coral reef mapping, monitoring, coastal zone and fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

In light of the October 2002 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force resolution to implement a regional process to address six key focus areas, jurisdictions are encouraged to propose funding under this program for local projects and participation in support of this effort. A copy of the Task Force Resolution is available at <http://coralreef.gov/res1cfm/>.

In developing the application, applicants must consult with all relevant State and/or Territory governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in their respective jurisdictions. Those agencies consulted must include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Funding under this award is also intended to support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. As such, applicants should include in their proposal, anticipated travel costs associated with attendance and participation at U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other relevant meetings and conferences.

Applicants may submit applications covering up to an 18-month period and must meet all applicable Department of Commerce (DOC) or DOI grant requirements. Initial and final applications must be submitted to NOAA by the due dates established in

the DATES section above. Federal financial assistance forms are not required to be submitted with the initial application; however, all applicable Federal forms must be submitted with the final application. One original and two signed hard/paper copies of the final application, including forms, are required.

Large equipment and/or infrastructure acquisitions are not a priority for funding under this program. Such purchases proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management objectives of this and the local coral reef program.

2. Application Format

In developing the proposal, applicants must organize proposed tasks into the following nine key threat management categories (a - i, below), which are based on those found in the threat and management action matrices developed by the All Islands Group:

a. *Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, Diseases and Extreme Biotic and Storm Events*, e.g., applied research, monitoring, or planning to better understand and manage impacts;

b. *Overfishing, Destructive Fishing, and the Harvest and Collection of Marine Ornamentals (Including Coral)*, in FY 2003, NMFS OHC has provided \$350,000 of the total \$2,100,000 to fund priority state and territorial coral reef fishery management activities. Proposed funding for coral reef fishery management tasks should not exceed \$60,000 per jurisdiction, and should be budgeted within the jurisdiction's comprehensive proposal.

The mandate of NMFS is to build sustainable fisheries, recover protected species, and sustain healthy habitats for these species. These tasks should be developed in the same format as the other coral reef management tasks and included and submitted in the comprehensive application. Examples of eligible projects include:

- (i) Assessment and monitoring of fish and fishery resources, collection of fishery information;
 - (ii) Analysis of fishery impacts on reefs and support for the implementation of fishery gear restrictions or other priority regulations;
 - (iii) Development of fishery reserves;
 - (iv) Activities to improve management of ornamental reef species for the aquarium industry;
 - (v) Hiring or training of enforcement officers; and,
 - (vi) Outreach and education on fishery and endangered species issues.
- c. *Increasing Development Pressure, Unmanaged Land Use, and Population*

Growth, e.g., tasks to forward the conservation and management of coral reefs through planning, designation, implementation and evaluation of land use and marine protected areas; including personnel training, equipment procurement, management plan development, signage, monitoring and enforcement, etc.;

d. *Tourism and Recreational Overuse, and Vessel Groundings and Anchorings*, e.g., coastal zone management activities, marine and land zoning, vessel grounding prevention and management, mooring buoy installation, recreational signage, etc.;

e. *Alien and Invasive Species*, e.g., policy development, mitigation projects, etc.;

f. *Marine Pollution, Sedimentation, Runoff, Nonpoint Source Pollution, and Marine Debris*, e.g., tasks focused on: (1) Oil-spill prevention and response, e.g., developing response plans, personnel training, interagency coordination, etc.; (2) Marine debris prevention and removal, e.g., developing prevention policies, collection and disposal of debris, etc.; and (3) Reducing impacts from land-based/watershed pollution source, e.g., Best Management Practices (BMP) planning and implementation, watershed restoration projects, etc.;

g. *Lack of General Public Awareness*, e.g., tasks to increase general coral reef awareness including brochures and other informational materials, public meetings and workshops, etc.;

h. *National Security Activities*, e.g., tasks intended to support coordination toward the management of impacts from national security activities; and,

i. *Other*, e.g., activities that address other threats.

The first page of the application should consist of the cover page described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this document.

For each category in which one or more task is proposed, the applicant must include the following information:

a. A brief introduction that describes the status of the issue in the jurisdiction as addressed by the proposed task; recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on the status of previous federally funded tasks; the jurisdiction's strategy to address critical needs over the medium term; and, a justification for the proposed task.

b. A description of each proposed task that must include:

(i) The category of management action from the All Islands Group management action matrix under which the proposed activity falls;

(ii) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the

work, relationship to ongoing projects and how the project fits into the jurisdiction's strategy for addressing the issue;

(iii) How the project coordinates with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA or DOI regional activities;

(iv) Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly-defined work products;

(v) Project priority as compared to all other proposed projects; and,

(vi) A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section VIII(3) of this Guidance. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application, and applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds.

c. Each application must also include, on the last page, a summary budget table of all projects, which lists the name of each project proposed and the corresponding total cost and matching funds information.

F. Application Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed by individuals with coral reef and fisheries management experience on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria, as evidenced by information in the application:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef management activity to fill gaps in the jurisdiction's management capacity;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed management activity; and,

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed.

Subsequently, a Federal agency team of representatives from NMFS, OCRM, and OIA will review the applications, pursuant to equally weighted criteria described in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers. Based on this review, the team will make a preliminary funding recommendation for each jurisdiction.

2. Selection Criteria

OCRM and DOI will then provide the preliminary funding recommendation

and application comments to each selected jurisdiction. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and the Federal agency team and are intended for use in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal financial assistance forms, the Federal agency team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the response to comments that were returned to the applicant. The team will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

If all available funds are not awarded, NOAA and DOI will consult with the eligible applicants on the use of any residual funds. NOAA and DOI will work with each jurisdiction to ensure the greatest degree of success in meeting local, state, territorial, and national coral reef management needs.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for the NOAA program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. NOAA proposals will be reviewed and awarded by OCRM under title, *Coastal Zone Management Program*, CFDA Number: 11.419.

III. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring

A. Program Description

This description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to the NOAA in FY 2003 to support state and territorial coral reef ecosystem monitoring. This program will be administered by the NOS National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS).

