

The Coral Fellowship Newsletter is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, program coordinators and other stakeholders

Coral Fellowship Newsletter



Volume 1 Issue 2

April 2008

Special points of interest:

- International Coral Reef Symposium, Fort Lauderdale, Florida: July 7-11, 2008
- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting, Kona, Hawaii: August 25-29, 2008
- Fellowship Workshop/Retreat: September 2-4 (tentative)
- Coral Fellows [Webpage](#)

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Coral Reef Management Fellowship Orientation on Maui

The new Coral Reef Management Fellows and their supervisors traveled to Maui, Hawaii to take part in an orientation January 28-February 2, 2008 where they learned about the coral fellowship program's policies and procedures, received professional development training and began to develop their two-year project plans.

The fellowship orientation was a great opportunity for fellows to build lasting networks between jurisdictions as well as to learn about marine resource management strategies on Maui. Fellows and their supervisors had the opportunity to visit a Marine Life Conservation District and speak with outreach professionals and enforcement rangers about the work that they do. They also learned more about the monitoring and outreach programs conducted by the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the Maui Ocean Center.



Overlooking Ma'alaea Bay on Maui, Hawaii

Photo courtesy: Marci Wulff

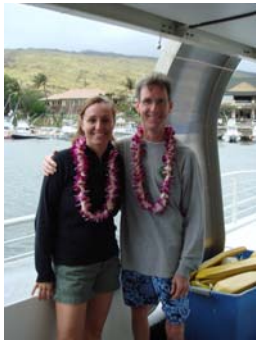
Participants included: Gene Brighthouse, Jeremy Goldberg, Jay Gutierrez, Athline Clark, Mayra Garcia, Fran Castro, Alyssa Edwards, Elaina Todd, Petra MacGowan, Raimundo Espinoza, Kathleen Herrmann, Karlyn Langjahr, Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Meghan Gombos, Kathy Chaston, Kevin Doyle and Marci Wulff



Back: Dana, Jeremy, Petra, Deb, Karlyn, Marci, Jay, Front: Alyssa, Kathleen, Kevin, Elaina & Raimundo at La Peruse Bay, Maui
Photo courtesy: Marci Wulff



Fellows are welcomed by diver, Jeff Hedlund at the Maui Ocean Center
Photo courtesy: Marci Wulff

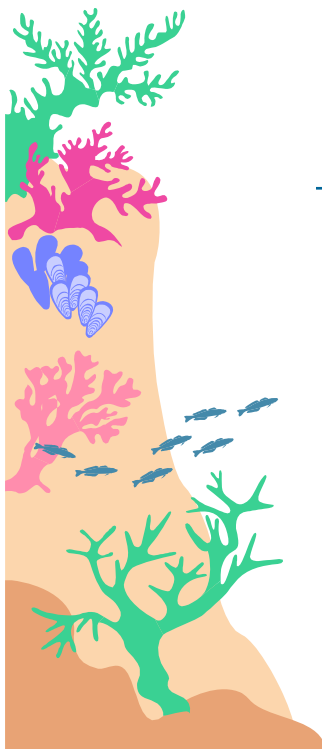


Marci Wulff & Kevin Doyle on the Ocean Voyager

Kevin Doyle has been providing training and mentorship for the fellows since the program's inception.

Marci Wulff has been coordinating the Coral Fellowship program since July '07.

Please send newsworthy items to Marci Wulff to include in future issues.



Guam

Elaina Todd is working with the Guam Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatics & Wildlife Resources. She will be focusing most of her time on promoting awareness for Guam's marine preserves and developing positive relationships with local communities through outreach efforts.

Elaina will be coordinating meetings with key individuals in the community to discuss fisheries issues and concerns and to gain a better understanding of the current perceptions that

users have of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

These meetings will help to build trust between constituents and managers and also to inform the process for designing a new strategy for a targeted marketing campaign which will promote the benefits of the MPAs on the island.

Elaina will also be co-coordinating the Conservation Action Planning Team (CAPT) for the village of Piti by supporting the development and



Jay Gutierrez & Elaina Todd work on the project plan

implementation of a management plan for the village.

Hawaii



Fellows and supervisors meet with Makai Watch volunteers at Ahihi Bay on Maui

Petra works with state partners to coordinate Makai

Watch, a program where Hawaii's coastal communities work directly with resource managers to conduct monitoring, outreach and voluntary compliance activities.

Petra is working to formalize the program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and provide standardized training programs and guidelines for participating

community volunteers and organizers.

Petra will be traveling to Vietnam in April for the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands where she will present at a workshop on promoting community involvement in ocean stewardship. The community guidebook used for Makai Watch is being translated into Vietnamese.

American Samoa

American Samoa is the only jurisdiction to identify population pressure as a key threat to local coral reefs. A recent census showed a population growth of 22% over the last decade within the territory.

This rapid growth has been followed by increased coastal development and land based pollution. In spite of this the population continues to grow rapidly and if present trends continue, the population will double in size over the next 35 years.



Jeremy Goldberg, Alyssa Edwards & Gene Brighthouse discuss the work plan

Alyssa Edwards, is currently working with the Coral Reef Advisory Group's Population

Pressure Local Action Strategy team, which consists of various local agency representatives, to tackle the population pressure issue.

