



# U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee

Report to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force  
Washington, D.C.  
*February 23, 2012*

*Photo by: Peter Houk*

# Updates

## **NOC Regional Ocean Partnerships**

- **Pacific Islands Region** – planning initial meeting to develop the partnership
- **Caribbean Region** – Governor's MOU near completion

# Ongoing Initiatives

- **National Ocean Council** – jurisdictions providing comments on the NOP Implementation Plan.
- **U.S. EPA** - Strengthening partnerships and collaboration.
- **Natural Disasters Response** – Support federal agency focus on the issue with development of a network and response plan



# Watershed Restoration Partnership Initiative

- The Guánica Bay Watershed Management Plan – ongoing implementation
- West Maui Watershed Partnership – developing watershed management plan
- “Plus-one” site - Faga’alu, American Samoa – nominated

# Governor Sunia Summer Scholarships

- **Announcements**

- Closing date is February 29, 2012.

- **Pacific Region**

- field-based with USDA/NRCS in Hawaii in June, 2012.

- **Caribbean Region**

- field-based with USFWS in Puerto Rico in June, 2012.

# Micronesia Challenge

- **Adapting to a Changing Climate Outreach Toolkit and Regional Trainings**
  - Toolkits designed to understand climate change concepts and adaptation strategies
- **Revised PIMPAC management planning guidance**
- **4<sup>th</sup> MC Measures Meeting** – reached consensus on regional indicators





# Micronesia Challenge

## MC Communications Working Group

- Redesigned website: [www.micronesiachallenge.org](http://www.micronesiachallenge.org)
- Launched the monthly Micronesia Challenge Newsletter, initially distributed to approximately 25,000 individual email addresses
- MC Young Champions Dispatch, a monthly newsletter of the Young Champions program's blog network



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Micronesia Challenge website. At the top, there is a banner with three images: a clownfish, a young child, and a bird. Below the images is the text "a shared commitment to conserve". To the right of the banner is the logo for "the micronesia CHALLENGE" with the website address "www.micronesiachallenge.org". Below the banner, there is a headline: "at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020." Below the headline, there are three main sections: "THE YC BLOG NETWORK" featuring "the YOUNG champions of micronesia challenge MAIN PAGE" with a description of the blog network and a "the latest news" button; "Governor of CNMI endorses THE CHALLENGE'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE PLAN" with a photo of Governor Benigno Fitial and a link to read his endorsement letter; and "JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!" with a form for email, first name, and last name, and a "submit" button. Below the mailing list form is a "NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES" section listing "February 2012", "January 2012", and "December 2011". At the bottom right, there is a section for "OUR REALITY WEB SERIES" with a red arrow pointing to the right.

at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

THE YC BLOG NETWORK

the YOUNG champions of micronesia challenge  
MAIN PAGE

An awesome collection of blogs and observations by rockin' young men and women in Guam, CNMI, Yap, Chuuk and the Marshalls.

the latest news

02.15 Volume 3 of MC Newsletter released - [read](#)  
01.22 Guam selects 2 new Young Champions - [meet them](#)

Governor of CNMI endorses THE CHALLENGE'S SUSTAINABLE FINANCE PLAN

On February 13, 2012, Governor Benigno Fitial of the CNMI officially endorsed the Micronesia Challenge Sustainable Finance Plan.

Click [here](#) to read Gov. Fitial's endorsement letter.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Email   
First Name   
Last Name   
\*All fields are required. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

February 2012  
January 2012  
December 2011

OUR REALITY WEB SERIES

# U.S. Caribbean

- **Coral Assembly** – Dec. 2011 (PR, USVI, British VI - fostered a spirit of exchange, creative problem solving, and collaboration amongst participants
- **Climate Change Workshop** – Working with stakeholders on climate change issues in U.S. Caribbean. (Nov. 2011)



The Assembly ended with a Regional Solutions panel discussion. Panelists and the audience discussed solutions to the challenges we face and ways we can work together to help each other out, as a region.



# American Samoa



- The Faga'alu Watershed
  - ongoing coral reef management activities
  - significant biological value
  - local community engagement
  - finalizing a Community-based Management Plan.