NOAA and its partners are implementing a nationally coordinated, comprehensive, long-term monitoring program to assess the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and evaluate the effectiveness of coral reef ecosystem management decisions. This program was requested by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which, along with the nation's coral reef program managers and the public, endorsed and called for implementation of "A National Program to Assess, Inventory, and Monitor U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems."

NOAA began implementing the Program in 2000 and continues to administer it with Congressional appropriations for coral reef conservation. The Program includes the collection, analysis, and reporting of long-term coral reef ecosystem monitoring data pursuant to

scientifically valid methodologies and protocols and is a key priority of the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*.

The implementation plan calls for integration of now-disparate monitoring sites into a coordinated national network, sharing of monitoring information among U.S. coral reef resource managers and scientists, and filling gaps in monitoring coverage nationwide. Through this Program, U.S. Federal, state, commonwealth, and territory, and Freely Associated State agencies support a variety of local and regional assessments, inventories, and monitoring of U.S. and U.S. affiliated coral reef resources. Additionally, there are several regional volunteer and community monitoring programs regularly assessing reef resources. A nationally coordinated coral monitoring infrastructure will enable the preparation of a biennial science-based report on the condition or "health" of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and support local coral reef management efforts.

The nation's coral reef resource managers have recommended key biotic and abiotic parameters that should be monitored at all local sites in the National monitoring network:

1. Benthic habitat characterization (e.g., depth, habitat delineation, and/or percent live/dead cover of corals, submerged aquatic vegetation, macroalgae, sponges, rugosity, diversity, etc.);

2. Associated biological community structure including fish condition (e.g., abundance, density, size, diversity, disease, harvest trends) and large motile and sessile invertebrates condition (abundance, density, size, diversity, disease, harvest trends); and,

3. Water/substrate quality (e.g., temperature, nutrient enrichment, toxic chemicals, turbidity).

Proposed work should include multi-organizational partnerships (local, regional, Federal, and possibly international) that build local capacity for maintaining long-term monitoring sites as part of a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network. NOAA will be an active partner in the development and implementation of the award; thus, proposals should be structured as cooperative agreements between NOAA and the principal investigators. For these proposals, it is appropriate to include the equipment necessary to build capacity to archive biotic transects (e.g., one or more digital videography cameras with underwater housing, museum maintenance of reference specimen collections, etc.).

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are limited to the natural resource management agency in each U.S. State or Territory, or Freely Associated State, with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors or other applicable senior jurisdictional official. NOAA is requesting proposals from Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Federal agencies are not eligible for funding under this Program.

Furthermore, to be eligible for FY 2003 funding, applicants previously receiving funds under this Program must have made significant progress implementing those tasks and met data submission deadlines, including all performance and fiscal reporting requirements and data transfers.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$840,000 will be available in FY 2003 for coral reef ecosystem monitoring activities under this program. FY 2003 awards to Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. FY 2003 awards to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are expected to be approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

2. Funding Mechanism

Funds will be administered through cooperative agreements between eligible organizations and NCCOS. FY 2003 awards to Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may submit proposals up to 3 years in duration, at funding levels between \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year (e.g., up to \$300,000 for 3-year continuation proposal). FY 2003 awards to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands may submit proposals up to three years in duration, at funding levels between \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year (i.e., \$60,000 for three year continuation proposal). FY 2003 awards, however, will only provide funding for the monitoring activities

proposed for FY 2003, and funding for out years is contingent on subsequent years' appropriations. Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year. Annual projects should follow the Federal fiscal year, beginning on October 1 and ending September 30.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format section below.

E. Application Content and Format

1. Content

Application Content should be developed and submitted according to the following guidelines:

a. *First time applicants for monitoring awards:* Eligible activities for the first year of proposed funding (i.e., FY 2003) include an initial characterization of baseline ecosystem condition, an inventory/mapping of biotic resources, and an assessment of anthropogenic stressors (e.g., contaminants in lagoon sediments, sedimentation conditions, eutrophication, etc.) if these studies are prerequisite to establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Activities can also include database development and training of field crew. Proposed second and third year work should follow the guidelines for previous recipients below.

b. *Previous recipients of NCCOS monitoring awards:* Proposals from previous recipients should detail the monitoring design, sampling parameters and protocols, data management, and the need/context for establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Proposals should describe how the proposed monitoring meets local coral conservation needs and fits into ongoing long-term assessments, inventories, and monitoring within the jurisdiction and/or region. Each proposal must provide enough specificity on the parameters to be monitored, the design and frequency of sampling, methods used, data management and quality assurance, and other information for peer-reviewers to judge the quality of proposed work. Of particular importance to creating a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network, each proposal should also address (1) how compatible the proposed data (e.g., data confidence limits, standardized protocols) will be with other jurisdictional and regional databases, and (2) when and in what

format the data will be available to NOAA. The information produced through these awards is intended to fill gaps in knowledge of coral reef ecosystems nationwide, track and predict changes in coral reef ecosystems nationwide, and serve as the foundation for biennial reporting in the *Report of the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems*.

In addition, each jurisdiction's proposal for FY 2003 must include the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of coral reef ecosystem health. This will be each jurisdiction's contribution to the *Report on the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems: 2004*. Toward this end, FY 2003 proposals may budget for travel to at least one national workshop, costs for preparing and printing a jurisdictional report on the condition of coral reef ecosystems, and related expenses.

In light of the October 2002 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force resolution to implement a regional process to address six key focus areas, jurisdictions are encouraged to propose funding under this program for local projects and participation in support of this effort.

2. Application Format

Applicants must submit initial applications, inclusive of elements a-e below, by the date established in the DATES section above. Applications are limited to 15 standard letter size pages, including attachments, and font should be Times New Roman, 12 point or larger.

a. *A Cover Page* as described in the SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION section at the beginning of this Guidance;

b. *A Project Description* (i.e., narrative description) for each proposed task that includes: the specific priority management questions that are driving the effort, how data collected will be translated and transferred to the local management community, project objectives, and a timetable with project milestones;

c. *A Summary Budget* that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section VIII of the Guidelines. Each subcontract or subgrant should be listed as a separate item. Describe the products or services to be obtained and indicate the applicability or necessity of each to the project. Provide separate budgets for each subcontract or subgrant and indicate the basis for the cost estimates. More detailed budget instructions are available at http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/~jchristensen/mon_web/. Intended

sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds with the final application.

Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year;

d. *Curriculum Vitae* for principal investigators;

e. *Summary Project Abstract*; and,

f. *All required NOAA Federal financial assistance awards* - forms (see below). One original and two copies of the jurisdiction's application must be submitted to NOAA by the date established in the DATES section at the beginning of this Guidance.

Final applications must include all elements of the initial application, any responses to comments and edits, all required NOAA Federal financial assistance forms (element f above), and must be received by NOAA on or before the date established in the DATES section above. One original and two signed hard copies of the final applications are required.

The NOAA Grants Management Division program web site, <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/index.html>, provides detailed application instructions and electronic versions of Federal financial assistance forms. The two most relevant sections at this web site are, "C. Instructions and Guidelines," and, "D. Application Forms for Initial Proposal Submission." Applicants should review their application package prior to submission and be sure that all blocks on forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL have been filled in completely. Monitoring program Applicants should reference http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/~jchristensen/mon_web/ for instructions on filling out forms SF-424 and SF-424A.

F. Application Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed by a small panel of representatives from relevant U.S. State, Territory, and Federal, and Freely Associated State agencies, as well as the jurisdictional coral reef Points of Contact (POCs). Each POC will be asked to review one or more proposals from other jurisdictions, but never their own. Proposals will be peer-reviewed on the following criteria:

a. The jurisdiction's need for such work to fill gaps in monitoring coverage and build local capacity for long-term monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

b. The quality of the proposed science and potential for the resulting data to be incorporated into a National Monitoring Network;

c. The ability of the principal investigators to conduct such work; and,

d. Support for the All Islands Coral Reef Initiative, in applicable jurisdictions.

Reviewer results will be shared with applicants, and applicants will be given the opportunity to revise their application and/or respond to reviewer comments. Taking into consideration comments received from peer reviewers, NCCOS will evaluate each proposal and develop funding recommendations based on the criteria in Section X(3) of the Guidelines. In evaluating the technical merit and adequacy of the implementation plan, NCCOS will apply the following 3 equally weighted criteria:

a. *Relevance to establishing a national monitoring network.* The principal objective of the proposals should be to fill priority gaps or needs in coral reef monitoring and assessment programs, such that they contribute to the creation of a comprehensive and coordinated network of monitoring sites for U.S. coral reef ecosystems. In subsequent years, the project should be monitoring the "minimum suite of key biotic and abiotic parameters," (as listed in the program description) at least once a year, at one or more sites;

b. *Quality assurance and error estimates for parameter measurements.* Flexibility of methodologies for acquiring measurements is allowable, as long as they are done *in situ* and are quantitatively reliable within a jurisdiction and across a region. Where possible, NOAA favors a stratified random sampling design for site selection (i.e., ideally based on reliable habitat maps), multi-methodological monitoring of the ecosystem (i.e., line transects for cryptic species, point-count surveys for large pelagic species), and sample archiving (i.e., species reference collections, transect/survey videographic records); and

c. *Potential to meet data reporting requirements and the ability of transferring the data to the local or regional management community.* Data from proposals must be useful in preparing the biennial report on the *Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems*. Grant recipients will provide raw or synthesized data to NCCOS no later than 3 months after data collection. The data generated in the National Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Program will be used by NOAA and its partners to develop regional and national state of

the reef reports and disseminated to the public via NOAA's Coral Reef Information (CoRIS) Web site development (<http://www.coris.noaa.gov>). Biotic data integrity is critical for sharing of information and detection of national/regional trends and hotspots. Each jurisdiction will need to have basic data management quality controls and quality assurances for its data. Funding eligibility for future funding years will be contingent on meeting data submission deadlines including all performance and financial reporting requirements and data transfers.

2. Proposal Selection

Based on these reviews, NCCOS will provide a preliminary funding recommendation and proposal comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and the Federal agency team and are intended for use in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, the Federal agency team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. NCCOS will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by NCCOS under title, *Financial Assistance for National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science*, CFDA 11.426.

IV. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research

A. Program Description

In FY 2003, the Program is providing \$600,000 to NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) to cooperatively administer NURP coral reef grant programs for the Caribbean, Florida, Hawaii, and the Western Pacific. Three separate requests for proposals will be announced. The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory will administer and announce the program for Hawaii and the Western Pacific; the Caribbean Marine Research Center will address research needs in the U.S. Caribbean; and the Southeastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico Center will announce a joint program in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Sanctuary Friends of the Florida Keys, which will support research in the

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. All three requests for proposals and program descriptions are available at <http://www.nurp.noaa.gov/noacoral.html> or by contacting the appropriate regional contact persons identified in the contact information section (C) below. The grant eligibility and matching requirements and review process will be consistent with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Guidelines.

Please Note: Proposals are not being solicited for Coral Reef Research at this time. Separate solicitations will be made at a later date. For more information see "C. Contact Information" below. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

B. Research Priorities

Research supported through this program will address priority information needs identified by coral reef ecosystem managers and scientists. FY 2003 priorities include research on coral disease and bleaching, fisheries population dynamics and ecology, effects of anthropogenic stressors on benthic invertebrates, impacts and spread of invasive species, and evaluation of management actions and strategies. Specific priorities within these broad areas, and geographic preferences, will be indicated in each NURP Center's request for proposals.

C. Contact Information

For overall information regarding the NURP Coral Reef Grants Program contact: Kimberly Puglise, 301-713-2427, extension 199 or e-mail at kimberly.puglise@noaa.gov, or see: <http://www.nurp.noaa.gov/noacoral.html>.

For information regarding the NURP Center for the Caribbean contact: Craig Dahlgren, 561-741-0192, extension 231 or e-mail at cdahlgren@cmrc.org.

For information regarding the NURP Center for the Southeastern United States and the Gulf of Mexico contact: Andrew Shepard, 910-962-2446 or e-mail at sheparda@uncw.edu.

