

## **International Year of the Reef**

“The Department of the Navy’s dedication to protecting coral reefs is part of a larger effort to make environmental considerations part of everything we do. Through effective natural resource management, as well as investments in assessments, monitoring and research, we can improve and protect valuable natural resources and maintain National Security through continued access to the high seas. By integrating protection measures where we train and operate in the coastal environment, we can uphold the long tradition of the Navy as “Stewards of the Sea”.”

**BJ Penn**  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Installations and Environment)

“International Year of the Reef is an opportunity for the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy to highlight our efforts to preserve and protect the coastal environment. Effective and responsible protection and management of these resources will allow us to carry out our mission of defending the United States now and into the future. It is the duty of all – the public, the marine ecologist, the natural resources manager, the environmental planner, and our Sailors and Marines, to protect coastal resources through whatever measures are available to us, knowing that every act, small or large, counts. The Navy’s stewardship efforts and conservation achievements continue to demonstrate our commitment to coral reef protection. I challenge our team to enhance those efforts in 2008 with innovative and proactive measures to conserve valuable coral reef resources.”

**Donald R. Schregardus**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Environment)