

GUAM'S MARINE PRESERVE

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is dominated by large, rounded coral structures in shades of yellow, orange, and pink. Several fish are visible, including a prominent white fish with black stripes on the left, and several silver fish with dark spots. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above.

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
Jay T. Gutierrez**

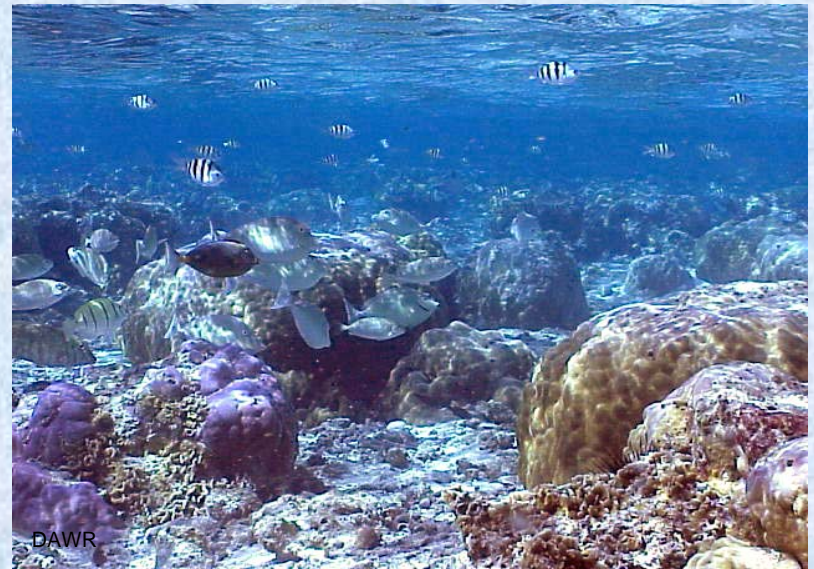
**Guam Department Of Agriculture Division
Of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR)**