For information regarding the NURP Center for Hawaii and the Western Pacific contact: Keith Crook, 808-956-9429 or e-mail at Crook@soest.hawaii.edu.

V. General Coral Reef Conservation

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2003 to support efforts by educational and non-governmental institutions to conserve the coral reef ecosystems of the United

States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific (Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia). This program will be administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC).

The objective of this program is to support educational and non-governmental institution led programs and projects in U.S. States and Territories and the Freely Associated States to:

1. Help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems;
2. Promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources; and,
3. Increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation.

B. Criteria Changes in FY 2003

Please note the following criteria changes in the FY 2003 General Coral Reef Conservation program:

1. Applicant Eligibility: Government agencies of U.S. States, Territories, and Commonwealths, and Freely Associated States are not eligible under this category in FY 2003. U.S. State and Territory government agencies are eligible under section II and III, and government agencies of the Freely Associated States are eligible under section III and VII.
2. Project Eligibility: Applications for research activities will not be eligible under this category in FY 2003. Applicants interested in submitting coral research proposals should consult section IV. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.
3. Award size: It is expected that most awards will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. This is less than the maximum in FY 2002.

C. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, and local and Indian tribal governments. U.S. State, Territory, and Commonwealth, and Freely Associated State Government Agencies are not eligible under this category in FY 2003. Federal agencies are eligible under this program; however, pursuant to Section IV of the Guidelines, such applications will be a low priority unless they are an essential part of a cooperative project with other eligible educational or non-governmental institutions. In order for a Federal agency to receive an award under this program, it must provide the requisite statutory authority to receive funds from

a Federal agency for these purposes. Please note that the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535, is not sufficient legal authority because NOAA is not procuring goods or services from the federal agency. Regional Fishery Management Councils are not eligible under this program.

D. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$400,000 in funding is available in FY 2003 for awards under this program. It is expected that most awards will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

2. Funding Mechanism

Applications selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this document. Applications selected for funding from Federal agencies will be funded through an interagency agreement. Generally, NMFS will make awards only to those projects where requested funding will be used to complete proposed activities within a 18-month period from the approved start date of the project.

E. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format section here.

F. Application Content and Format

1. Application Content

Applications should support the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy* and the following goals of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*: A.II. Assess and Monitor Reef Health; A.IV. Understand Social and Economic Factors; B.I. Improve Use of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); B.II. Reduce Impacts of Fishing; B.IV. Reduce Pollution; B.V. Restore Damaged Reefs; and B.VI. Improve Education. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA mapping, monitoring, and coral reef or fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

Applicants must consult with all relevant state, territory, and local

governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in developing the application. Local government agencies that must be consulted include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Applicants may submit applications covering a 12-to 18-month period, and must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements. One copy of the initial application, submitted electronically or by surface mail, must be received by NOAA by the date established in the DATES section above.

One original and two signed copies of the final application, complete with all required Federal financial assistance forms (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and, if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL) must be received by NOAA by the date established in the DATES section above. In addition, applicants may choose to submit an electronic copy (in Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, or PDF) with the required original and hard copies of the final application.

2. Application Format

In developing the application, the applicant must categorize proposed tasks into the following 7 categories, which are based on a subset of those found in the *National Action Plan*:

a. *Monitoring and assessment of coral reefs or reef resources*; e.g., community or non-governmental organization monitoring or assessment programs that complement State or Territorial coral reef monitoring programs funded out of the NCCOS Coral Reef Monitoring Award,

b. *Socio-economic and resource valuation*, e.g., community assessments, economic valuations, alternative income generation workshops, etc.,

c. *Marine Protected Areas and associated management activities*, especially assessment of the gaps in protection of existing marine protected area systems, and outreach and education efforts,

d. *Coral reef fisheries management*, e.g., resource assessments, collection of fishery information, outreach to fishers, co-management of coral reef fisheries by fishing communities, etc.,

e. *Reducing pollution*, e.g., marine debris prevention and removal, reducing impacts from land-based/watershed pollution sources, etc.,

f. *Coral reef restoration*, e.g., restoration of coral reef habitats resulting from physical and biological disturbances such as orphan vessel groundings, storm events, coral disease and coral predator outbreaks, and anthropogenic disturbances, particularly

projects utilizing innovative coral restoration technologies and/or comprehensive evaluation of restoration sites, and

g. *Public education and outreach activities*, e.g., brochures and other informational materials, public meetings and workshops, etc., particularly those which address the needs of local user groups.

Please Note: Coral reef research activities are not eligible for funding under this General Coral Reef Conservation program. Applicants interested in submitting coral reef research proposals should consult section IV. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research of this Guidance.

In addition, the following projects will not be eligible for funding:

(1) Activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or Federal law;

(2) Activities that constitute mitigation for natural resource damages under Federal or state law; and,

(3) Activities that are required by a separate consent decree, court order, statute or regulation.

Applications for the coral reef conservation activities beyond the scope of those legally required by mitigation or restoration activities as described above, are eligible under this program. For each project proposed, the applicant should not exceed 20 pages, including descriptions of qualification, letters of support and no more than five pages of other attachments, and should use 12-point font on letter size paper. Each application must include the following:

1. The cover page described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this Guidance.

2. An introduction, not to exceed one page, that describes:

a. The status and magnitude of the issues in the jurisdiction where the project will take place;

b. Recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on federally funded tasks; and

c. How the project fits into the jurisdiction's strategy to addressing critical coral reef conservation needs the next 2-to 3-years.;

3. A description of each proposed task that includes:

a. Clear identification of the work to be completed and who will perform the work;

b. How the project coordinates with relevant state, territorial, or local governmental and non-governmental agencies, and if applicable, NOAA regional activities;

c. A narrative Budget Summary that includes a detailed breakdown of costs

by category and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, pursuant to Section VIII(3) of this Guidance. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds; and

d. Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly defined work products.