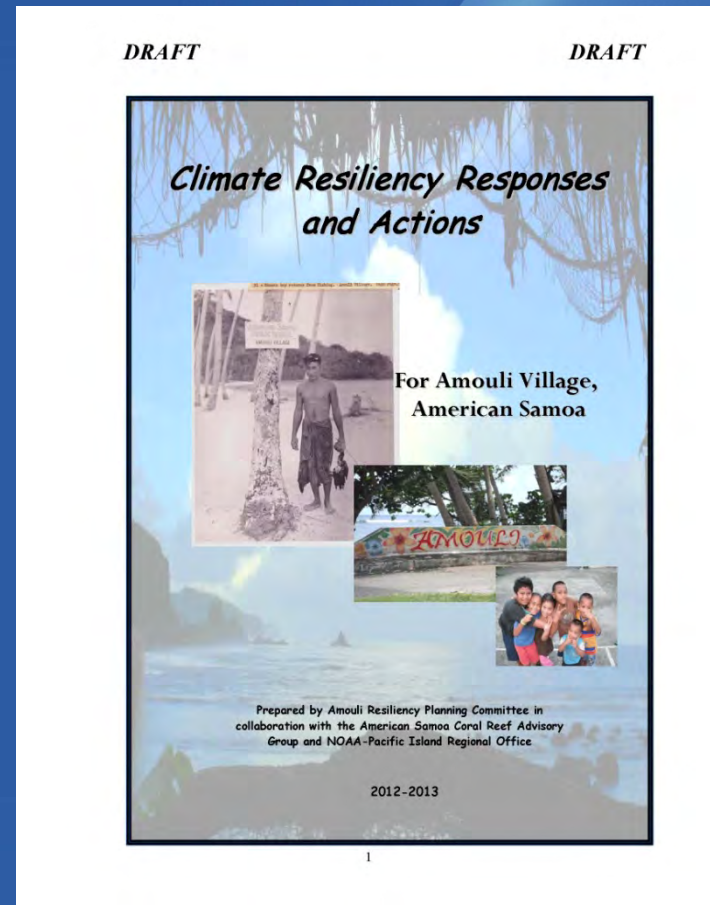
# American Samoa



- **Village-based Climate Change Resiliency Plan**

- The Amouli village planning committee is working with partners from NOAA-PIRO, CRAG and The Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

- a guide for the village to build community-based resilience towards impacts of climate change.





# CNMI



## Launched Garapan Awareness Campaign

- Storm drain markings
- 100+ volunteers
- Business community engaged in BMP installation (e.g., raingardens, recycling, revegetation)





# CNMI



- New interactive coral website
- A tool for the CNMI community

**Coral Reef Initiative**  
Northern Mariana Islands

Welcome

Getting Started

Why Coral Reefs?

Why Monitor?

Learn to Monitor

About The Site

Welcome

**Hafa Adai!**  
Welcome to the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative E-Learning site!

The Northern Mariana Islands are surrounded by coral reef ecosystems. They give us food, enjoyment, economy and protection. For all these reasons, the coral reefs our important to us.

The CNMI's Marine Monitoring Team regularly observes our reefs to track their health. They've collected data from the Northern Islands all the way down to Rota. Their observations (AND, MAYBE YOURS SOMEDAY) have given us a better picture of how well our coral reefs are doing.

<http://learn.cnmicoralreef.com>

# Florida



- 2nd Year of Acroporid monitoring and mapping
- Study sites in FL, Puerto Rico, and USVI.
- Fall 2011: Substantial bleaching/disease impacts, and high predation in FL Keys & Dry Tortugas.



- New FWRI publication shows catastrophic benthic mortality on Patch Reefs in FL Keys.
- Patch Reef corals historically most resistant to stressors

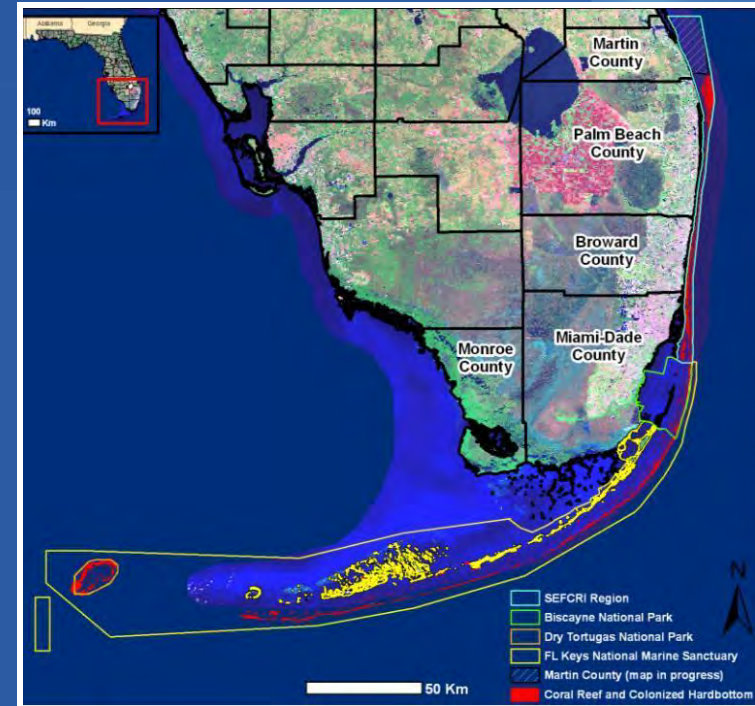




# Florida



- January 2012 - scientists and managers met to integrate and coordinate efforts to monitor reef fish populations.



- This is the first time that a holistic view of fishery independent data will be available for the full Florida Reef Tract.





