



# U.S. Activities in Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Wider Caribbean

## NOAA and the US Coral Reef Task Force



# U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

## Co-Chairs:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)

## Federal Agency Members

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of State (DOS)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)

## Caribbean State and Territory Members

- Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

# US Department of Agriculture

## U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative

- NRCS matching up to \$250,000 to CRTF partners to enhance NGO capacity in Guanica Bay, Puerto Rico
- NOAA providing \$550,000 in 2010

## Jobos Bay Special Emphasis Watershed Study

- Collaborative partnership to highlight interactions between upland and coastal ecosystems
- USDA assisting landowners with the application of conservation practices
- NOAA providing Summit to Sea modeling, maps and GIS data





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Global FISH Alliance

## **Sustainable Lobster Initiative – Honduras and Nicaragua**

- Reform the spiny lobster fishery
- Catalyze reform from within the system
  - Use social change methodologies
- Adopt best fisheries practices
  - Reduce illegal and undersized fishing
- Reform labor practices (diving)
- Utilize market leverage through public-private partnerships (major exporters to US)





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## **Eastern Caribbean Program – builds upon OECS**

1. Development of marine zoning plans
2. Improving enabling policies, supporting legislation and regulations for conserving coastal and marine resources
3. Community participation, strengthening of market based economic activities
4. Improved management of marine protected areas
5. Biodiversity Awareness and Education

# NOAA National Ocean Service Caribbean Strategy

## Priority Activities

NOS will collaborate with Caribbean partners to:

- Facilitate the development of a regional observation network
- Strengthen partnerships to address land base sources of pollution
- Promote capacity for coastal management and MPAs



NOS International Engagement



# MPA Partnerships and Support

## NOAA MPA Center

- National MPA System
- North American MPA Network (NAMPAN)

## NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

- Sister Sanctuary Program
- Capacity Training
- Climate Smart MPAs
- MOU with Agence des aires marine protégées (AAMP)





# MPA Capacity Building Programs

## NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries

<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING</b>	
MPA-101 Training	8-14 days training for MPA practitioners, key stakeholders and government officials
Planning for Sustainable Tourism in MPAs	7, 10 or 14 day training courses for MPA practitioners (may include tourism stakeholders)
Planning for Sustainable Fisheries in MPAs	10-day training for MPA practitioners (advised to include fisheries stakeholders)
Planning for Climate Changes in the Coastal and Marine Environment	10-day training for MPA and coastal managers and hazard managers
Marine Spatial Planning	10-day training for MPA managers and planners
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
MPA Management Plan Development	10-day hands-on workshop on management planning process
Developing Network-wide Monitoring Programs	5-day workshop for MPA researchers and science teams
Developing Network-wide Education and Outreach Programs	5-day workshop for MPA educators
Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Program Design	4-day workshop for MPA Capacity Building team
Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment	3-day mini workshop to introduce principles
<b>SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR MENTORS (Training of Trainers)</b>	
Facilitation Training	3-day skill development for mentors
Conflict Resolution Training	3-day skill development for mentors
Communication Skills	2-day skill development for mentors
Interactive, Participatory Training and Skills	2-day skill development for mentors



# NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

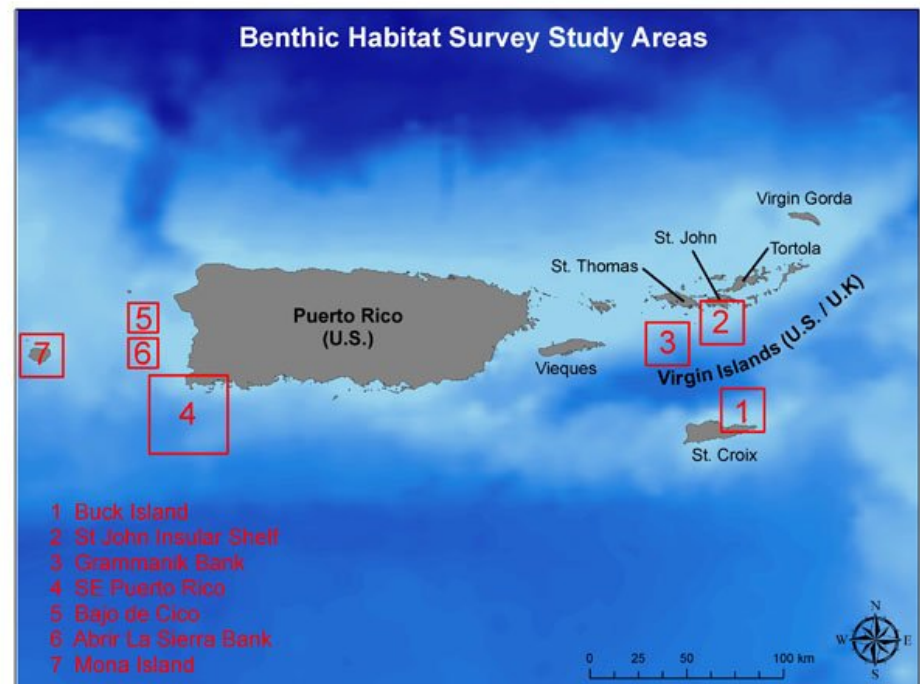
- Mapping, Monitoring and Assessments
- Watershed and MPA Management
- Response and Restoration
- International Activities



