

# NOAA CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Healthy coral reefs are among the most biologically diverse, culturally significant, and economically viable ecosystems on Earth, providing billions of dollars in services, including fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection to people around the world. However, they face a multitude of threats. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program is leading efforts to protect, conserve, and restore these resources for current and future generations.

Established in 2000 by the Coral Reef Conservation Act, the Coral Program uses a resilience-based management approach, focused on conservation that supports the ability of corals to withstand and recover from stress. This approach brings together expertise from across NOAA and other federal agencies, state and territorial governments, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations to address existing and emerging issues. Focal areas include climate change, land-based sources of pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, disease, and coral restoration. Visit the website at [coralreef.noaa.gov](https://coralreef.noaa.gov) to learn more.

## Office for Coastal Management

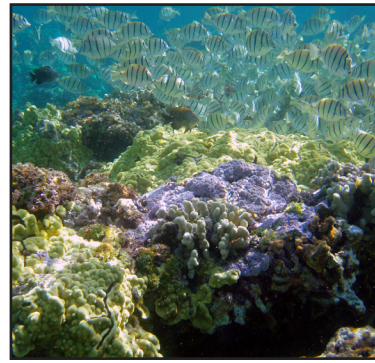
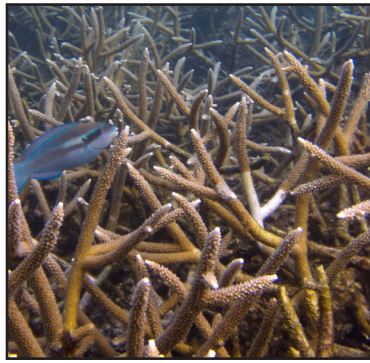
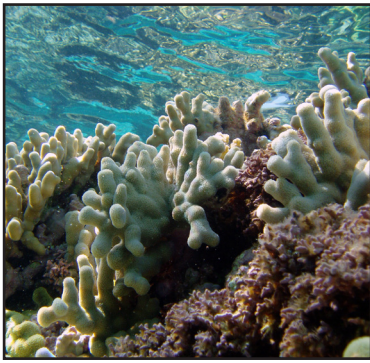
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

### Across the Country, Around the World

The program funds and equips conservation activities in

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Florida
- Guam
- Hawai'i
- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Pacific Remote Islands Area
- Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
- Internationally, including the Coral Triangle, Micronesia, South Pacific, and wider Caribbean





## CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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### Conservation Strategy

The Coral Reef Conservation Program delivers sound scientific information and tools that marine resource managers and decision-makers need to effectively address threats and conserve and restore coral reef ecosystems. The approach includes

- Taking into account the important connections coral reefs have to the lands they surround and the coastal communities and economies they support;
- Funding cutting-edge science each year to support effective ecosystem-based management, including work supported by our grant and cooperative program; and
- Collaborating with NOAA scientists, state and territorial governments, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups. These partnerships are essential to effective management and conservation of coral reef ecosystems that span local, state, and federal authorities.

### Core Conservation Activities

Using strong partnerships, core “ridge-to-reef” science and conservation activities include

- The National Coral Reef Monitoring program, a unique and progressive monitoring program that includes biological, climatic, and human connections components of coral reef systems.
- Forecasting and modeling of oceanographic conditions, coral bleaching and disease, runoff, and more;
- Capacity-building efforts, including training and workshops, to help local, state, and federal partners implement projects that address threats and restore habitats;
- Support of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and others, which build partnerships and strategies to conserve coral reefs worldwide.
- Strategic communications and outreach to policymakers, decision-makers, fellow scientists and managers, and the conservation-minded public.
- Coral reef ecosystem mapping to locate key habitats and inform conservation actions.

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Coral Reef Conservation Program  
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