

U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee

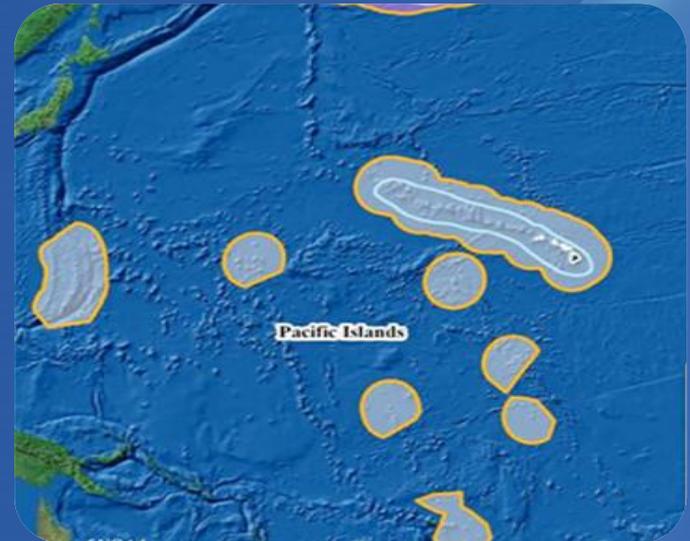
Report to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
Pago Pago, American Samoa
August 22, 2012

Photo by: P=nyce

UPDATES

Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP)

- ❖ PROP Agreement
- ❖ Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership – MOU signed
- ❖ Regional Planning Body representatives appointed for CNMI, Guam and Hawaii



PACIFIC LEADERS STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORAL REEFS

- Micronesian Chief Executives resolution and statement – March 2012
- Association of Pacific Island Legislatures – 2012
- Scientific Consensus Statement – July 2012
- Polynesian Leaders Group resolution and statement – August 2012



PENDING ESA CORAL LISTING

- ❖ AIC concerns expressed
- ❖ Climate change is primary threat to corals
- ❖ ESA listing is not right tool for managing corals with respect to the risks of climate change
- ❖ Section 7 consultation with NMFS would create tremendous burden to jurisdictions and public



DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESPONSE

- ❖ USCRTF focus to develop a process to deal with responses to support coral reef recovery
- ❖ Look forward to future collaboration on disaster recovery with PRiMO and other partners



WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ Appreciate support from the USCRTF for the three watershed partnerships in Guanica, Puerto Rico, West Maui and Faga'alu
- ❖ Needs multi-year commitment to achieve desired outcomes



GOVERNOR SUNIA SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

- ❖ Thanks to USDA/NRCS and USFWS for hosting Governor Sunia Summer Internships.
- ❖ Also thanks to DOI/OIA for funding to double the number of interns this year
- ❖ Encourage USCRTF to continue support for this internship program



Micronesia Challenge

- ❖ MC Sustainable Financing Plan endorsed
- ❖ One Micronesia Campaign
- ❖ Rare launches 11 Micronesia-wide campaign for marine and terrestrial resources



one A Campaign to Conserve Our Shared Resources
MICRONESIA

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First Stewards

- Symposium on effects of climate change on how to protect our coral reefs
- AIC endorses the continuation of future symposiums.



AMERICAN SAMOA



- ❖ Reef Resilience workshop in June 50+ people attended
- ❖ Learned about and provided feedback on the Assessment and Rapid Reef Response Plan



AMERICAN SAMOA



Faga'alu Watershed Management Plan

- ❖ Faga'alu in producing its Conservation / Management Plan for the village watershed.
- ❖ Community is in the final stages of the participatory process, and implementation of the plan.



CNMI

Reef Resiliency Study



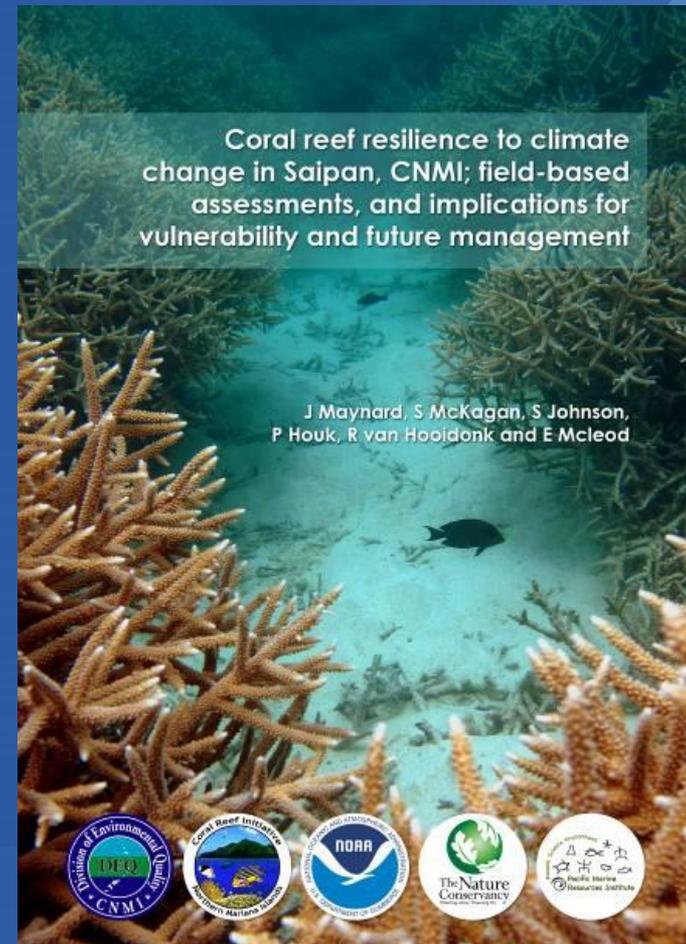
- A partnership with local, federal and contracted partners
- Examined the relative resiliency of 11 different parameters at 35 locations around Saipan
- Ranked each site based on resiliency