Over the coming months she will be developing support materials and assisting with the preparation and planning of a number of summits scheduled this year, which will raise the population pressure issue to the highest level of government in advance of local elections.

Puerto Rico

As the Coral Reef Management Fellow for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico, Raimundo will work on the Local Action Strategies (LAS) to reduce identified ecosystems stressors.

Raimundo will concentrate his efforts on land-based sources of pollution and lack of awareness in Puerto Rico. His first task is to work in collaboration with the Center for Watershed Protection and other key DNER personnel on the creation of a watershed manage-

ment plan for the Guánica State Forest.

He will also be assisting in the development of a much needed education program for the Guánica State Forest and has started a reusable bag campaign to be launched later this year during the Guánica State Forest "Natural Trail Awareness Day". He will also be updating and managing the DNER Coral Reef Program's website.

Raimundo will play an active role in addressing recreational overuse and misuse in man-

groves and on coral reefs. Projects include the construction of a boat ramp in Las Crayolas to reduce illegal unloading and docking of small vessels and a mooring buoy installment program in Cayos de Caña Gorda.



Mayra Garcia discusses Raimundo Espinoza's work plan with him



"This was a wonderful conference! A great learning opportunity combined with experiential learning and networking."

-Kathleen Herrmann,
2008-2010 Coral Fellow

U.S. Virgin Islands

Karlyn Langjahr has moved into DPNR- Coastal Zone Management's (CZM's) St. Croix East End Marine Park (EEMP) office where she serves as the Education and Outreach Coordinator.

She continues to work with Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE) on partnering with the Virgin Islands Department of Education and is planning a

second capacity-building VINE workshop.

As CZM's liaison to the Ocean Conservancy, Karlyn assists with a socio-economic study on the EEMP and will be presenting a poster on socio-economic research implications for management of the EEMP at the International Coral Reef Symposium in July.

Karlyn also leads U.S. Virgin Islands efforts for International Year of the Reef 2008.



Petra, Kathleen, Elaina & Karlyn learn about Hawaii's traditional fishponds

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Fran Castro and Kathleen Herrmann work on the project plan

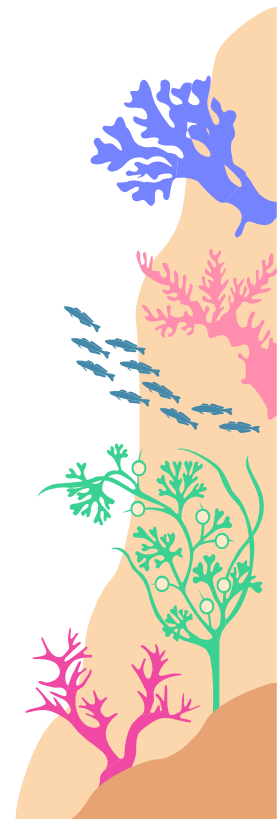
Kathleen Herrmann recently arrived on Saipan (CNMI) to begin her fellowship.

One of the biggest threats to the coral reefs in CNMI is land based pollution. Kathleen will be conducting watershed planning in partnership with the local agencies to continue and strengthen local watershed efforts.

Kathleen will also be participating in a number of education and outreach efforts including assisting with developing public

service announcements (PSAs), editing an MPA article for the local newspaper, helping plan a marine science high school summer course, and judging the Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair on the island of Rota on March 14, 2008.

She will be also be coordinating a local capacity building effort with Conservation International. Stay tuned for a final work plan in June!



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We're on the web!
www.coralreef.noaa.gov/fellowship.html

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Please [email us](mailto:coralreef@noaa.gov) your questions and suggestions for future editions

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Management Fellowship was established in 2003 to respond to the need for additional coral reef management capacity and capability in the U.S. Flag Pacific and Caribbean islands. The fellowship program's mission is two-fold, it provides coral reef management support in each participating island jurisdiction by placing highly qualified individuals whose education and work experience meet each island's specific coral reef management needs, while providing individual fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.



People on the Move

American Samoa

Jeremy Goldberg has been hired as the Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator in American Samoa and will be serving as Alyssa's supervisor. Jeremy is originally from California and has a Masters degree from James Cook University in Townsville, Australia in tropical marine ecology, conservation biology and fisheries science. We're very excited to welcome him to the team.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Lihla Noori has accepted a position with the University of the Virgin Islands at the Center for Marine and Environmental Studies. A big thanks to her for all her hard work over the past two years.

Hawaii

Athline Clark has accepted a new position as the State Co-Manager for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. A big thanks to her for all her time, talent and support over the years!

Robert T. Nishimoto is the Program Manager of the Environmental Protection Program for the Division of Aquatic Services in Hawaii and will be serving as Petra's new supervisor. We're excited to welcome Bob to the program.

Program Evaluation Update

Kevin Doyle led a session on capacity building at the All Islands Committee (AIC) meeting in Washington D.C. in February, 2008. Marci Wulff provided a short presentation to the Points of Contact (POCs) from each of the participating jurisdictions on changes that have been made to the Coral Fellowship Program. We'd like to thank the AIC for providing time for this discussion in their agenda.



2008-2010 Coral Reef Management Fellows: Petra MacGowan, Alyssa Edwards, Elaina Todd, Kathleen Herrmann, Karlyn Langjahr & Raimundo Espinoza

