

# Overview

## NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

External Program Review

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007

# Who We Are

- National, science-based program.
- Established in 2000 to fulfill responsibilities from Coral Reef Conservation Act, EO 13089, and other mandates.
- ***Support effective management and sound science to protect sustain and restore coral reef ecosystems.***
- Responsible for long and short-term planning, program execution and evaluation.
- From 2002-2006, invested @ \$129 million in 1300 projects to reduce key threats to reefs.



# Mandates and Requirements

## 1. Coral Reef Conservation Act calls for:

- National Coral Reef Action Strategy



# National Action Strategy

## **Theme 1: Understanding Coral Reef Ecosystems**

Goal 1: Create comprehensive maps of all U.S. coral reef habitats.

Goal 2: Conduct long-term monitoring and assessments of reef ecosystems.

Goal 3: Support strategic research to address the major threats.

Goal 4: Increase understanding of the social and economic factors.

## **Theme 2: Reduce The Adverse Impacts Of Human Activities**

Goal 5: Improve the use of marine protected areas to reduce threats.

Goal 6: Reduce adverse impacts of fishing and other extractive uses.

Goal 7: Reduce impacts of coastal uses.

Goal 8: Reduce pollution.

Goal 9: Restore damaged reefs.

Goal 10: Improve education and outreach.

Goal 11: Reduce international threats to coral reef ecosystems.

Goal 12: Reduce impacts from international trade in coral reef species.

Goal 13: Improve coordination and accountability.

# Mandates and Requirements

## 1. Coral Reef Conservation Act calls for:

- *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*
- **National Program**
- **Coral Reef Conservation Grants Program**
- **Coral Reef Conservation Fund**

# **Mandates and Requirements**

## **2. Executive Order 13089 responsibilities:**

- Use programs/authorities to protect and enhance coral reef ecosystems
- Conduct specific activities to help conserve reefs (mapping, monitoring etc)
- Provide leadership and coordination for Task Force efforts via Task Force co-chair and Secretariat.

# Mandates and Requirements

## 3. Other NOAA mandates with reef-related responsibilities:

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- International agreements



# Program Goals and Tools

## Goals:

1. Assess and characterize reefs
2. Reduce impacts of coastal uses
3. Reduce impacts of fishing
4. Reduce impacts of pollution & disease
5. Improve use and effectiveness of marine protected areas
6. Reduce threats to international reefs
7. Reduce threats of climate change
8. Address emerging issues
9. Program coordination