DEVELOPMENT OF A BLEACHING RESPONSE & ACTION PLAN

- ❖ Developed to instill the importance of resilience.
- ❖ Provides the CNMI with two critical tools:
 - 1) A system/network for the public & private sectors of the community to communicate during bleaching season
 - 2) A protocol that would best protect our coral reefs during their most fragile & sensitive state.



FLORIDA



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary & FWS Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuges

- ❖ Public scoping meetings held for FKNMS Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review including FWS Backcountry Management Plans

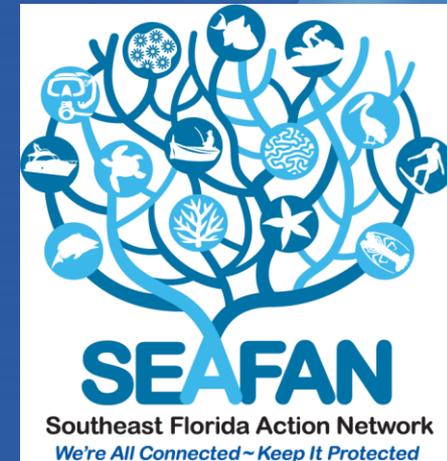
FLORIDA



- ❖ New Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) Project Launched: Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN)

“We’re All Connected, Keep It Protected”

www.SEAFAN.net



- ❖ State of Florida regulations for “Marine Life” and octocoral species extended into Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to Florida



GUAM



- ❖ Biocriteria for coral reef ecosystem health indices.
- ❖ *Ridge to Reef* included in Guam Department of Education science courses.
- ❖ Long-term Monitoring
- ❖ Cultural Perpetuation



GUAM

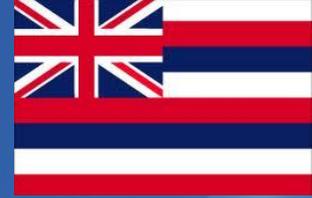


- ◆ Formalize CRI Coordinating and Advisory Committee
- ◆ Active, rather than adaptive management of coral reef ecosystems

- Eddie Baza Calvo
Governor of Guam



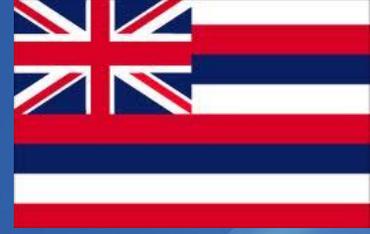
HAWAII



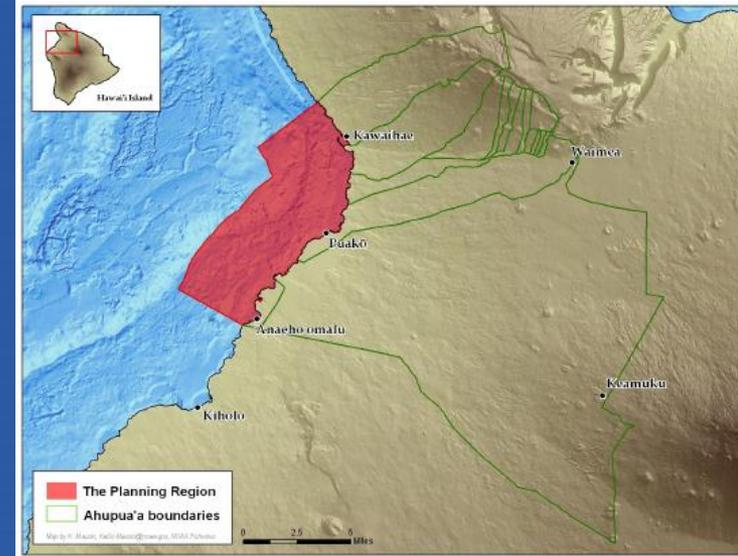
- ❖ State of Hawai`i, Department of Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a cost-share agreement (Aug 2012) to start the planning process for the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative.
- ❖ West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative marks one of the first large scale interagency collaboration efforts in the State to address impacts to coral reefs across multiple watersheds



