

# Local Action Strategy Status Report 2002-2006

Presentation to the  
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Washington, DC    March 1, 2007



## Local Action Strategies

- **3-year, locally-led** - outlining goals, objectives and specific projects to address key threats to coral reef ecosystems.
- **Action-oriented** - new work, plus implement parts of existing plans (e.g., non-point pollution)
- **Tool for increasing support and effectiveness** - on-the-ground action to sustain reef resources.
- **Collaborative** - developed jointly by numerous state, territory, federal, and non-gov't partners.



# LAS Status Report – 2002-2006

- Produced by NOAA with substantial input from the All Islands Coral Reef Committee and in cooperation with representatives of the USCRTF Steering Committee
- Report Layout:
  - Introduction and Background
  - Accomplishments
  - Overall Projects and Funding Summary
  - Summary of LAS process in each Jurisdiction
  - Next Steps and Recommendations



## LAS Focus Areas for each Jurisdiction

	AS	CNMI	GU	HI	FL	USVI	PR
<b>Land Pollution</b>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Fishing</b>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Recreation Overuse</b>		◆	◆	◆	*	◆	◆
<b>Lack of Awareness</b>	*	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Disease, Bleaching and Climate</b>	◆		◇	◆			
<b>Other</b>	◆			◆	◆		

◆ Complete and Being implemented

◇ Being developed

\* Included in other LAS

- "Other" LAS include: Population pressure (AS), Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction (FL), and Aquatic Invasive Species (HI)





# LAS Accomplishments

- Brought together individuals from various entities to work together. Hundreds of stakeholders were involved with LAS development and project implementation in each jurisdiction.
- Local agencies have been very successful at leveraging hundreds of thousands of hours in volunteer services and in-kind resources, time and skills for assistance with project implementation.
- Notable progress made to date has been in the areas of:
  - (1) developing new or expanded partnerships among governmental, nongovernmental, and academic institutions, and
  - (2) increasing public outreach and awareness of coral reef issues.



# LAS Accomplishments

## 5 Main Areas of Accomplishments

- Improved Coral Reef Management
- New or Expanded Partnerships or Collaborations to Implement LAS Projects
- Increased Outreach and Public Awareness
- Capacity Building to Address Management Issues
- Increased Understanding of Coral Reef Ecosystems



# LAS Accomplishments

## Improved Coral Reef Management

- In Guam, Eco-permit legislation was enacted to manage activities in Guam's Marine Preserves and a Conservation Officer Enforcement program ensures greater protection for natural resources in the Marine Preserves.
- American Samoa implemented a piggery compliance program including regular stream monitoring, public education & outreach, and facility inspections. Enforcement of environmental and health regulations resulted in reduced leptospirosis risk and declines in e. coli concentrations
- In Hawaii, a new framework for marine managed areas is under development, and
- The U.S. Virgin Islands CZM Commission adopted regulations to implement a management plan for the East End Marine Park on St. Croix. The park regulations are currently pending approval by the USVI Governor's office.





# LAS Accomplishments

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- The CNMI interagency watershed group has been working effectively in for the past few years on watershed protection.
- A partnership was established between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Coral Reef Institute to comprehensively map and initiate long-term monitoring of southeast Florida's reefs.
- In Puerto Rico a partnership between the DNER Coral Reef Initiative and the Puerto Rico Tourism Company produced educational pamphlets for tourists.





# LAS Accomplishments

## Increased Outreach and Public Awareness

- American Samoa's A year-long "Rare Pride" education and outreach campaign was initiated and the marine science program at the local community college was enhanced.
- In the U.S. Virgin Islands, a consortium of coral reef specialists assisted in designing a coral conservation campaign for several major U.S. east coast airports.
- A "Guardians of the Reef" initiative was launched in Guam to engage high school juniors and seniors in delivering coral reef education programs to elementary classes.
- The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative sponsored a series of workshops for the local marine tourism industry to encourage sustainable marine tourism.



# LAS Accomplishments

## Local Capacity to address Management Issues

- In Hawaii a number of effective workshops were held to address various threats to coral reef ecosystems including innovative technologies for stormwater and wastewater management and watershed protection.
- Puerto Rico held a commercial and recreational fisher's workshop and enforcement training for coral reef protection.
- The CNMI successfully hosted a summer internship program to introduce college students to natural resource careers and provide hands-on experience in coral reef resource management.



# LAS Accomplishments

## Improved understanding of coral reef ecosystems

- The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative in partnership with the University of Central Florida, College of Charleston, Broward County Environmental Protection Department and Haereticus Laboratories completed the first phase of a biomarker study aimed at linking land-based sources of pollution to coral reef degradation.
- The Coral Reef Advisory Group in American Samoa completed development of a long-term territorial monitoring program and is working to create a research field station to focus on coral resilience.
- The Hawaii aquatic invasive species team completed a series of surveys and is designing control techniques to better understand and address detrimental impacts of invasive species on Hawaii's reefs.





## Costs and Commitments:

	Total Cost	Project Numbers
Implementation Commitments to Date	<b>\$25.0 million</b> (40%)	<b>493</b> (65%)
Additional Funding Needed	<b>\$36.8 million</b> (60%)	<b>243</b> (32%)
Project Totals	<b>\$61.8 million</b>	<b>760</b>

\* Does not include projects for which costs have not been assigned.