G. Application Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria by individuals with coral reef conservation experience:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed (projects that can be completed within 18- months of the start date will receive a higher score for this criterion); and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems. NOAA will request and consider written comments on proposed projects from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, pursuant to Section X(1) of the Guidelines.

NMFS will then review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers and jurisdictions.

2. Selection Criteria

In addition to these peer review criteria and comments from jurisdictions, NMFS will strive for a balanced selection of projects among jurisdictions and subject areas. Based on these cumulative reviews, NMFS will make preliminary funding recommendations which may not be the highest scoring proposals. NMFS will provide a summary of review comments to each selected applicant. These summary comments will include input from peer reviewers, the solicited

jurisdictions, and the NMFS review, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, NMFS will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of, and/or response to, comments that were returned to the applicant. NMFS will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines. The review panel will ensure that funding decisions are consistent with the geographic distribution requirements of 16 U.S.C. 6403(d). As a result, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest scoring applications.

If insufficient eligible projects are received, NOAA may reallocate residual funds from this program area to a different funding category under the Program.

H. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded by the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation under title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA 11.463.

VI. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2003 to support conservation and management of coral reef fisheries by Regional Fishery Management Councils with responsibilities for Fishery Management Plans (FMP) that include coral reefs or fishery resources that depend on these reef ecosystems, as established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). This program will be administered by the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC).

The objective of this program is to support value-added studies or projects by the Councils that will enhance the conservation of coral reef fishery resources. It is not intended to support normal Council activities or responsibilities.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants are limited to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Availability

NMFS OHC will provide approximately \$1,350,000 in FY 2003 funding for cooperative agreements to support coral reef conservation activities under this program. In order to ensure the regional balance called for by the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, a maximum of \$750,000 will be available for activities in the Western Pacific, and a maximum of \$600,000 will be available for activities in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

2. Funding Mechanism

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to successful applicants from each eligible Regional Fishery Management Council for eligible activities. Activities approved by NOAA will be awarded either as new cooperative agreements or amendments to existing cooperative agreements by either the Southeast Region or the Pacific Islands Area Office. Proposals should cover a project period of 12- to 18-month period with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2003.

D. Matching Funds

The Administrator has waived the matching requirement of Section X of the Guidance for the Fishery Management Councils. This waiver is based on the fact that the Councils are funded solely by awards from the U.S. Federal Government, and, therefore, do not have the ability to generate matching funds.

E. Application Content and Format

1. Application Content

Applications should support the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy* and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA mapping, monitoring, and fishery management initiatives, and State and Territorial coral reef conservation initiatives in their own waters contiguous to the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone.

Fishery Management Councils must consult with state and territorial agencies and all other relevant local governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in developing applications. Councils are strongly encouraged to coordinate project proposal development with NMFS Regions and Science Centers to

ensure mutually supportive coral reef conservation programs.

Councils may submit applications covering a 12- to 18-month period, and must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements. One copy of the initial application, submitted electronically or by surface mail, must be received by NOAA on or before the date established in the DATES section above.

One original and two signed copies of the final application, complete with all required Federal financial assistance forms (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and, if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL) must be received by NOAA on or before the date established in the DATES section above.

a. Eligible activities: Eligible activities are those that support the Strategy's goal of Reducing the Adverse Impacts of Fishing and other Extractive Uses on Coral Reefs and incorporating these objectives into existing or new Federal fishery management plans. While first priority will be given to proposals for coral reef activities in the Council's jurisdiction, proposals for complementary activities of high conservation value within state waters that are fully coordinated with appropriate state, territory or commonwealth management authorities will also be accepted. Proposed activities should be in addition to those currently supported by NMFS and should not replace support for existing Council staff. The following represent priority activities for funding:

(1) Studies that identify, map and characterize important essential fish habitat, habitat areas of particular concern, and spawning populations in U.S. coral reef ecosystems. Special priority will be given to studies associated with coral reef areas that are currently, permanently, or seasonally closed to fishing or that may merit inclusion in an expanded network of no-take ecological reserves. Eligible activities would include multi-beam or sidescan sonar mapping and characterization of such areas on deeper coral reefs, banks and beds;

(2) Monitoring reef fish stocks in existing no-take marine reserves and reference sites on coral reefs in the Council's jurisdiction to evaluate the effectiveness of reserves;

(3) Studies needed to develop proposals to reduce over-fishing of coral reef resources, including compilation of existing background information on currently unassessed coral reef fishery stocks, or targeted assessments of such coral reef fishery stocks for which overfishing is strongly suspected;

(4) Studies needed to identify adverse effects of fishing and fishing gear on

essential fish habitat and implementing actions to reduce these effects;

(5) Studies, workshops, or consultations with fishers needed to eliminate destructive and habitat-damaging fishing practices;

(6) Studies, workshops, or consultations with fishers needed to assess the adequacy of current fishing regulations and the need for additional gear and anchoring restrictions to reduce habitat damage on coral reefs within the Council's jurisdiction;

(7) Enhanced education and outreach to recreational and commercial fishers specifically targeted to reduce the adverse impacts of fishing on coral reef ecosystems;

(8) Studies needed to understand ecosystem-scale considerations into coral reef fishery management plans;

(9) Studies needed to understand ecosystem effects of fishing, including: the development of models and studies to improve our understanding of larval pathways, trophic interactions and their ecosystem impacts associated with fishing, and habitat impacts associated with certain types of fishing gear and practices; and

(10) Studies needed to reduce the overexploitation of reef organisms for the aquarium trade.

b. *Ineligible Activities:* The following categories of activities or expenses are not eligible for funding:

(1) Meetings and travel necessary to conduct normal Council business including regular Advisory Panel, Stock Assessment Panel or Scientific and Statistical Committee meetings, Environmental Impact Statement hearings; other public hearings; Fishery Management Council meetings; etc.

(2) Regular Council reports and information dissemination, including annual FMP reports, FMP amendments, public notices, advertisements, etc.

(3) Council staff aside from a maximum of one full-time equivalent working exclusively on Council coral reef conservation activities.

(4) Activities related to FMPs that do not directly include shallow coral reef resources.