- History
- Monitoring
- Challenges
- Partnerships
- Actions/Solutions



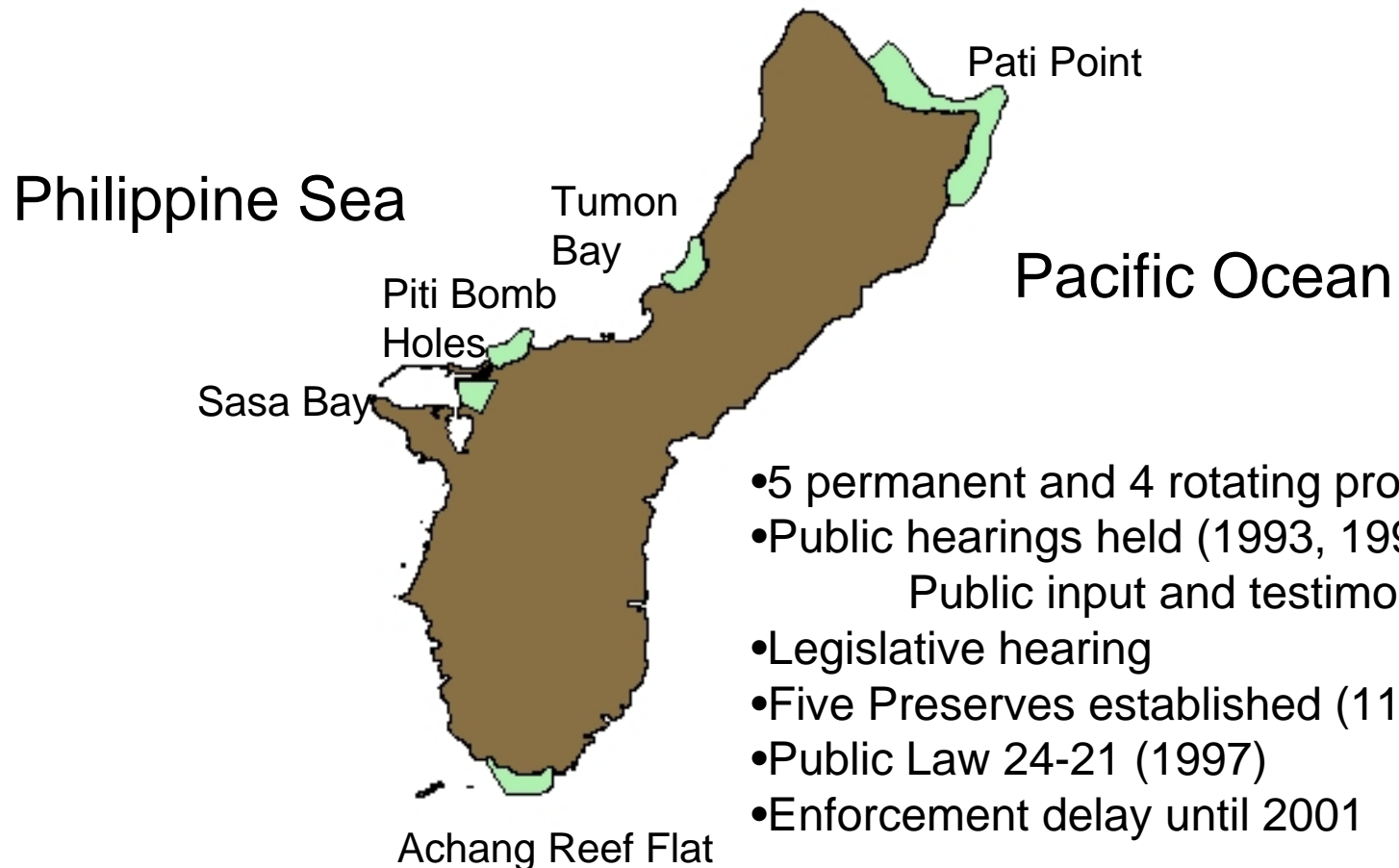
History of Guam's Marine Preserves

- Process initiated in 1988
- Initial goal to delineate 20% of coastal habitat
- Selection of 60 sites
- Criteria
 - Relevant habitat
 - Accessibility
 - Protection of spawning fishes
 - Reduce user-conflicts
 - Safety
 - Enforceable
 - Cultural Practices



DAWR

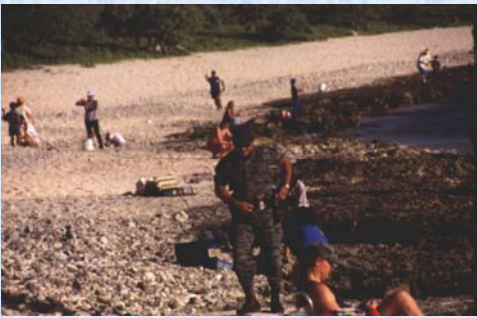
ESTABLISHMENT OF GUAM'S MARINE PRESERVE



Monitoring/Research

- Department of Agriculture DAWR - Fish
- University of Guam Marine Laboratory – Current (Wolanski et al. 2003), spawning and recruitment (M. Tupper) seagrass, algal, soft coral
- Guam Environmental Protection Agency – EMAP, Water Quality