# Guam

## Community Awareness Campaigns Abound

Environmental Education Committee

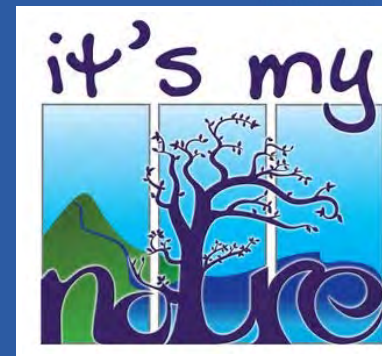
*Tasi – Ready, Set, Snorkel; Ocean Literacy for DOE; Public Safety Brochures*

*Tano – Limestone Forest Trail*

*Hanom – Scavenger Hunt at Masso Reservoir;*

RARE Pride Campaigns

*Na Para I Guafi (Stop the Fires)*





# Guam

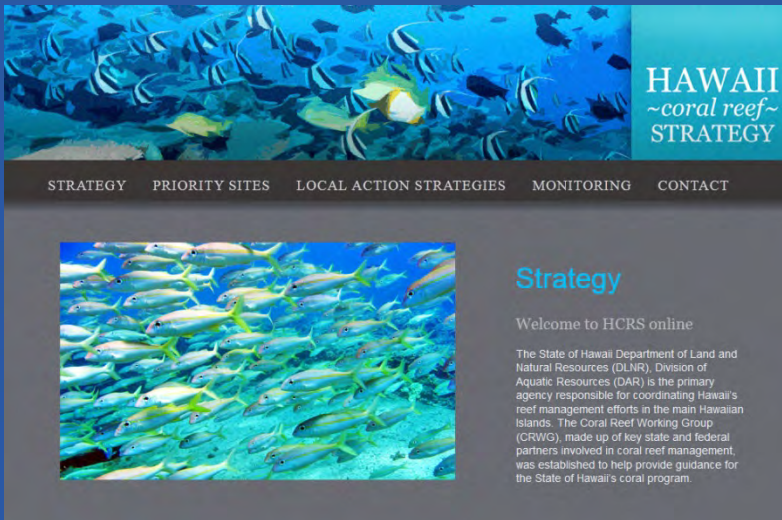
## Comprehensive Long-Term Monitoring

- Benthic assessment studies completed for Tumon Bay, East Agana Bay, and Western Shoals sites
- Water Quality Instrumentation has been purchased and should be deployed later this year





# HAWAII



- ❖ Created a new website for Division of Aquatic Resource's Coral Program to help document current and past projects: [www.hawaiicoralstrategy.com](http://www.hawaiicoralstrategy.com)

- ❖ **Completing Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) for Kahekili, Molokini, Kahoolawe, and South Kohala.**

- Identified targets to protect, current resource status, priority threats and strategies to address those threats.





# HAWAII



- ❖ Working on an online mapping tool of human uses in the coastal areas of West Maui (summer 2012).



- ❖ Completing a report on the efficacy of the Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area (spring 2012).

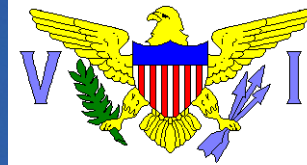


# Puerto Rico

- A bill designating the Isla Verde Reef Reserve.
- Public Hearing held in February 2012 -all entities supported the designation.

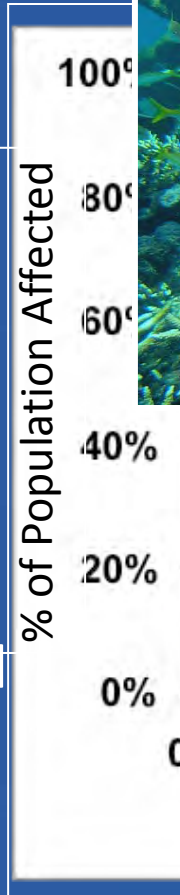






# U.S. Virgin Islands

- TEV of healthy USVI coral reef ecosystems estimated at \$202 Million annually (*unpub. data*)
- Visitors and residents willing to pay to protect
- Long-term monitoring shows clear relationship between increased LBS and declining coral health





# U.S. Virgin Islands



- Implementation of STX East End Watersheds Management Plan
- Project to mitigate 6.4 km of dirt roads in 1,635-acre Solitude watershed will reduce TSS loads into MPAs by 20%
- Project to mitigate a single eroding gut in 1,392-acre Southgate watershed will reduce TSS loads into MPAs by 17%



# Acknowledgments

- **USDA/NRCS and USFWS** - Governor Sunia Summer Internships hosts for 2012.
- **U.S. EPA** – Meeting to strengthen partnerships
- **Natural disaster response issue** – Federal agencies participation
- **Thank you Governor Togiola!** - Leadership on coral reef issues, especially climate change impacts.
- We look forward to the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the U.S. CRTF in American Samoa



[www.allislandscorals.org](http://www.allislandscorals.org)