2. Application Format

Cooperative Agreement proposals must include:

a. A cover page as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this Guidance.

b. An introduction, not exceeding one page, that describes:

(1) The status and magnitude of the coral reef fisheries conservation issues in the Council's jurisdiction; and

(2) The Council's strategy to address critical coral reef fisheries conservation

needs over the medium term (the next 2- to 3-years) and how the proposed activities support this strategy.

c. A summary, not exceeding three pages, of the status and accomplishments of activities by the Council funded under the Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program in FY 2002.

d. A description of each proposed task that should include:

(1) Objective of the task of study;

(2) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the work, brief description of the methods to be used, specific study sites (for field projects), expected deliverables, and how the project fits into the Council's strategy for addressing the larger coral reef fisheries conservation issue;

(3) How the project coordinates with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA regional activities;

(4) Summary budget for each discrete task item including personnel costs (contract and Council staff), other contract costs, travel, supplies or equipment;

(5) Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly defined work products; and,

(6) Project priority as compared to all other proposed projects.

F. Application Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed on the following equally weighted evaluation criteria by individuals with coral reef conservation experience:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction of the Council;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed and cost effectiveness of proposed activity; and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems, and progress on Coral Reef Conservation Grant activities funded in FY 2002.

NOAA will also request and consider written comments on proposed projects from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, pursuant to Section X(1) of the Guidelines.

A NMFS team of representatives from the OHC, the Southeast Region, the

Southeast Fishery Science Center, the Pacific Islands Area Office and the Honolulu Laboratory will review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and consider comments received from peer reviewers and appropriate management authorities.

Based on this review, the team will make preliminary funding recommendations. These preliminary funding recommendations will be submitted to the NOAA review team, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

2. Selection Criteria

Based on these cumulative reviews, NMFS will provide comments to each selected applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers, solicited jurisdictions, and the NMFS review team, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final proposal.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal financial assistance forms, the NMFS team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of and/or response to comments that were returned to the applicant. The team will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines.

If proposals from one or more Councils are ineligible to receive funding, NOAA may award those residual funds for eligible activities proposed by another Council or move the residual funds to a different funding category under the Program. NOAA will work with each Council to ensure the greatest degree of success in meeting the goals of the Strategy.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. These cooperative agreements will be reviewed and awarded by the NMFS under title, *Regional Fishery Management Councils*, CFDA Number: 11.441.

VII. International Coral Reef Conservation

A. Program Description

This description provides guidance for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA in FY 2003 to support the international conservation and management of coral reef ecosystems. These funds will be administered by NOS International Program Office (IPO).

The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 authorizes cooperative conservation and management of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems with local, regional or international programs and partners. The *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs* (National Action Plan) calls on the United States to, “exercise global leadership in the international arena in shaping and developing environmentally sound and comprehensive coral reef policy, strengthen international conventions and foster strategic partnerships with other countries, international organizations and institutions, the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations to address international threats to coral reef ecosystems.”

In FY 2003, the International program consists of the following four project categories:

1. *Promote Watershed Management in Wider Caribbean Island Nations*: The National Action Plan encourages the U.S. to “provide assistance in managing and conserving reef ecosystems and their watersheds.” Further, the U.S. and its partners are launching the White Water to Blue Water Initiative presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This Partnership emphasizes a cross-sectoral approach to marine resources management beginning with the upstream watershed and extending to the adjacent marine environment, including coral ecosystems. It is intended to help implement international agreements and programs, for example, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention) and its three protocols (including The Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities), and the International Coral Reef Initiative. Therefore, IPO will fund activities that implement best management practices that reduce or control runoff to near shore coral reef ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean; assess effectiveness of these management practices; engage stakeholders and government agencies in collaborative partnerships to implement these practices; and recommend a set of best management practices that can be applied to small island Caribbean systems.

2. *Enhance Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*: The *National Action Plan* calls for strengthening the protection of resources within existing MPAs. NOAA

has launched a strategic partnership with the World Conservation Union’s (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International to improve the management of MPAs by providing managers, planners and other decision makers with methods for assessing the effectiveness of MPA sites. Therefore, IPO will fund activities at coral MPA sites that are building an adaptive management and evaluation program and will conduct an assessment of management effectiveness in order to strengthen and achieve the site goals and objectives.

3. *Encourage Regional Approaches to Further No-Take Marine Reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia*: The *National Action Plan* highlights the role that highly protected areas play in creating a network of coral marine protected areas for biodiversity, conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Through this program, IPO will fund regional level activities that benefit existing marine reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia shall be defined by Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Furthermore, proposed regional level activities must involve sites in two or more countries and address the needs of no-take marine reserves in the regions as identified in the WCPA - Marine Caribbean Regional Coordination Plan and the WCPA - Marine Southeast Asia Regional Action Plan. The plans with the priority themes can be found at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>.

4. *Promote Socio-Economic Monitoring in Coral Reef Management*: The *National Action Plan* highlights that the human dimension is often overlooked in developing coral reef management strategies and calls for measures to enhance understanding of stakeholder benefits and resolve important user conflicts. Recognizing the importance of the human dimension, the GCRMN published *The Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management*, in partnership with NOAA, WCPA, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), a guide to conducting socioeconomic assessments of reef user groups.

As follow-up, the GCRMN, WCPA-Marine and NOAA are working with ICLARM, the University of West Indies and other partners in the regions to develop socioeconomic monitoring programs specific to Southeast Asia and the Wider Caribbean. These regional programs include three key phases: (1) development of SocMon, i.e., standardized, simple socioeconomic

monitoring guidelines for each region; (2) socioeconomic training workshops for reef managers to learn how to conduct SocMon, specifically how to establish socioeconomic monitoring programs at their sites; and, (3) establishment of socioeconomic monitoring programs at participants’ coral reef management programs.

