



## Current and Recent Science at Flower Garden Banks NMS Updated December 2010



### ON THE CORAL CAP

#### CORAL:

1. Coral recruitment – Sarah Davies, University of Calgary
2. Fossil reef studies – FGBNMS; Bill Precht, FKNMS
3. Occurrence and characterization of invasive orange cup coral (*Tubastraea* sp.) – Tonya Shearer, Georgia Institute of Technology

#### CRITTERS:

4. Occurrence of Elasmobranchs at FGBNMS – FGBNMS (continuation of work by Jeff Childs)
5. Manta ray census and individual identification – FGBNMS (continuation of work by Jeff Childs); Rachel Graham, World Conservation Society; Marissa Nuttall, FGBNMS
6. Whale sharks: occurrence of individuals using spot patterns – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society
7. Satellite tagging of whale sharks – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society; FGBNMS
8. Acoustic tagging of elasmobranchs – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society; FGBNMS
9. Fish cleaning behavior – Mary Wicksten, Texas A&M University
10. Crustaceans of FGBNMS – Mary Wicksten, Texas A&M University
11. SEAMAP – Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program: Assessment of fish populations on reefs and banks in the Gulf of Mexico – Kevin Rademacher, NMFS Pascagoula
12. Genetics of the spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus* – John Hunt, Florida Wildlife and Fisheries Service
13. Fish recruits on the reefs at FGBNMS – Lynn Wetmore and Jay Rooker, Texas A&M University Galveston
14. Spawning aggregations in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS/NCCOS
15. Population Structure of the Bearded Fireworm *Hermodice carunculata* in the Northern Gulf of Mexico – Anja Schulze, Texas A&M University Galveston

#### ALGAE:

16. Examination of Flower Garden reef for toxic benthic dinoflagellates – Tracy Villareal, University of Texas Marine Science Institute
17. Ecology of Ciguatera Dinoflagellates – Steve Kibler, NCCOS

### MONITORING

18. Stetson Bank Long Term Monitoring – FGBNMS
19. East and West Bank Long Term Monitoring – FGBNMS; BOEMRE; Texas A&M University Galveston
20. Fish and Benthic Habitat characterization of FGBNMS – NCCOS Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment; FGBNMS

### BELOW THE CORAL CAP

21. Characterization and assessment of deepwater habitat of FGBNMS – FGBNMS

22. Characterization and assessment of topographic features of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS
23. Gorgonians and antipatharians of FGBNMS and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS
24. Characterization of Antipatharians of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – Marissa Nuttall, FGBNMS and Texas A&M University Galveston; Dennis Opresko, Smithsonian Institute
25. Characterization of the deepwater sponges of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – Christi Savarese, FGBNMS; Klaus Ruetzler, Smithsonian Institute
26. Deepwater coral reef communities of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS
27. Genetics of select Antipatharians – Carlos Umana and Juan Sanchez, Universidad de los Andes; Mercer Brugler, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
28. Mesophotic coral health and genetic connectivity assessment in the Tropical Western Atlantic – Josh Voss, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

## **GEOLOGY**

29. High resolution multibeam bathymetry of FGBNMS and the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS; Jim Gardner, USGS/University of New Hampshire; NOAA

## **OCEANOGRAPHY**

30. Dead Zone – Steve DiMarco, Texas A&M University
31. Current - Topography Interaction and its Influence on Water Quality and Contaminant Transport over Shelf-Edge Banks – William Teague, Naval Research Laboratory

## **Government Acronyms:**

FGBNMS - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

FKNMS - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

MMS - Minerals Management Service

NCCOS - National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ONMS - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

USGS - U.S. Geological Survey

For more information, contact Emma Hickerson – [Emma.Hickerson@noaa.gov](mailto:Emma.Hickerson@noaa.gov)