

# U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee

Report to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Washington, D.C.  
February 24, 2010

## U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)

- U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC)
- Established in 1994 by the Governors of U.S. state, territory and commonwealth coral reef jurisdictions
- 7 Members -American Samoa, CNMI, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, USVI
- 3 Affiliate Members –FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau
- Provides a unified voice for coral reef conservation

# AIC contd.

- Provides collaborative sharing among jurisdictions to improve protection of coral reef ecosystems, working collaboratively with the USCRTF
- Supports implementation of Local Action Strategies
- Develops policy and provides advocacy for coral reef conservation, outreach and public awareness

# Where can you find the AIC?

- NEW Website: [www.allislandscorals.org](http://www.allislandscorals.org)
- Contact information
- Each jurisdictions accomplishments
- Local Action Strategies
- Coral reef activity news and announcements



## AIC jurisdictions determine and prioritize local threats and local action strategies (LAS):

- Land Based Sources of Pollution, Overfishing & Management, Public Outreach and Education, Recreational Overuse and Misuse, Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, Disease
- Population Pressure –American Samoa
- Aquatic Invasive Species -Hawaii
- Maritime Industry & Coastal Construction Impacts -Florida
- Increasing Development -Guam

# Natural Disaster Recovery

- Critical need to find ways to improve rapid response to natural disasters and restore natural systems.
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Olaf an aid request by American Samoa was rejected by FEMA for non-compliance with the Stafford Act.
- Again disaster assistance was disapproved for American Samoa in the aftermath of the recent tsunami.

# Disaster Recovery contd.

- US policy needs to revisit this issue for coral reef areas and a solution needs to be developed.
- Steering Committee was directed to develop a structure for USCRTF to actively engage in American Samoa tsunami recovery activities.

# Update on Stimulus funding for coral reefs

- **USVI Watershed Stabilization** (St. John and St. Croix)-VI Resource Conservation and Development Council has initiated work in 3 target watersheds.
- Monitoring stations installed to gauge stormwater flow and sediment loads.
- Installation of BMPs to reduce erosion/sedimentation from improperly designed dirt roads.





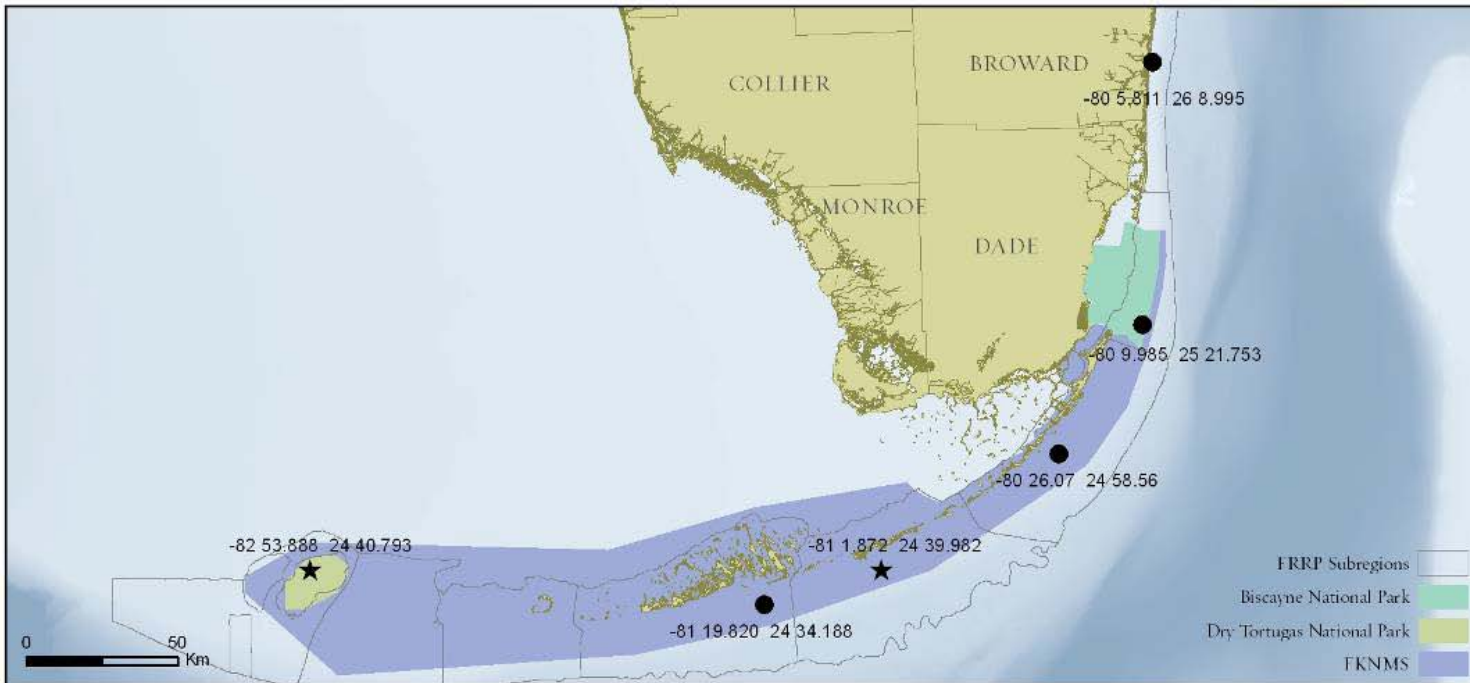
# Stimulus funding for coral reefs contd.

