

The State of Coral Reef Ecosystems in the United States and Pacific Freely Associated States: 2008



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Why you should be familiar with this report:

- ✓ This report represents the most current and comprehensive assessment of the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and makes this wealth of information widely available in an effort to encourage and support conservation activities.

<http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/stateofthereefs>

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- ✓ The assessment is based on monitoring data collected by a variety of partner organizations and includes contributions from over 270 scientists and managers involved in coral reef conservation efforts across the nation.

Applying Report Results to Conservation Efforts

Directs future activities to fill data gaps and identify priority issues;
Informs CRCP 'Road Map'

- inventory existing activities, resources, platforms
- sedimentation studies
- climate-related research

Helps target places and projects where agencies can and do collaborate to leverage existing resources and partnerships.

- Jobos Bay
- Hawaii watershed assessments
- NPS/NOAA partnership



Applying Report Results to Conservation Efforts

- Informs and supports new and existing regulations, legislation and policy development.
- Encourages public education and involvement.
- Underscores importance of U.S. and FAS reefs to global biodiversity.
- Provides a common starting point for discussions about existing coral reef ecosystem monitoring programs and the spatial and temporal distribution of effort.



West Hawaii Example:

PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVES	START DATE	FUNDING	PARTNERS
DAR marine managed area monitoring program	1970s	USFWS	DAR
Kahe Point Coral monitoring of long-term trends in coral community	1973	HECO	HECO, AECOS, Sea Engineering
Hanaelei Bay Marine Communities Investigation Trends in benthic and fish assemblages	1992	NOAA, DAR, USGS, Hanaelei Heritage River	NOAA, DAR, Hanaelei Heritage River Hui, HIMB
Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (CRAMP) Monitoring of benthos and fish statewide	1997	USGS, EPA	UH-Manoa, NOAA, DAR
Reefcheck Volunteer community-based monitoring protocol to measure coral reef health	1996	NOAA, CZM, DAR	Oceanwide Sci. Instit., Waikiki Aquarium, Windward C.C., Hawaii Pacific Univ., Hanauma Bay Edu. Center, MOP
DAR Statewide Coral Reef Monitoring Program. Integrated monitoring of fish, benthos, and coral condition on Oahu, Maui and Big Island	1999	NOAA, HCRI	UH-Hilo, UH-Manoa, NPS
Reef Watchers Program Volunteers monitor and provide data on nearshore and inter-tidal sites	1999	CZM/DBEDT, NFWF, NOAA, Harold Castle Foundation, HCF, TNC, CCN DAR, TNC, CCN	DOE, UH-Hilo, Washington State University and West Hawaii participating residents
USGS Study of Coral Reefs in the Pacific Mapping, monitoring, remote sensing, sediment transport studies, collection of tide, wave and current data.	2000	USGS	USGS, UH-Manoa, HIMB, DAR, NPS
The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Volunteer scuba divers and snorkelers collect information on marine fish populations	2001	CZM, NFWF, PADI - Project Aware, NOAA, NMSP	Maui Comm. College MOP, Project SEA-Link, Hawaii Coral Reef Network, DAR
Fish Habitat Utilization Program (FHUP) Fish habitat utilization patterns, MPA effectiveness statewide	2002	NOAA DAR,	NOAA, UH-Manoa, UH-Hilo, HIMB, NPS
Kapoho Reef Watch Monitor human use, water quality and marine biota around Walopae tide pools	2003	HCF, NFWF, TNC, Harold K. L. Castle Foundation	Vacationland Hawaii Comm. Assoc, Kapoho Kai Water Assoc. Cape Kumuikahi Foundation, NOAA, USFWS
Nuisance algae in W. Maui; linkages of physical and biological processes related to nuisance algae	2003	NOAA, HCRI	NOAA, DAR, UH-Manoa, USGS, HIDOH
MHI Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Program Mapping, assessment, monitoring of benthos, fish, coral disease, oceanography.	2005	NOAA	UH-Manoa, UH-Hilo, HIMB, Bishop Museum, DLNR DAR
National Park Service Long-term monitoring of benthos and fish at four parks	2006	NPS	NOAA, UH-Hilo
Allen Algae Mapping for presence/absence and relative abundance	2006	DAR/ HISC	UH-Manoa / NOAA statewide with focus on Oahu, Molokai, and Hawaii
DAR Study on impact of lay gill net regulations on Maui and Oahu (2007-2011). Broad spatial scale surveys of herbivorous fish and benthic algae around sites on Oahu and Maui subsequent to ban on use of lay gillnets enacted in early 2007	2007	USFWS	TNC
AECOS - AECOS Inc. Environmental Consulting Company CCN - Community Conservation Network CZM - Hawaii Coastal Zone Management DAR - Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources DOE - Hawaii Department of Education HIDOH - Hawaii Department of Health EPA - Environmental Protection Agency HCF - Hawaii Community Foundation HCRI - Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative Program HECO - Hawaii Electric Company HIMB - Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology		MOP - Univ. of Hawaii Marine Options Program NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NFWF - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation NMSP - National Marine Sanctuary Program NPS - National Park Service PADI - Professional Association of Diving Instructors UH - University of Hawaii USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service USGS - U.S. Geological Survey VHCA - Vacationland Hawaii Community Association	

