
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
April 8, 2004



NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

Mission: Conserve coral reef ecosystems

Goal: Reduce threats to reef ecosystems

Reqmts: Coral Reef Conservation Act (5 actions)
Executive Order 13089
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Strategy: U.S. National Action Strategy (13 goals)

Structure: Cross-NOAA collaboration
Formal NOAA matrix program
FY2004 budget \$26.85 M



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Program Background



- 1994 International Coral Reef Initiative established
All Islands Coral Reef Initiative established
- 1997 International Year of the Reef
- 1998 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, Executive Order 13089
- 2000 1st U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs
Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000
- 2002 Report to Congress: National Coral Reef Action Strategy
The State of Coral Reef Ecosystems of the United States and
Pacific Freely Associated States
- 2003 Grants Effectiveness Report to Congress
- 2004 Strategy Effectiveness Report



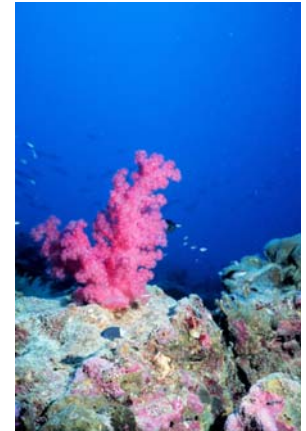
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U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Members: 12 Federal Agencies
7 States, Territories, Commonwealths
3 Freely Associated States

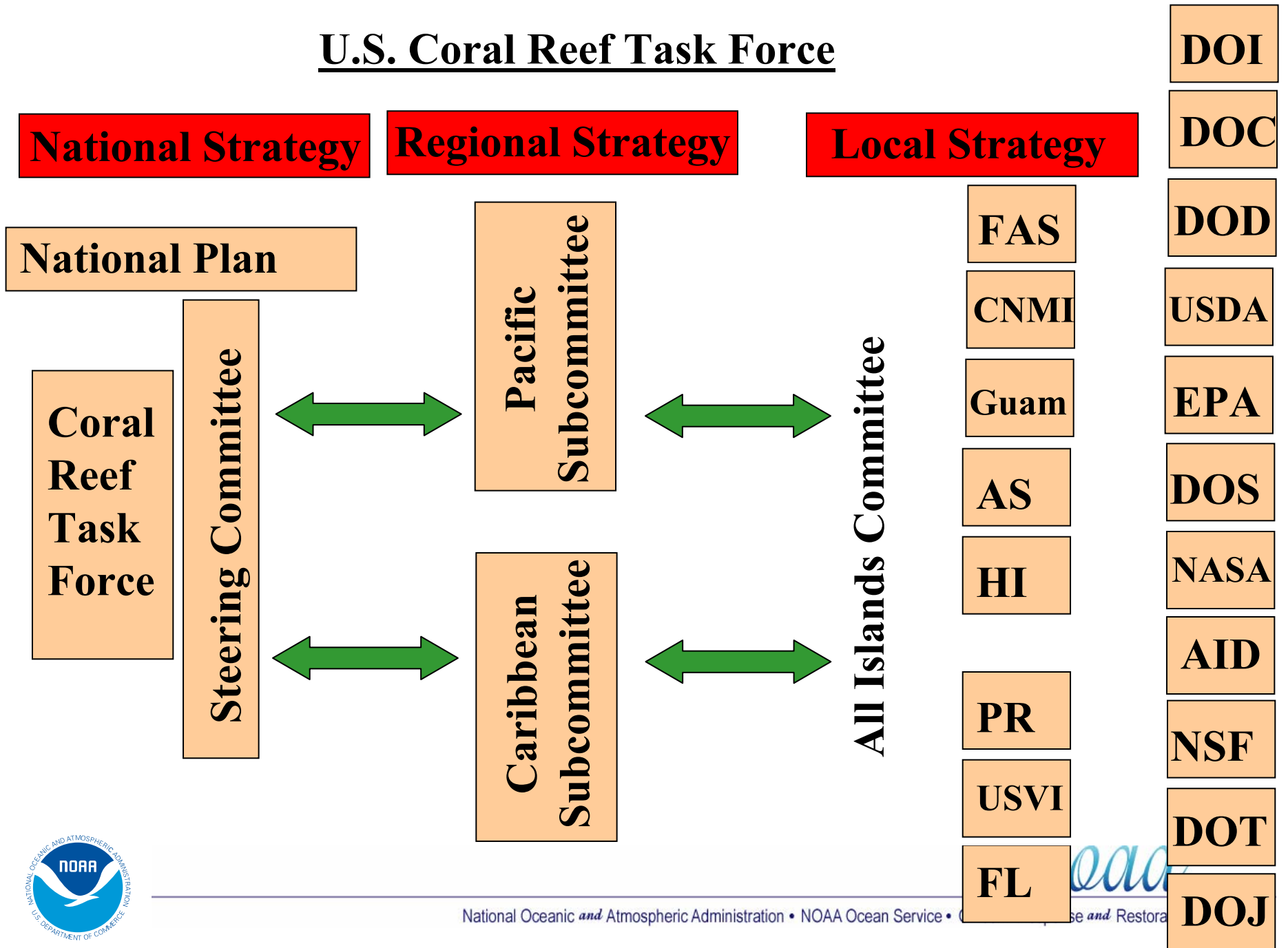
Tasks: lead and support U.S. Coral Reef Activities
map and monitor U.S. coral reefs
research coral reef degradation
reduce and mitigate coral reef loss
review existing authorities and navigational aids
assess U.S. international role in coral reef protection
promote conservation and sustainable use of
coral reef ecosystems worldwide