**USVI & FLORIDA**-Threatened Coral Recovery and Restoration – Working with local and national partners, TNC has established coral nurseries for active enhancement of Caribbean staghorn and elkhorn (*Acropora spp.*) corals

## *Goals*

- Restore *Acropora* at 34 degraded reefs in 8 distinct ecosystems.
- Increase local biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services

# Threatened Acroporid Recovery in Florida and the U.S.V.I.



- Existing Nursery
- ★ Expansion Nursery (Approx. Location)



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Prepared by J. E. Knowlton  
Data  
FL Counties (FGDL)  
Zones (RISMAS/INC)  
Shoreline (NOAA)  
Parks (FNAI)

# Stimulus funding for coral reefs

*Laolao Bay Coastal Restoration (Saipan, CNMI)*



- Baseline monitoring coral reef and reef-flats before start of road and drainage improvements.
- Planning for re-vegetation in the upper watershed.
- NOAA: road paving by June 2010. First half mile of road and funding A&E designs for Gapgap Road,
- Redirect remaining funds for:
  - Road grading training for CNMI DPW
  - Installation of bollards
  - Enhancing water quality and coral reef monitoring

# Stimulus funds for Maunalua Bay Invasive Algae Removal

- \$3.4 million was awarded to The Nature Conservancy Hawaii (TNC) to work with the community group Mālama Maunalua to remove 22 acres of the invasive algae *Avrainvillea amadelpha* from Maunalua Bay on Oahu.
- TNC's contractor, Pono Pacific, received more than 450 applications for the 50 jobs created by this project.
- Removal work will start on March 1, and be completed within 12 months.

# Florida's Gold Coast Reefs

- Guidance document for policy makers and resource managers with specific recommendations to reduce pollution and help preserve Florida's reefs
- Developed by the scientists of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative's Land-based Sources of Pollution Technical Advisory Committee
- Apologies from State of Florida for not being able to send a representative to this Task Force meeting

# Roadways Resolution Working Group

- AIC appreciates the efforts of the Working Group to date.
- AIC requests that the DOT and USEPA take over leadership of the working group.
- Report back to the Fall Task Force Meeting.

# Compensatory Mitigation of lost coral reef ecosystem functions

- Military build up in the Marianas Islands.
- AIC requests the development and implementation of guidance, policy and capacity to address compensatory mitigation of lost coral reef ecosystem functions.
- Need for federal resource regulatory agencies to form a working group to develop interim guidance and long-term standards for compensatory mitigation.
- Include local expertise in Guam and the CNMI.

# Recommendations

- Request DOT and USEPA provide leadership for the Roadways Resolution Working Group and report back at the Fall 2010 meeting.
- Request the USCRTF to follow up on active engagement in natural disaster recovery activities, including post-tsunami recovery in American Samoa.
- Request federal resource regulatory agencies to form a working group to develop interim guidance and long-term standards for compensatory mitigation.



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