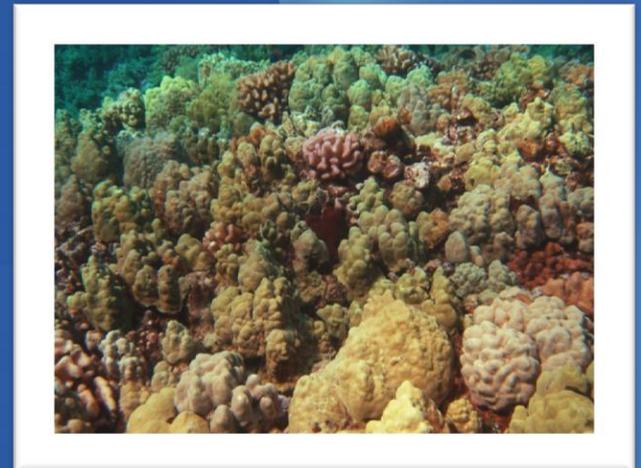
HAWAII



❖ State of Hawai`i, Department of Land and Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii South Kohala Conservation Action Plan (SKCAP).



❖ Working with local stakeholders to develop priority conservation strategies that reflect ecosystem-level connections that affect coral reefs.



PUERTO RICO

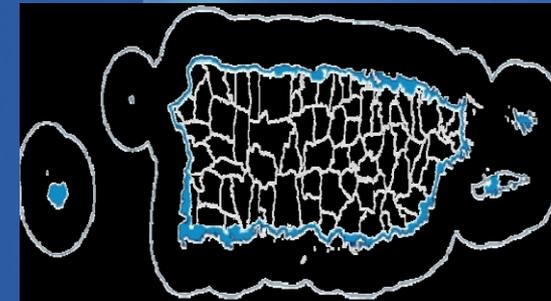


- Joint watershed Partnership continues in Guánica-Río Loco (Loco River)
- Funds identified to request federal and state permits in order to carry out the removal of large structures in the Loco River – a project identified in the Guánica Management Plan.
- Research and monitoring by NOAA and EPA continues
- Culebra Island Watershed – management plan in development with NOAA funding

PUERTO RICO



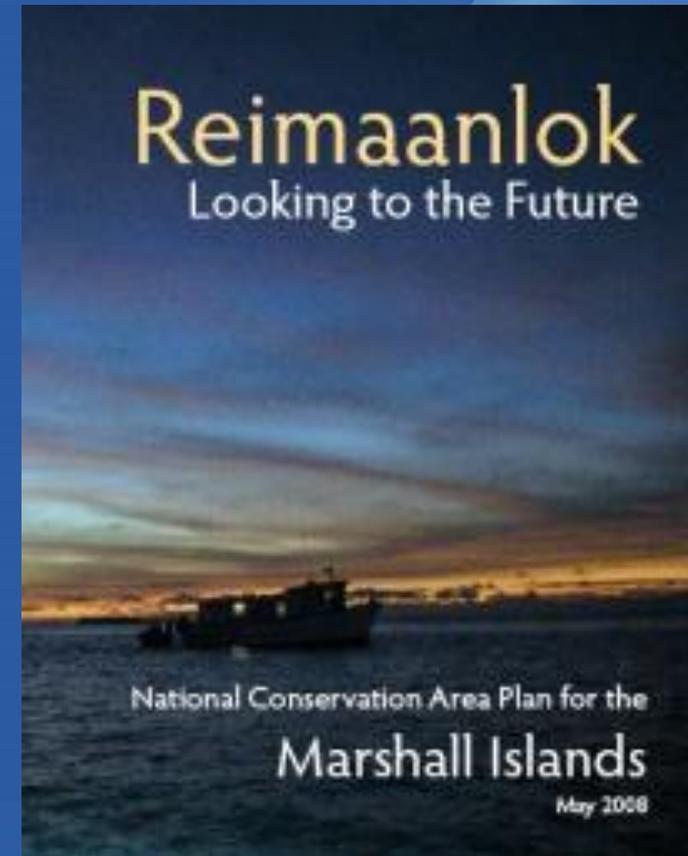
- ❖ Vulnerability Determination and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change
- ❖ Public perception study about climate change and natural hazards and vulnerability was conducted by DNER, Sea Grant and NOAA.
- ❖ DNER and other Puerto Rico partners are active players in the CARICOOS team, <http://www.caricoos.org>, where ocean carbon dioxide (CO₂) is monitored and other oceanographic products are shared.



Republic of the Marshall Islands



- The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) and the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) sponsored and deliver the third marine conservation certificate program for outer islands.
- The Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) plans visit to northernmost uninhabited atolls to conduct marine and terrestrial surveys.
- The CMAC through its various partners are continuing progress in coral reef conservation through the empowerment of communities and establishment of locally managed marine/terrestrial areas within the Reimaanlok engagement process
- A field guide based on the Reimaanlok process will be published and distributed



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urge the USCRTF to continue multi-year support for watershed partnerships
- Encourage continued commitment to capacity building in jurisdictions
- Encourage USCRTF support for completion of guidance for mitigation - Reef Managers Handbook

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thanks to DOI/OIA, USDA/NRCS and USFWS for funding and hosting 2012 Governor Sunia Summer Internships
- Appreciation of Governor Togiola's leadership as the longest standing active Governor in the USCRTF

www.allislandscorals.org