Actions: U.S. National Action Plan (2000)
New Initiatives (e.g., Local Action Strategies)
Increased Inter-Agency Coordination, Partnerships



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U.S. Coral Reef Task Force



National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (2000)

Understand Coral Reef Ecosystems:

Goal 1: Map all U.S. coral reefs

Goal 2: Assess, monitor and forecast reef health

Goal 3: Conduct strategy research

Goal 4: Understand social and economic factors



Reduce Impacts of Human Activities:

Goal 5: Improve use of MPAs

Goal 6: Reduce impacts of fishing

Goal 7: Reduce impacts of coastal uses

Goal 8: Reduce impacts of pollution

Goal 9: Restore damaged reefs

Goal 10: Improve outreach and education

Goal 11: Reduce threats to intl reefs

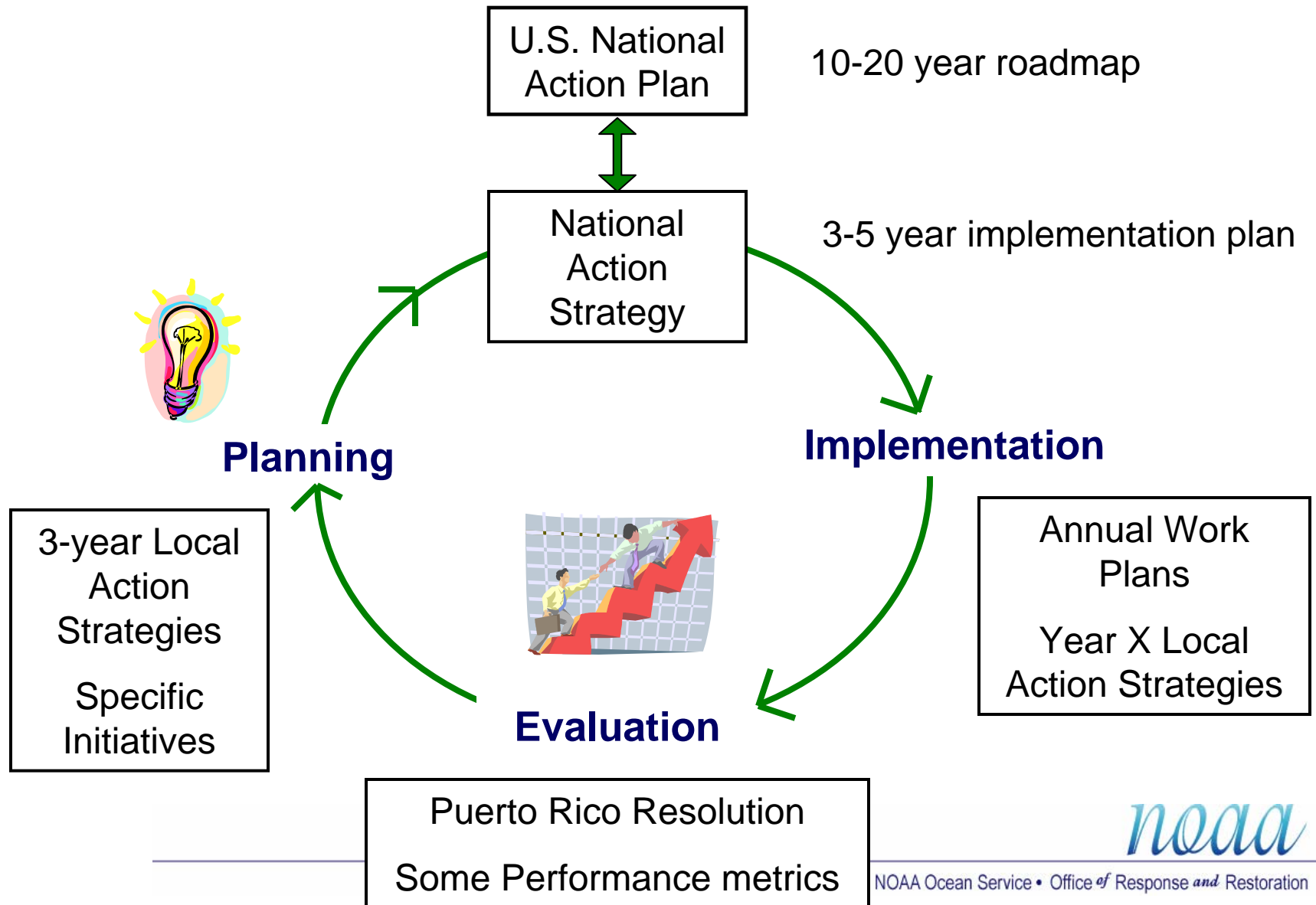
Goal 12: Reduce impacts from intl trade

Goal 13: Improve coordination and accountability



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Task Force Planning, Implementation Process



Primary Legislative Mandate: **Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000**

Authorizes the establishment and implementation of:

1. National Coral Reef Action Strategy.
2. Coral Reef Grants Program.
3. Coral Reef Conservation Fund.
4. Emergency Response Fund.
5. National Coral Reef Program.



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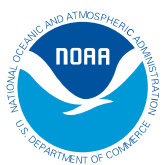
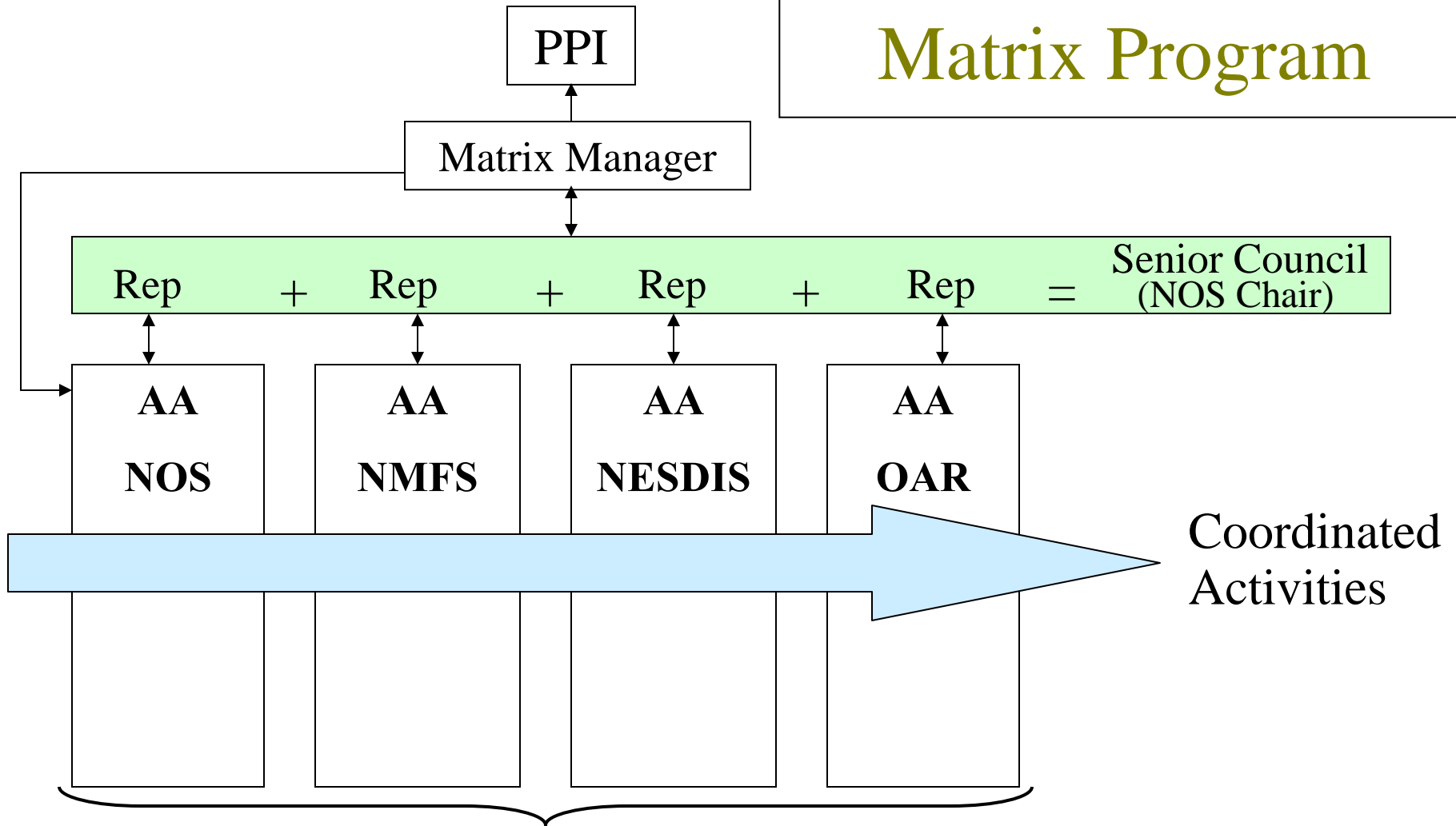
NOAA's Coral Reef Matrix Program