\* Includes >\$20 million in capitol improvement and long term water quality monitoring projects





## Funding breakdown by LAS Threat Area

	Total Cost	Funding Received	Funding Needed
Fishing <sup>a</sup>	\$12,307,122	\$6,937,626	\$5,369,496
Land-based Pollution	\$32,466,630	\$10,085,175	\$22,381,455
Recreational Use	\$2,391,500	\$1,688,000	\$703,500
Awareness	\$3,055,191	\$2,449,365	\$704,631
Disease, Bleaching and Climate	\$5,243,480	\$227,743 <sup>b</sup>	\$5,015,746
Other	\$6,323,333	\$3,617,055	\$2,706,278
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,787,255*</b>	<b>\$24,622,845</b>	<b>\$36,881,105</b>



## Where has current funding come from?

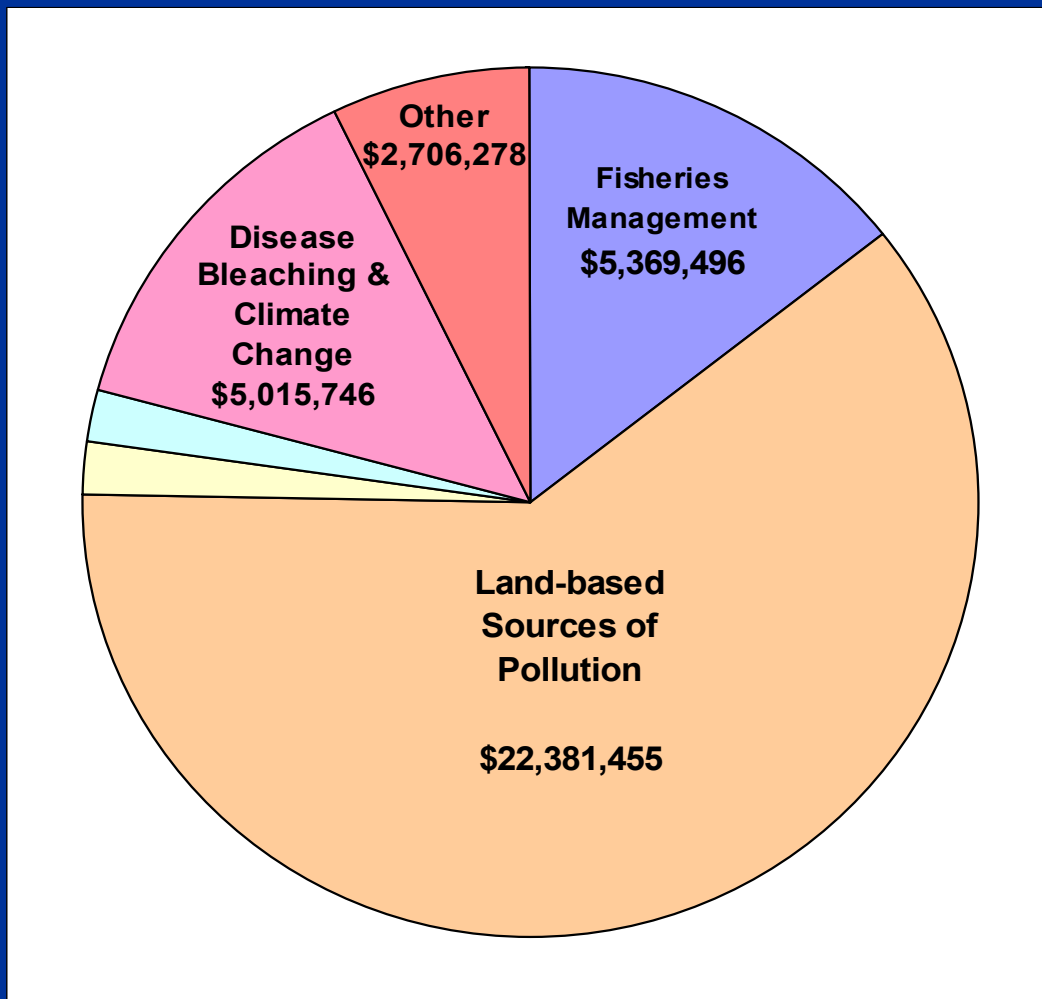
- Federal Agencies

NOAA, DOI, EPA, USDA, DOJ, U.S. Forest Service, USGS

- State/Territory and County agencies
- Universities and Research Institutes
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Private Corporations
- Foundations



## Total amount of funding still needed for each LAS focus area – all Jurisdictions



## Examples of Unfunded Land-based Sources of Pollution LAS projects

- CNMI – Implement Laulau Bay road and drainage improvements to reduce erosion and sedimentation - \$2.8 million
- Guam – Piti/Asan Watershed Restoration and management Enhancement - \$600,000
- Hawaii – Honolulu ecosystem restoration project - \$4.5 million;
- Florida – Quantify amount and flow rate of pollution transported by groundwater to coastal waters - \$1.1million
- Puerto Rico – Land acquisition for watershed protection (priority areas identified by DNER) - \$5 million
- American Samoa – Construction of a Territorial marine lab and field station (Climate Change LAS) - \$4.5 million





## Challenges and Next Steps

- Limited capacity of local institutions to manage activities that impact reefs continues to pose a major challenge, particularly in territorial jurisdictions.
- Almost \$37 million is still needed to complete the first phase of LAS projects
- There is a continuing need for greater USCRTF Federal agency engagement and participation in LAS initiative – in particular, increased support at the local level.
- New guidance for the next generation of LAS projects has been developed and includes evaluation of previous LAS efforts and assessment of local capacity needed to continue LAS project development and implementation.



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