Under this project category, IPO will fund phase three - the establishment of socioeconomic monitoring programs at coral reef sites in Southeast Asia and the Wider Caribbean. Proposals for such work in the Wider Caribbean must utilize the SocMon-Wider Caribbean Guidelines; and similarly, proposals for work in Southeast Asia must utilize the SocMon-Southeast Asia Guidelines. For the purpose of this project category, Southeast Asia shall be defined as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Both sets of Guidelines can be found at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants include all international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Eligibility is also contingent upon whether activities undertaken with respect to the application would be consistent with any applicable conditions or restrictions imposed by the U.S. governments. Specific guidance for each International program project category is noted below:

1. Projects proposed under “Promote Watershed Management in Wider Caribbean Island Nations” must include:

a. Activities that support the implementation of the annexes of The Protocol concerning Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities to the Cartagena Convention (for details, refer to <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>);

b. A letter of support from the government agency responsible for planning and development;

c. A project site which includes near shore fringing reef system (with description of project site uniqueness) that is impacted by agricultural runoff or intensive land-based development associated with tourism sector activities;

d. Evidence of local stakeholder support, for example, agricultural businesses, NGOs, tourism sector, and port facilities;

e. Demonstration of local or national potential for developing enforceable policies and mechanisms for long term watershed management; and,

f. Evidence of potential organizational capacity to promote coordination of governmental agencies and stakeholder involvement.

2. Projects proposed under "Enhance Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas" must:

a. Incorporate the approach being developed by the WCPA-Marine/WWF International MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative. The approach can be found in the working draft of *How is Your MPA Doing? Guidebook for Evaluating Effectiveness of MPA's* posted at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/mgmteffect/guidebook.html>.

In order to be selected, project sites must:

b. Have a management program in place, including a management plan, on-site staff, and infrastructure to carry out effectiveness assessments;

c. Be able to implement the guidebook to conduct a comprehensive assessment including use of indicators from each of the biophysical, socioeconomic and governance categories;

d. Demonstrate the intent to incorporate the assessment of indicators into management planning and review process; and,

e. Include a letter of support from the MPA managing authority or site supervisor, that also demonstrates the involvement of the authority/supervisor in the project if the agency is not proposing the work.

3. Projects proposed under "Encourage Regional Approaches to Further Marine Reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia" must:

a. Follow the themes of the Caribbean Regional Coordination Plan and the Southeast Asia Regional Action Plan posted at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>;

b. Benefit sites in two or more countries in the region;

c. Involve managers from the reserves; and,

d. Include letters of support from the marine reserve management authorities from all sites that are involved in the project.

4. Projects proposed under "Promote Socio-Economic Monitoring in Coral Reef Management" must:

a. Demonstrate a link with an existing or planned marine resource management program (e.g., MPA, fisheries management, or coastal management program) with clearly defined socioeconomic goals as suggested in the SocMon Guidelines (e.g., improve livelihood, increase environmental awareness);

b. Include a letter of support from the marine resource management authority;

c. Describe the plan for socioeconomic monitoring, including

preparatory activities, data collection and analysis and long-term monitoring after the first assessment. For Southeast Asia sites, the plan should reflect the variables and methods in the SocMon-Southeast Asia Guidelines. For the Wider Caribbean sites, the plan should reflect the variables and methods in SocMon-Caribbean Guidelines. Both SocMon-Caribbean and Southeast Asia Guidelines can be found at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>;

d. Include a social scientist that will be actively engaged in the socioeconomic monitoring, planning, data collection, and analysis either from staff or elsewhere (e.g., local university);

e. Demonstrate involvement of coral management staff in the proposed monitoring even if personnel not engaged in site-management are overseeing the monitoring; and,

f. Explain how the assessment team will translate the socioeconomic data into useful information for coral reef managers and decision makers (e.g., making written management recommendations to policy makers or managers, and presenting results and recommendations to management staff and other stakeholders).

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$300,000 will be available in FY 2003 to support grants and cooperative agreements under this program. Approximately \$75,000 will be allocated to each of the four project categories listed below, with the following award ranges:

a. Watershed Management: Up to \$75,000

b. Management Effectiveness: \$20,000 - \$40,000

c. Marine Reserves: \$25,000 - \$40,000

d. Socio-economic Monitoring: \$15,000 - \$25,000

Applications with requests of over \$40,000 will not be accepted, except for the Watershed Management category. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations. Support in out-years after FY 2003 is contingent upon the availability of funds and any new guidance published in the **Federal Register**.

2. Funding Mechanism

Grants and cooperative agreements will be reviewed by the NOS International Program Office. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12-to 18-month period with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2003.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format Section below.

E. Application Content and Format

1. Application Content

The four International program categories are priorities of the *National Action Plan*. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12-to 18-month period and must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements. Initial applications may be submitted by email, fax (301-713-4389), or express air courier and must be received by NOAA on or before the date established in the DATES section above. Federal financial assistance forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable CD-346 and/or SF-LLL are not required until the applicant is notified and invited to submit a final application. One original and two signed complete hard copies of the jurisdiction's final application, including federal forms, must be received by NOAA on or before the due date established in the DATES section above.

2. Application Format

Each application must clearly describe the proposed work in 20 pages or less, including letters of support and attachments. Font size should be 12 point. Applications should not be bound or stapled, but can be bundled, for example, by rubber bands or binder clips. All applications, letters of support and attachments must be written in the English Language. Each application must include the following elements (a-d):

a. A cover sheet with the following information:

- (1) Project Title;
- (2) Applicant organization: nonprofit, university, government, etc.;
- (3) Principal investigator or contact responsible for conducting the project;
- (4) Contact information including address, phone number, fax and email;
- (5) Program Category (i.e., International Coral Reef Conservation) and the appropriate International grant program project category from the following choices: Watershed Management, Management Effectiveness, Marine Reserves, or Socioeconomic Monitoring;
- (6) Geographic location of project (countries and sites);

(7) Grant Request and matching funds; and,

(8) One paragraph project summary.

b. A description of the qualifications of the individual(s) who will conduct the project

c. Project Description which must address the specific project category eligibility criteria described in Part B. Eligibility Criteria above and also include:

(1) Project need;

(2) Objectives;

(3) Implementation strategy;

(4) Identification of how project fits into applicant (and site) strategy for management;

(5) Project products and outcomes;

(6) Partner justification and roles;

(7) A methodology to evaluate the success of the project;

(8) A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in section VIII(3) of this Guidance. Intended sources of matching funds and whether they have been secured must be stated in the application. The application must also state whether the project has been submitted for funding consideration elsewhere. Applicants whose applications are recommended for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds; and,

(9) Task timetable with interim benchmarks linked to clearly defined work projects.

d. Evidence of support for the project from the local management authority where the work is conducted at specific sites must indicate that the project supports local management objectives. In those cases where training is proposed, indication that participants will apply these techniques at their local sites is requested. Please include evidence of coordination with relevant national and regional project partners, including a list of agencies consulted in developing the proposal and assurances that any necessary permits will be secured prior to the use of U.S. Federal funds.