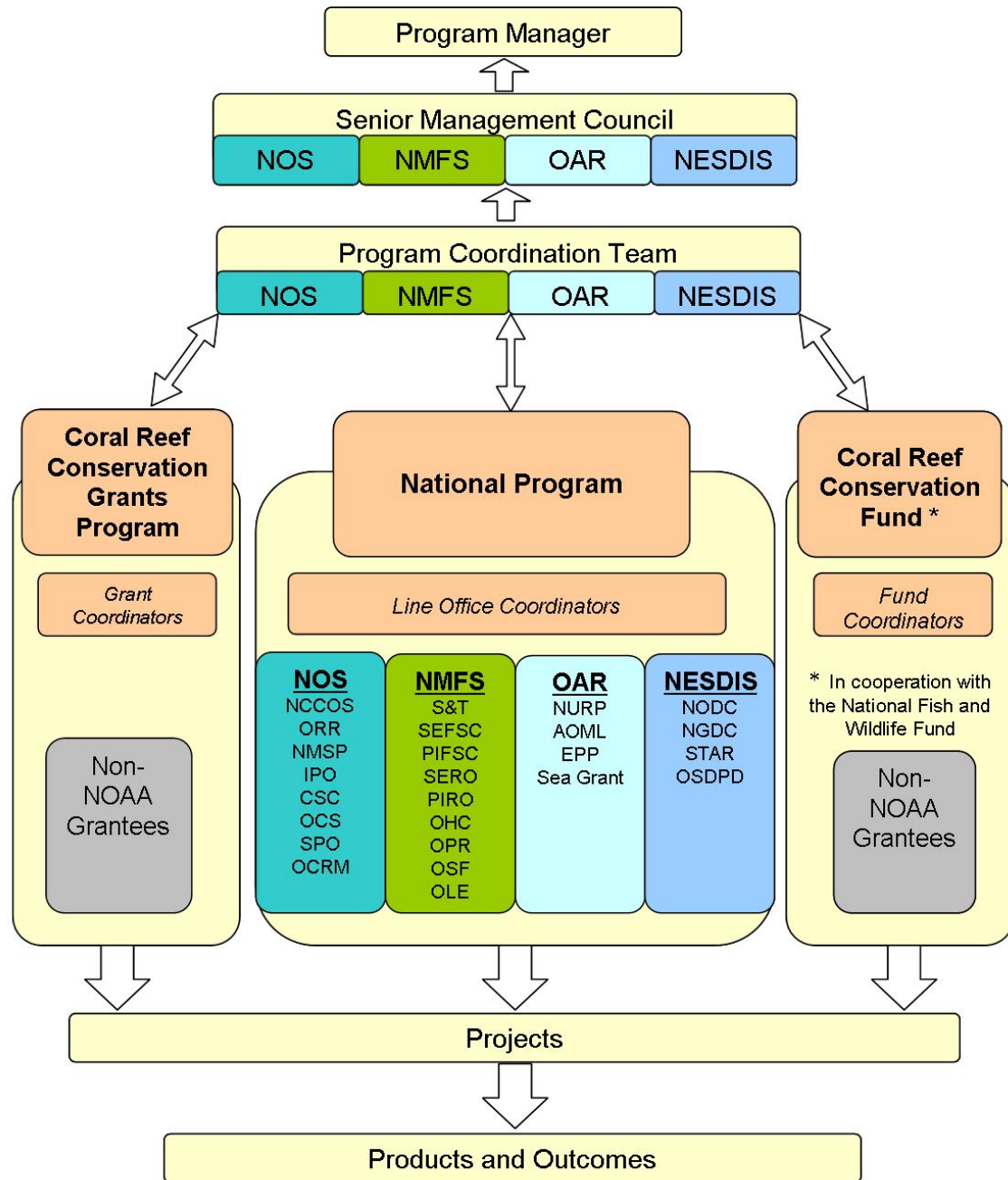
## Tools:

1. Map and Monitor
2. Ecosystem Research
3. Socioeconomic Research
4. Outreach
5. Management (direct and indirect)



# Matrix Program Structure

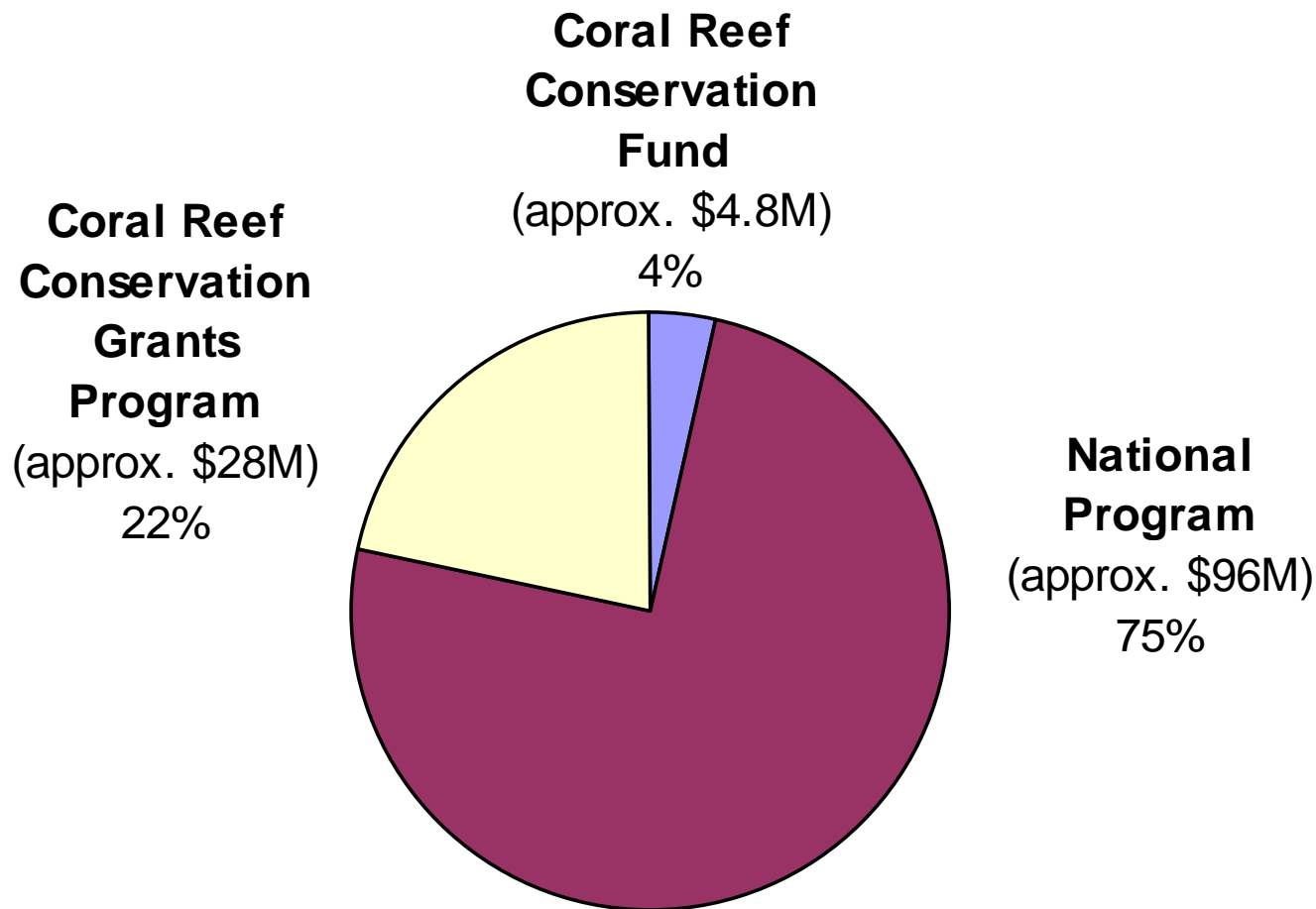
- 20 NOAA offices
- 4 US regions
- Many partners