- Cross-NOAA Collaboration (NOS, NMFS, OAR, NESDIS)
- NOS is Program Manager
- Core and Collaborating Elements



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Structure of Matrix Program



Joint Spending Plans; Outyear Plans;
Performance Tracking

NOS Partners

- The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R)
- The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)
 - Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Science (CSCOR)
- The International Program Office (IPO)
- The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM)
- The National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMS)

The logo for NOAA, consisting of the lowercase letters "noaa" in a blue, cursive-style font.

Funding Distribution – Coral Program

Line Office	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05 (Pres Bud)
NMFS	\$11 M	\$11 M	\$11 M		\$11 M
NOS	\$16 M	\$16 M	\$14 M	\$26.85 M*	\$14 M
OAR		\$0.50 M	\$0.50 M		\$0.50 M
NESDIS		\$0.75 M	\$0.75 M		\$0.75 M
TOTAL	\$27 M	\$28.25 M	\$26.25 M	\$26.85 M*	\$26.25 M

* Does not include Salaries and Expenses



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Primary Customers

- Internal
 - Federal Agencies
- External
 - International Partners
 - Academia
 - Local Communities
 - NGOs
 - State, Territory Governments
 - FMCouncils
 - Local Resource Managers
 - Resource Users
 - Private Sector



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Key Stakeholders: U.S. States and Territories

Pacific:

- Hawaii
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
- American Samoa
- Freely Associated States

Atlantic:

- Florida
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Puerto Rico



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CRCP Responsibilities

Planning

- Design and implement planning process
- Identify priorities
- Coordinate thematic working groups
- Ensure cross-NOAA participation
- Deliver planning documents



CRCP Responsibilities

Implementation

- Assess working group recommendations and determine final package of projects
- Transfer funds to project managers
- Ensure that CRCP priorities are met
- Deliver products and services



CRCP Responsibilities

Evaluation: Performance Measures

- Design appropriate performance metrics
- Track and report on performance and products
- Highlight accomplishments for NOAA leadership, Congress, others...