F. Application Evaluation and Selection Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria

IPO will provide for a merit-based peer review and standardized documentation of that review for proposals that meet the eligibility requirements. Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of three

individuals with knowledge of the subject of the proposal. Each reviewer will submit a separate and individual review and reviewers will not provide a consensus opinion. The identities of the peer reviewers will be kept anonymous to the degree permitted by law. Peer reviewers will apply the following equally weighted evaluation criteria:

a. Documented need for the proposed coral reef activity in the jurisdiction;

b. Demonstrated coordination with applicable ongoing national and regional reef management activities;

c. Technical merit of the proposed activity;

d. Ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed; and,

e. Evidence presented of the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, including past performance on similar projects or programs involving coral reef ecosystems.

NOAA may also request and consider written comments on proposed projects from agencies with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, as described in Section X(1) of the Guidelines. Under the international grant program, NOAA will request and consider written comments on the proposal from relevant U.S. government agencies such as the Agency for International Development and Department of the Interior; foreign governments and their coral management agencies; and other international entities as necessary. Each entity will be provided 21 days to review and comment on subject proposals. Comments submitted will be part of the public record.

2. Selection Criteria

IPO will then review the applications, consistent with the equally weighted criteria listed in Section X(3) of the Guidelines, taking into consideration comments received from peer, agency, and jurisdiction reviewers. Based on these reviews, IPO will rank order the applications, and provide preliminary funding recommendations, and summary comments on each selected proposal to each applicant. These comments will include input from peer reviewers, agencies, jurisdictions, and IPO, and are intended to be used in the applicant's development of the final proposal.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal forms, IPO will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the incorporation of, and response to, comments that were returned to the

applicant. IPO will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines to ensure that the Coral Reef Conservation Act requirements for geographic funding distribution and consistency with the overall program goals outlined in the Strategy.

G. Program Authority

Specific authority for this program is found in 16 U.S.C. 6403. Grants and cooperative agreements will be reviewed and awarded by the NOS International Program Office under title, *Habitat Conservation*, CFDA: 11.463.

VIII. General Information for All Applicants

A. Indirect Costs

The budget may include an amount for indirect costs if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government. Indirect costs are essentially overhead costs for basic operational functions (e.g., lights, rent, water, insurance) that are incurred for common or joint objectives and, therefore, cannot be identified specifically within a particular project. For this solicitation, the Federal share of the indirect costs awarded will not exceed the lesser of either the indirect costs the applicant would be entitled to if the negotiated Federal indirect cost rate were used or 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed. For those situations in which the use of the applicant's indirect cost rate would result in indirect costs greater than 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed, the difference may be counted as part of the non-Federal share. A copy of the current, approved negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal Government should be included with the application. If the applicant does not have a current negotiated rate and plans to seek reimbursement for indirect costs, documentation necessary to establish a rate must be submitted within 90 days of receiving an award.

B. Performance and Financial Reports

Recipients receiving funding will be required to submit semiannual performance reports and copies of all products that are developed under the award. The specific information, products, or data contained in the performance report can be determined by the NOAA office responsible for the program and applicant in pre-award negotiations or, the recipient will submit performance reports according to the Department of Commerce, Financial

Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. Performance report will be submitted to the NOAA office responsible for the program.

Unless otherwise authorized, semi-annual financial reports will be submitted in accordance with the Department of Commerce, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions to the Grants Officer at NOAA GMD.

C. Matching Funds

For ease of reference, the matching funds requirements described in section VIII of the Guidelines have been included here. With the exception of section VI. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans, all other program areas are subject to the matching fund requirements stated here, pursuant to section VIII of the Guidelines.

As per section 6403(b)(1) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under this Program may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the projects. The matching funds may comprise a variety of public and provide sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. NOAA strongly encourages applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. Federal funds may not be considered as matching funds.

As per section 6403(b)(2) of the Conservation Act, the NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements:

1. No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and
2. The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the source and may be asked to provide letters of commitment to confirm stated contributions. In the case of a waiver request, the applicant must provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the waiver including attempts to obtain sources of matching funds, how the benefit of the project outweighs the public interest in providing match and any other extenuating circumstances preventing the availability of match.

Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, and in accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), the Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind

contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

D. General Information

If an application is selected for funding, NOAA has no obligation to provide any additional prospective funding in connection with that award in subsequent years. Any subsequent proposal to continue work on an existing project must be submitted to the competitive process for consideration and will not receive preferential treatment. Renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NOAA.

Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed and not returned to the applicant.

The recipients must comply with Executive Order 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for digital geospatial data.

Classification

This Program will be added to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act (11.419), Financial Assistance for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (11.426), and Habitat Conservation (11.463). The Program uses only the existing NOAA Federal financial assistance awards package requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** Notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), is applicable to solicitation. The program will determine National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance on a project by project basis.

Executive Order 12866

This action has been determined to be "not significant" for purposes of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review."

Executive Order 12372

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection-of-information, subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. Forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, and SF-LLL and CD-346 have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046 and 0605-0001, respectively.

This notice also contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act and which has been approved by OMB under control number 0648-0448. The public reporting burden is estimated to average one hour per response for comments on a proposed project from each agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted and one hour per response for a request for a waiver of matching funds. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspect of these data collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Notice and Comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contract. Because notice and comment are not required, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator for National Ocean Service.

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