\* In cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Fund



## Coral Reef Conservation Program Funding Components, 2002-2006





# **Partners and Customers**

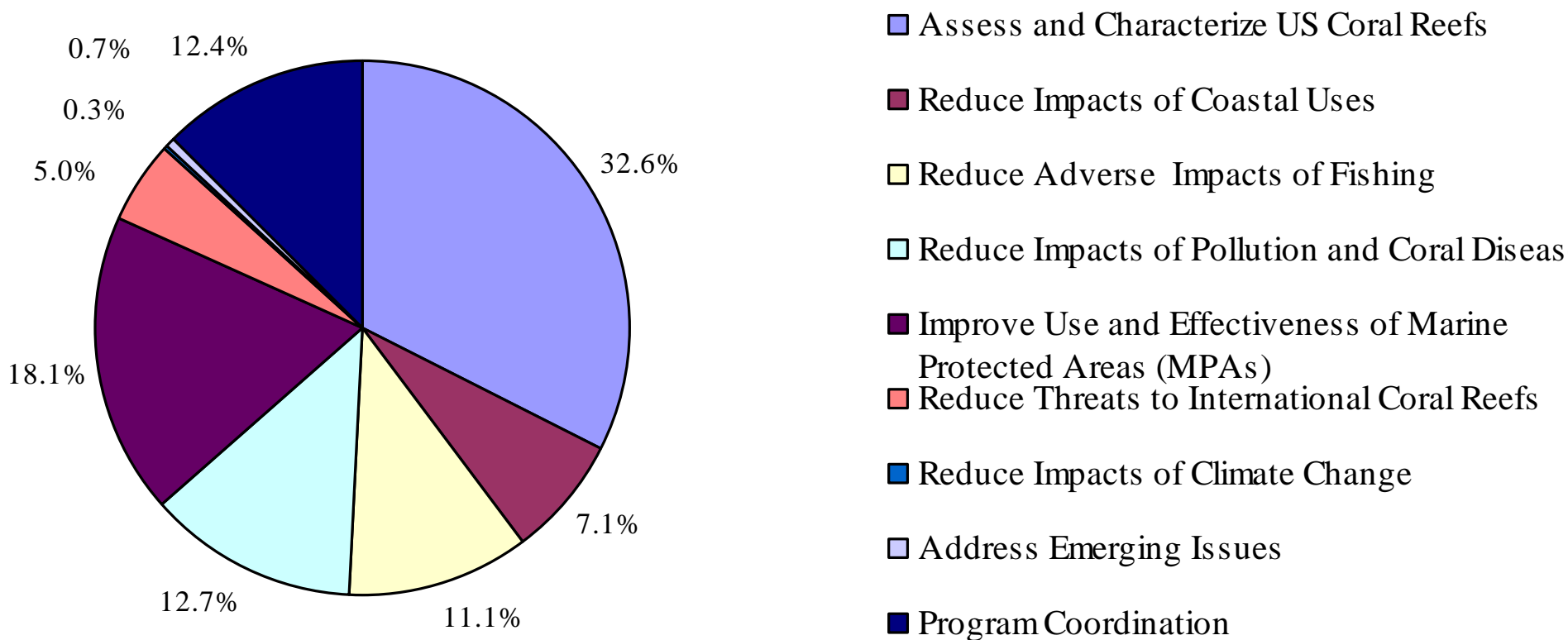
- NOAA offices (> 25)
- Federal agencies (7)
- State/Territory agencies (7)
- Fishery Management Councils (4)
- Other governments (many)
- Academic Institutions (many)
- Coral Reef Institutes (3)
- Conservation organizations (many)
- Private sector (few)



