

Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG)

- Re-established as a result of *Resolution 28.2 Coral Reefs and Climate Change Renewed Call to Action* passed in 2012, American Samoa.
 - “Expand and coordinate education and outreach efforts focused on the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on coral reefs.....”
- Supporting Resolution 25.1, organizing outreach activities advancing information sharing on topics involving trans-jurisdictional issues.
- Chairs (NASA and A. Samoa) selected during the February 2013 USCRTF Meeting in Washington DC.
 - Monthly conference calls
 - Organized the educational activities for USCRTF meetings in St Croix (2013) and Maui (2014).

Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) – St Croix, USVI, 2013

- **2013 Sunia Fellows** conducted a **presentation at a local school**, to approximately 75 students and teachers, on the projects they completed during their internship, obtaining experience via on- the-job training, and encouraged students to pursue science careers.
- **Panel discussion at the U. of the Virgin Islands** where the **Watershed Coordinators** from each of the three USCRTF Priority Watersheds gave presentations to students, professors, and community members. Each Coordinator gave an overview of ongoing projects, and fielded questions from the audience about effective watershed management.
- **Dr. Robert Richmond** from the **University of Hawaii** closed the panel discussion with a presentation on **nutrient and poor management effects on coral reef health worldwide**.
- Team presentation on coral bleaching was given by **Mark Eakin, NOAA Coral Reef Watch Coordinator** and **Zandy Hillis-Starr, Chief of Resource Management and Research, National Park Service, St. Croix**. **Global and local perspectives on coral bleaching** were presented to a large crowd, including USCRTF participants and community members during the monthly community lecture series event.

Experiences and Lessons Learned of Two SUNIA Interns in Puerto Rico



The USCRTF Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Coral Reef Conservation Summer Internship is in recognition of the late Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia for his outstanding leadership and contribution to the conservation of coral reef ecosystems throughout the Pacific region and U.S. coral reef jurisdictions. The internship provides students with career-enhancing experience in coral reef conservation and management initiatives in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. Join us as two of the Program Interns share their experiences working on the conservation and management of the Guánica Watershed in Southwest Puerto Rico.



Where: Good Hope Country Day School

Date: Thursday, November 14th, 2013

Time: 9:00am

Speakers: Silmarie Padrón (USFWS) and the SUNIA Interns



A Ridge to Reef Approach: Discussing the Science and Management of US Coral Reef Priority Watershed Sites

Join one of Hawaii's leading coral reef researchers Dr. Robert Richmond as he shares insights from his work around the globe about the connection between watershed health and that of coral reef ecosystems. Connect with US Coral Reef Task Force watershed coordinators from American Samoa, Hawaii and Puerto Rico as they share their challenges, successes, and varied circumstances of the sites they work in, unified by the shared goal of reducing pollution from the land as a means of restoring coral health in presently declining marine systems. The discussion to follow presents an opportunity for attendees to share observations and suggestions from lessons learned in the US Virgin Islands and elsewhere.

Where: University of the Virgin Islands
(Room 401 – The Auditorium)

Date: Thursday, November 14th, 2013

Time: 10:30am

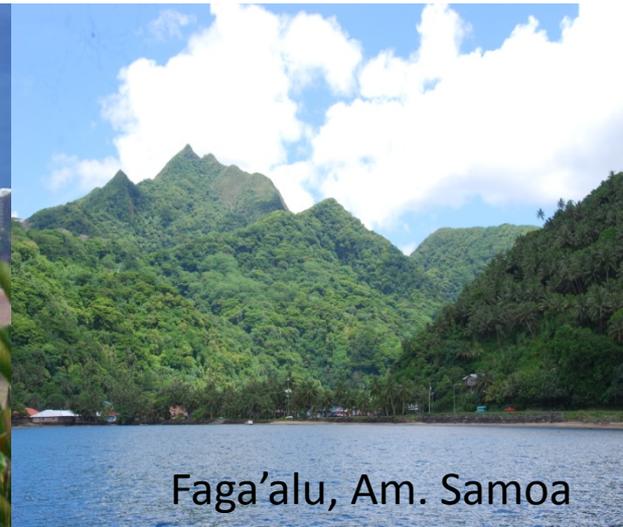
Speakers: Dr. Robert Richmond (Univ. Hawai'i)
Watershed Managers: Roberto Viqueira (Guánica),
Tova Callender (West Maui), Kristine Bucchianeri
(Faga'alu)