Specific CRCP Responsibilities

- Ensure that CRCP fulfills its responsibilities in NOAA planning and budget cycle
- Shepard annual Spending Plan to Congress
- Answer Congressional inquiries
- Defend budget and program to NOAA/DOC leadership, Congress
- Lead CRCP response to Ocean Commission report



NOS: Products and Services

Mapping and Monitoring

- Comprehensive coral reef habitat maps, including benthic habitat maps, high-resolution topography maps, and GIS maps
- Monitoring support, including grants to States and Territories, and establishing and sustaining monitoring stations

Information

- Abandoned vessel database and website
- Environmental Sensitivity Indices
- NOAA-wide database on coral reef information (CoRIS)
- State of the Reef Report

Management Support

- Hawaii Coral Reef Valuation Study
- NWHI Coral Reef Reserve
- Coral Reef Conservation Fund and Coral Reef Conservation Grants to assist States and Territories in managing coral reef issues

Education/Outreach

- Workshop on Coral Disease and Health
- New learning center dedicated to the NWHI
- Education materials for elementary school students, incl. a coral reef textbook

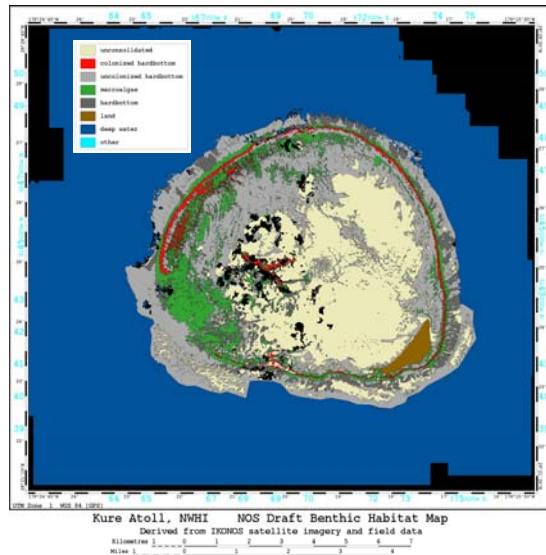


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Tools and Services For Better Management

