

JUN 20 2005



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

**TITLE:** Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

**LOCATION:** Coral reefs in Florida, Hawaii, Texas (Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary), Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Navassa Island, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Freely Associated States, and internationally in other countries with coral reefs

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has prepared this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the environmental impacts associated with the implementation and distribution of grant funds under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. The Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program (CRCGP) provides funding to eligible coastal state and territorial governmental agencies, non-government organizations, educational institutions, individuals, and international partners to conduct several types of activities that will improve understanding of coral reef ecosystems, promote wise management and sustainable use, reduce threats contributing to the decline and loss of fragile coral reef resources and ecosystems, and restore the condition of coral reefs. There are six types of projects that NOAA is proposing to fund, including U.S. state and territorial government management and monitoring activities; general and international coral reef conservation activities; the development, improvement or amendment of Fishery Management Plans; and coral reef ecosystem research.

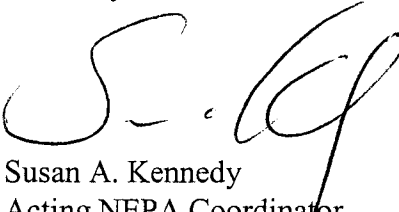
Three alternatives are available to NOAA pertaining to the CRCGP: provide grant funds for a combination of the various categories eligible for CRCGP funds; conditionally approve awards that do not immediately meet all of the grant requirements; and do not provide funds for CRCGP activities. NOAA's preferred alternative is to provide CRCGP funds to a variety of eligible applicants to cover a combination of activities. NOAA finds that the CRCGP meets the requirements of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. This alternative will have a beneficial effect on the coral reef ecosystems because it will fulfill the intent of the legislation by 1) preserving, sustaining, and restoring the condition of coral reef environments; 2) developing sound scientific information on the condition and threats to their environment; and 3) promoting wise management and sustainable use of coral reefs that will benefit local communities and the Nation.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-3074, Ext. 154).



The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact including the supporting environmental assessment is enclosed for your information. Please submit any written comments to me in Room 15625, SSMC 3, NOAA Strategic Planning Office, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Kennedy  
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

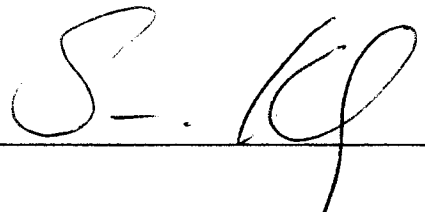
JUN 14 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan A. Kennedy  
Deputy Director  
Strategic Planning Office

FROM: Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.  
Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Programmatic Environmental Assessment Finding of No  
Significant Impact for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant  
Program

Based on the subject Programmatic Environmental Assessment, I have determined that no significant environmental impacts will result from implementation of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program. I request your concurrence in this determination by signing below. Please return this memorandum for our files.

1. I concur.  6/20/05  
DATE

2. I do not concur. \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Attachments





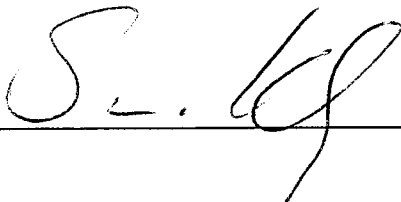
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 1315 East-West Highway  
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
 THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan A. Kennedy  
 Deputy Director  
 Strategic Planning Office

FROM:  William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact on the Programmatic  
 Environmental Assessment for the NOAA Coral Reef  
 Conservation Grant Program

Based on the subject Programmatic Environmental Assessment, I have determined that no significant environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. I request your concurrence in this determination by signing below. Please return this memorandum for our files.

1. I concur.  \_\_\_\_\_ 6/20/05  
 DATE

2. I do not concur. \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE

Attachments





MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan A. Kennedy  
Deputy Director  
Strategic Planning Office

JUN 10 2005

FROM: Richard D. Rosen, Ph.D. *RDR*  
Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact on the Programmatic  
Environmental Assessment for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation  
Grant Program

Based on the subject Programmatic Environmental Assessment, I have determined that no significant environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. I request your concurrence in this determination by signing below. Please return this memorandum for our files.

1. I concur.

DATE

*6/20/05*

2. I do not concur.

DATE

Attachments