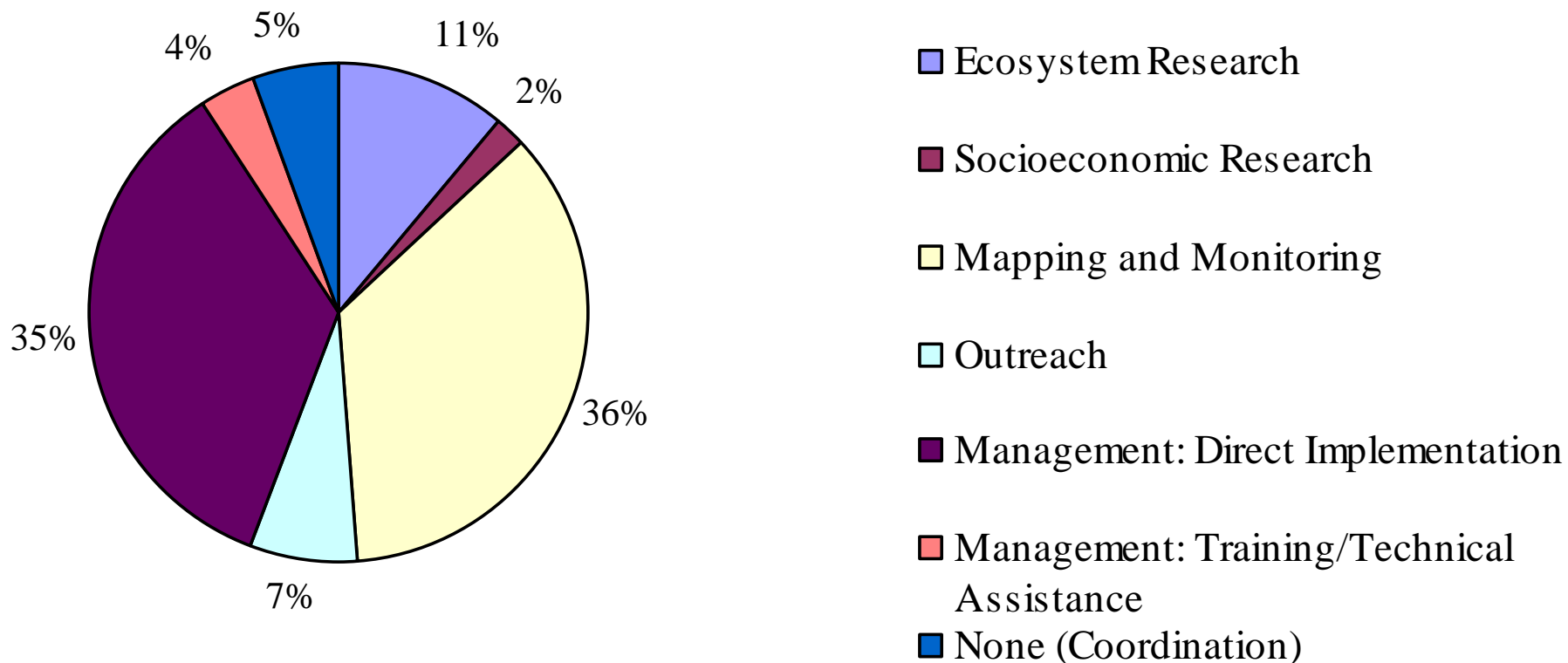
# **Priorities and Investments**

- Spend Plan Category (goals)
- Tools
- Regions
- Special Initiatives

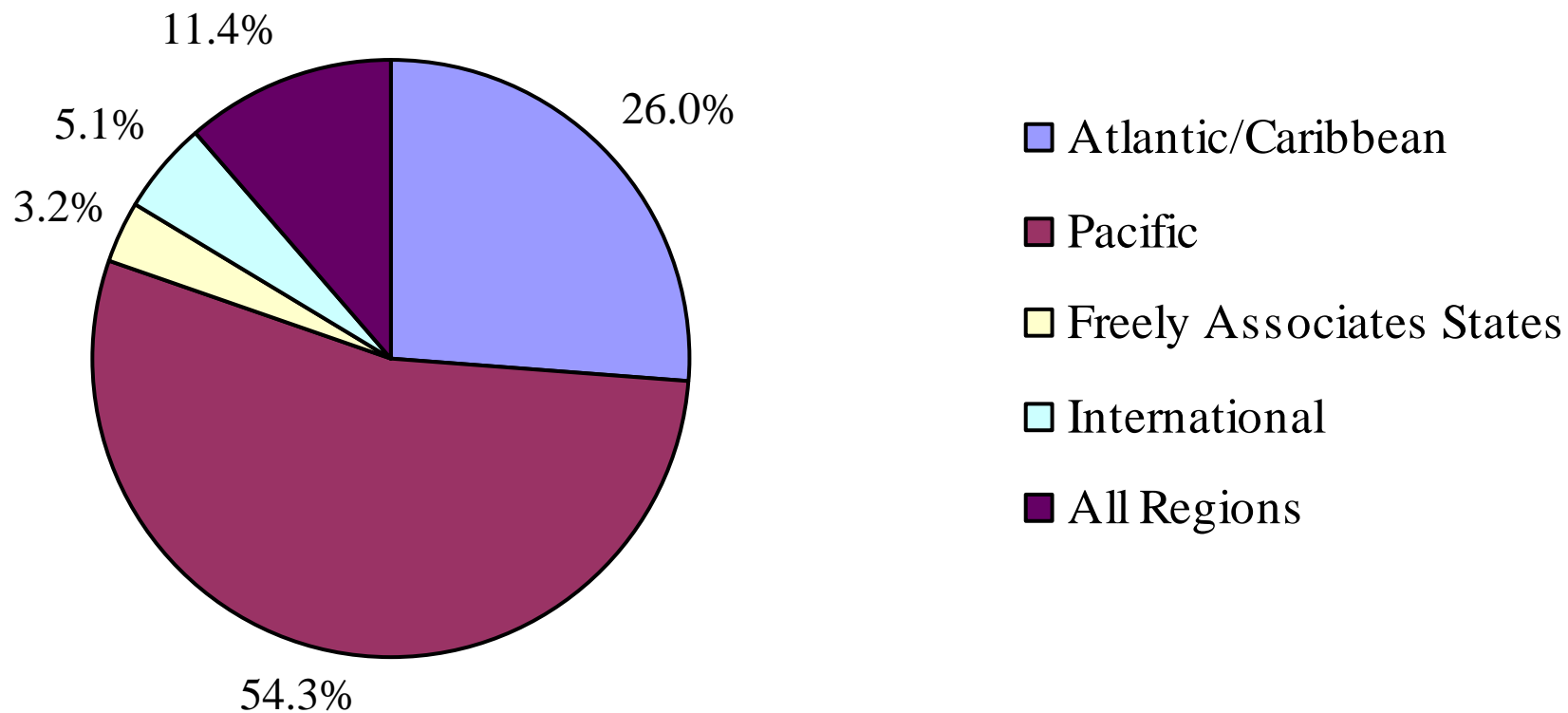
## Investment by Spend Plan Category: 2002-2006