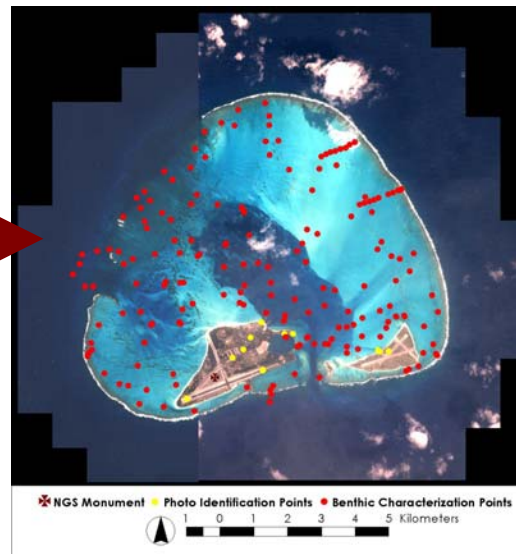
Mapping

Completed coral reef ecosystem map



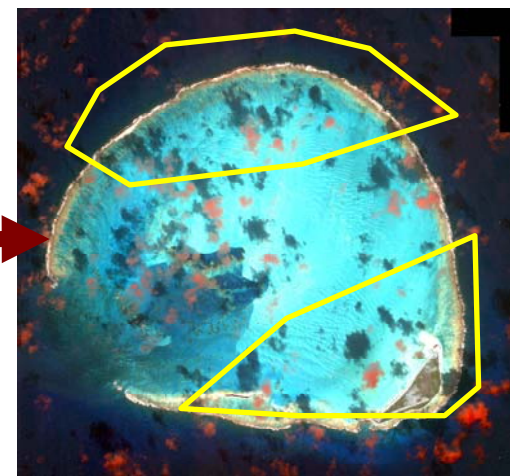
Monitoring

Monitoring program established using map



Assessment

Assessment to answer management questions

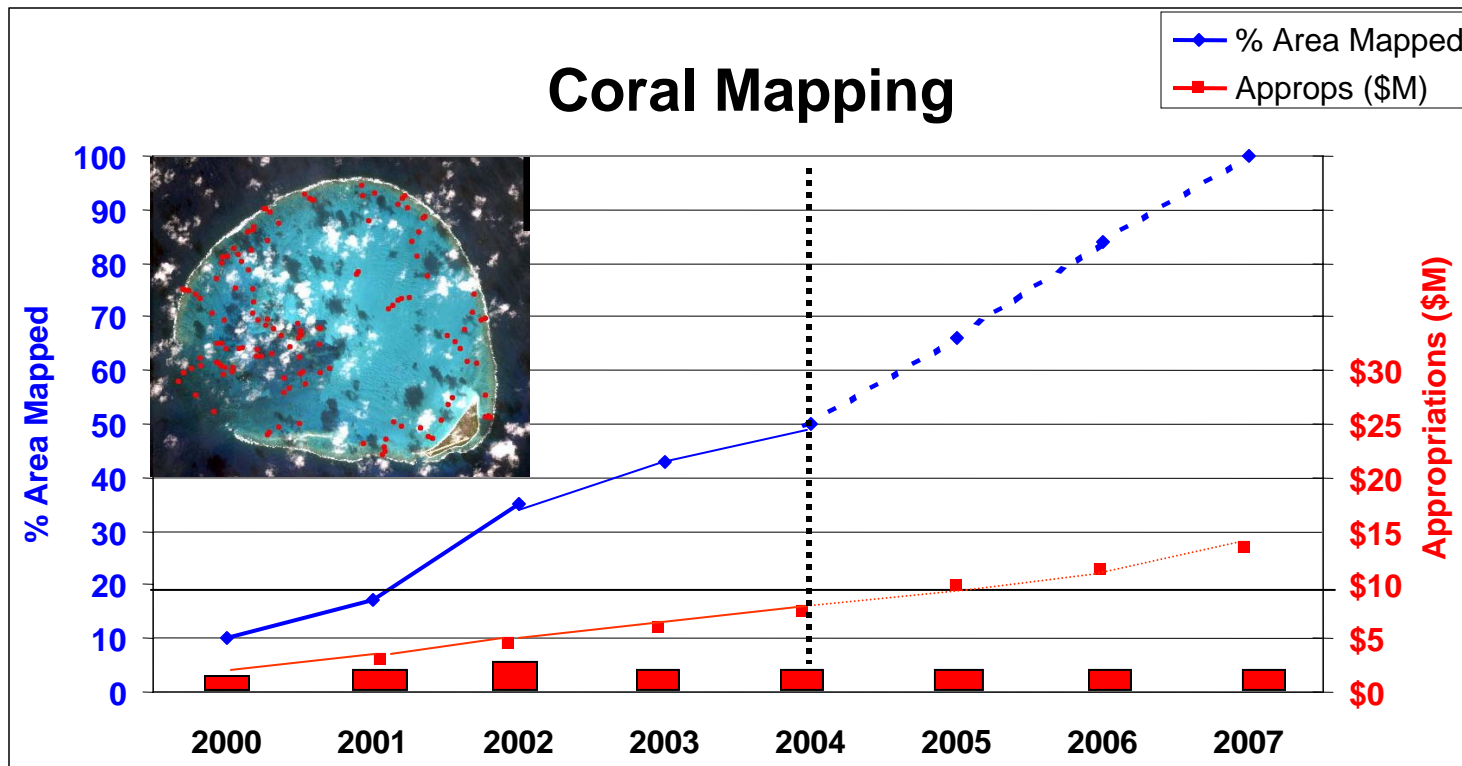


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Progress Report

Goal: Map all shallow U.S. coral reefs by 2009

Metric: % shallow U.S. reefs mapped




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Progress Report

Goal: Build coral reef observing system by 2009

Metric 1: % of jurisdictions with “Level 1” monitoring and assessment capability

	2000			2001			2002			2003			2007		
	Water Quality	Habitat	Biological	Water Quality	Habitat	Biological	Water Quality	Habitat	Biological	Water Quality	Habitat	Biological	Water Quality	Habitat	Biological
American Samoa			✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CNMI			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guam	✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hawai'i (incl. NWHI)		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freely Associated States									✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Florida								✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Puerto Rico		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
USVI		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Funding	\$0.44M			\$0.56M			\$0.79M			\$0.8M					



Opportunities

- Better coordination across CRCP
- Better leveraging of resources
- Highlighting of issues and priorities
- Communication of accomplishments
- Increased partnerships
- Improved defense of budgets



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