Guánica, PR



West Maui, HI



Faga'alu, Am. Samoa

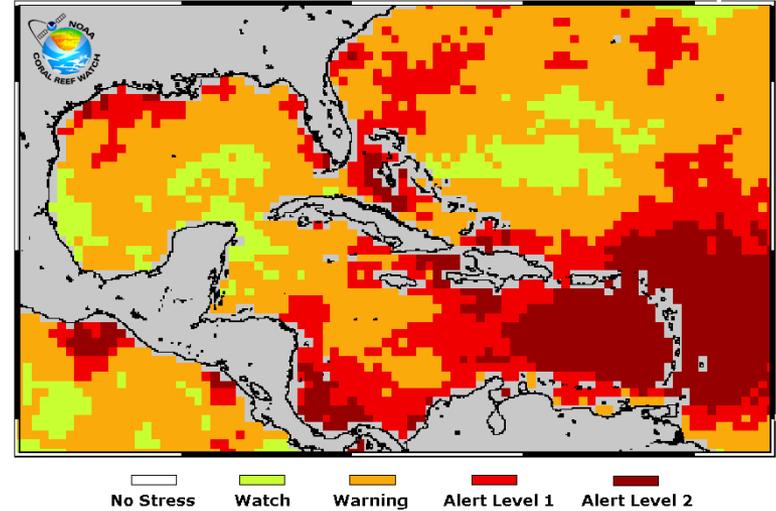


Coral Bleaching in Times of Climate Change and Local Effects in the USVI



Increased sea surface temperatures during the past decades have led to several massive coral reef bleaching events worldwide, particularly in the Caribbean Region. Join Mark Eakin, NOAA Coral Reef Watch Coordinator as he shares information about coral bleaching causes, effects and their relationship with climate change. Then Zandy Hillis-Starr, Resource Manager at St. Croix's National Park Service Sites will follow with an overview of how bleaching has and will continue to affect the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Annual Maximum Satellite Coral Bleaching Alert Area 2005



Speakers:

Dr. C. Mark Eakin (NOAA)

Dr. Zandy Hillis-Starr (NPS)

Where: Christiansted NHS Fort Christiansvaern
NPS Headquarters Bldg, DWI Guinea Company Warehouse
2100 Church Street, #100
Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820
Date: Thursday, November 14th, 2013
Time: 5:30pm

NPS will provide parking this presentation in Fort Christiansvaern Parking Lot across the street. Please enter either from Company Street entrance or at the rear of the building through courtyard. Public Meeting space is on the ground floor.

Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) – St Croix, USVI, 2013



Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) – Maui, HI, 2014

- **Herbivore grazer underwater survey was conducted at Kahekili Beach Park** in coordination with the **DLNR –DAR’s “Eye’s on the Reef Program”**. Participants during this site visit were able to take part in a survey of the Kahekili Reef, to assist with ongoing research to determine the effect on the reef when herbivore fishing is banned. Participants snorkeled to collect data including herbivore species, behavior, and depth, after receiving a briefing by the DAR staff. A total of 18 people participated in this activity.
- **Hokuala Johnson** of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument talked about how **Google Street View is educating the world about the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands**.
- **Susan White**, Superintendent of the Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge and Monuments Complex talked about the **removal of shipwrecks and reef restoration taking place at Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef Refuges**.
- Personnel from the **Pacific Science Center and the NOAA Educational Council** demonstrated several **educational products available for K-12** teachers. Each of these activities was attended by more than 80 people.

US Coral Reef Task Force

Education and Outreach Working Group

Herbivore Grazer Reef Survey



- Herbivores are an extremely important ecological group in coral reef ecosystems. They control algal overgrowth that otherwise kills the coral colonies.
- Overfishing has greatly diminished the size, diversity and quantity of reef fish and shellfish populations worldwide, including in our Hawaiian reefs.
- Join us on a Herbivore Grazer Reef Survey organized by the Education and Outreach Working Group of the Coral Reef Task Force. Come and learn about the dominant herbivore species at Kahekili Reef and at the same time contribute on surveying the area as part of the monitoring efforts to preserve these magnificent species!

Kahekili Beach Park, Maui, HI

When: Tuesday, Sept 9, 2014

Time: 9:00-11:00am (hotel shuttle leaves at 9:00am)

What to bring: snorkeling equipment, skin suit, snacks, water, sun screen, towels

**US Coral Reef Task Force
Education and Outreach Working
Group
Evening Community
Presentation**

The Pacific Islands Reef Refuges contain the most widespread coral reef and seabird protected areas under a single jurisdiction on Earth. They are home to hundreds of ecologically important marine species, including threatened or endangered. President Obama announced this past June the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Join us on Tuesday, September 9th, 2014 as Susan White, Superintendent of the Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge and Monuments Complex will talk about this and other important events already taking place for the protection of these important ecosystems!



In addition, we will have a tour of the Kō'ie'ie Fishpond led by the Sanctuary's volunteers before the Community Presentation!



Also, you can interact with personnel of the Pacific Sciences Center and the NOAA Educational Council who will demonstrate some of their awesome educational products to the participants!

Where: Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in Kihei
Time: 5:30-8:30pm (buses will leave The Westin Maui @ 5:30 and 5:40pm)

Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) – DC, 2015

- The two **Puerto Rico 2014 Sunia Fellows** will have the opportunity to **present their projects** during the next USCRTF Meeting in DC in February 2015.
- Evening presentation “Beauty (coral) and the Beat (ocean warming)” at the **DC Science Writers Association Science Café by Mark Eakin** on thermal stress on coral reefs and the new 5-km high spatial resolution thermal stress and coral bleaching products available from the NOAA Coral Reef Watch Program. Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Busboys and Poets, 5th and K St. NW.