## Investment by Tool, 2002-2006



## Investment by Region, 2002-2006





# Local Action Strategies

- Multi-year strategies for local action to reduce key threats to reefs.
- Link national goals with local action.
- Led by states/territories with federal partners.
- Increase coordination among govt and non-govt partners.
- Increase resources and effectiveness.
- 65% projects & 40% funding underway.





# Program Coordination

- Responsible for all aspects of “matrix” program management:
  - Policy and planning
  - Implementation (grants, fiscal management, reporting, communication)
  - Evaluation
- Coordination across “matrix” and with partners critical to success.
- Headquarters and field coordination roles.

# Program Coordination

## Overall 2002-2006:

- \$16 M (12% total funding)
- 107 projects (8 % total projects)

## Headquarters Coordination:

- \$7.5 M (6% total), 33 projects (2.5 total)

## Field Coordination:

- \$8.5 M (7% total), 74 projects (6% total)

# Coordination (headquarters)

- **Headquarters staff** (15)
  - Outyear planning (new budget initiatives)
  - Management of grants and Fund (new awards)
  - Annual spend plans (\$ for action)
  - Outreach and education initiatives (e.g., NSTA, State/territory capacity)
  - Special projects (e.g., LAS support, draft legislation)
- **All Islands Committee Secretariat** (1+)
- **U.S. Coral Reef Task Force support**
  - Secretariat (1)
  - Initiatives (many e.g., Manager's Guide to Bleaching)
  - Plan and execute annual meetings (10)

# Coordination (field)

## Support NOAA regional participation:

- Regional project coordinators (9)
- Regional monitoring coordinators (3)

## Increase State/territory management capacity

- Coral Reef Management Fellows (13)

## Impacts:

- Effective management action from design and implementation of LAS in jurisdictions.
- Improved info and decisions from Pacific research and monitoring cruises.
- Increased State/territory management capacity

# Challenges

- Lack of capacity at regional to local levels.
- Lack of clear conservation goals, targets, performance metrics and effective strategies to address them.
- Getting input on Program priorities.
- Coordination across multiple diverse entities.
- Joint planning across organizations.
- Evaluating, tracking and communicating performance at multiple levels.
- Lack of resources to fulfill broad mandate.



# Program Goals and Tools

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## Tools:

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# Goal Area Assessments

1. What was done (activities)?
2. What was produced (products/services)?
3. What was the impact/outcome?
4. What were the key challenges?
5. What are key future directions?