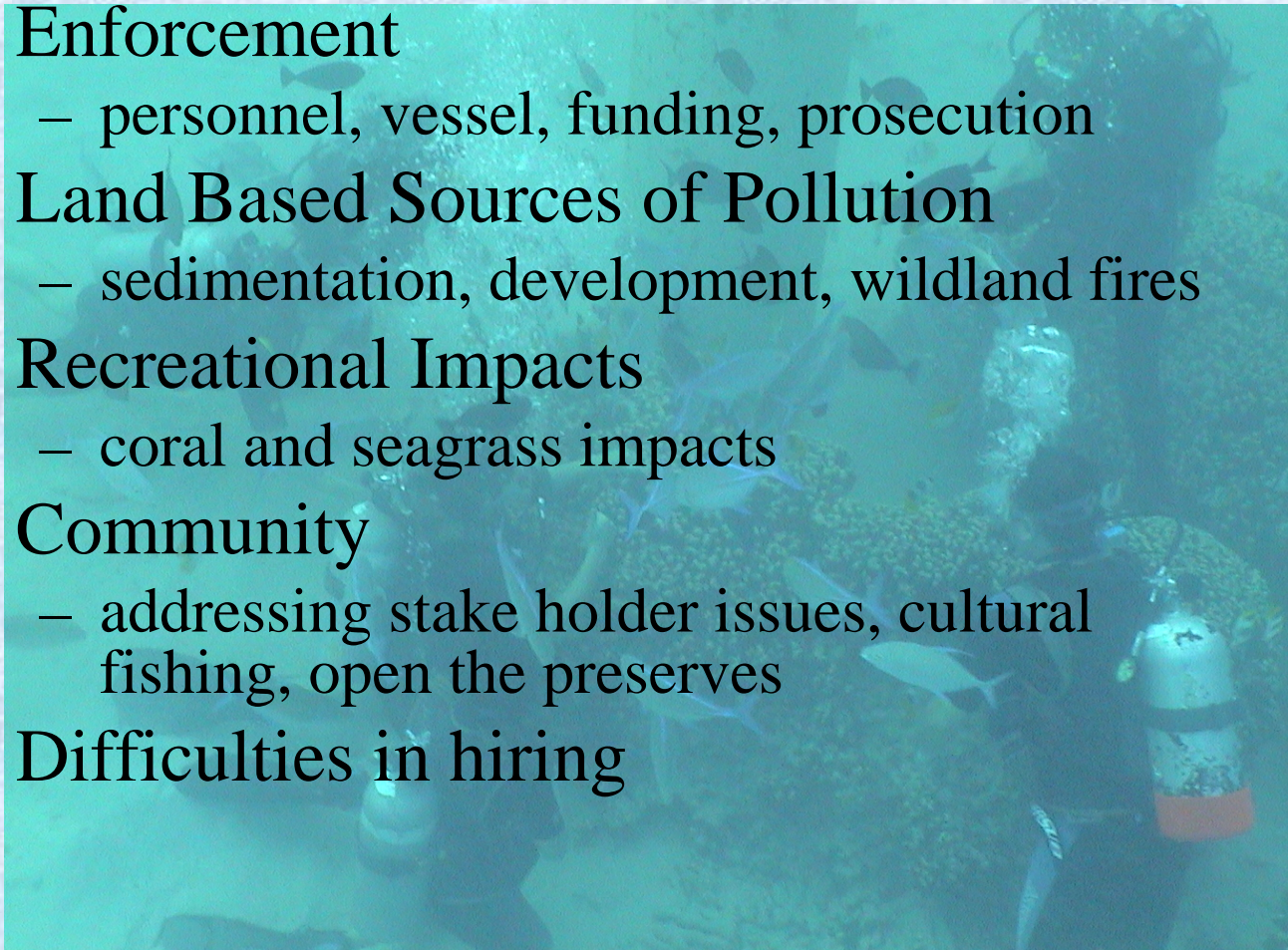




CHALLENGES



- Enforcement
 - personnel, vessel, funding, prosecution
- Land Based Sources of Pollution
 - sedimentation, development, wildland fires
- Recreational Impacts
 - coral and seagrass impacts
- Community
 - addressing stake holder issues, cultural fishing, open the preserves
- Difficulties in hiring



PARTNERSHIPS

- Guam Department of Agriculture (Forestry & Soil Resources & DAWR)
- Bureau of Statistics and Plans
- Guam Environmental Protection Agency
- UOG Marine Laboratory
- Guam Fisherman's Coop
- Guam Visitors Bureau
- Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association
- Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council
- NOAA



Regional Scale



CURRENT ACTIONS/SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN

- Recently hired an attorney to prosecute natural resource violations.
- Conservation Officer Reserve Program - rules and regulations - administrative process
- Citation Program for natural resource violations - rules and regulations - administrative process
- Marine Preserve Eco-permitting system (Public Law 27-87) – rules and regulations - administrative process
- Plans to obtain/purchase an enforcement vessel



A large school of striped snappers (Lutjanus fulviflamma) is swimming in clear blue water above a healthy, vibrant coral reef. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The coral below is a mix of yellow and brown, indicating a healthy reef structure. The water is clear, and the sunlight filters through from the surface, creating a bright and lively scene.

Thank You

Si Yu'us Ma'ase'