NOAA  
**CORAL REEF**  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

# Biogeography Branch, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

- Benthic habitat mapping
- Reef fish ecology studies
- Species' habitat suitability modeling
- Biogeographic and ecological assessments
- Designing and evaluating the efficacy of MPAs
- Marine spatial planning for resource assessment
- Coral reef ecosystem monitoring





# Ongoing/Pending Caribbean Projects

- Benthic Habitat Mapping for National Park Service, St. Croix , USVI
- Benthic Habitat Mapping of St. John, USVI National Park and Virgin Islands Reef National Monument
- Baseline Assessment of Guanica Bay, PR in Support of Watershed Restoration
- Marine Debris Assessment of Derelict Fishing Traps in USVI
- Conservation Effects Assessment Project, Jobos Bay, PR
- Ecological Characterization of the Marine Resources of Vieques, PR
- Comprehensive U.S. Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project
- NOAA Fisheries Caribbean Essential Fish Habitat
- Seafloor Characterization of the U.S. Caribbean



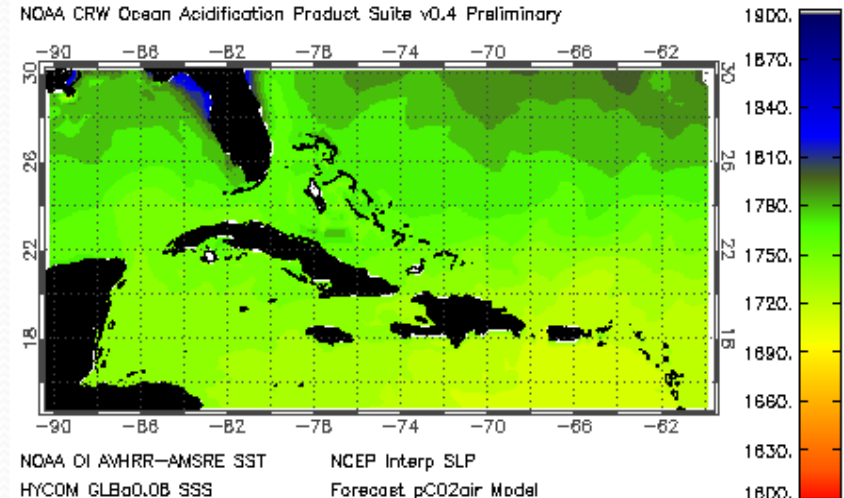


# NOAA Coral Reef Watch

- Climate Change Workshops
- Ocean acidification tracking for the Greater Caribbean
- UNEP report chapter: An Overview of Modeling Climate Change Impacts in the Caribbean Region with contribution from the Pacific Islands

## Ocean Acidification Product Suite (Version 0.2)

NOAA CRW HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (umol/kg) Composite for: DEC 2009  
NOAA CRW Ocean Acidification Product Suite v0.4 Preliminary



# Response and Restoration

- Lionfish Response: Early detection and rapid response strategies and larval dispersal models
- Vessel Groundings
  - 50 reported groundings on coral reefs in Puerto Rico and USVI in 2009
  - 590' Oil Tanker Port Stewart, October 27, 2009
  - 920' LNG Carrier Suez Matthew, December 15, 2009
- Acropora Recovery Plan: Draft available for public comment, early 2010





# Watershed and MPA Management

## Puerto Rico and USVI

- LBSP: NOAA supports capacity building, project implementation, and watershed planning:
  - Guanica, PR, East End St Croix Marine Park, USVI
  - Project Design and Evaluation Training
- State & Territory Coral Reef Management Grants: Staff and support for new and existing MPAs.

## Management Priority Setting

Two step process for all jurisdictions:

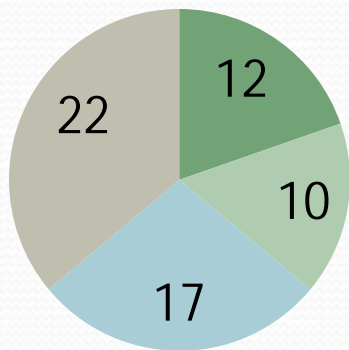
- Develop coral reef management priorities (2009 – early 2010)
- Assess capacity to implement these priorities (2010 – 2011)





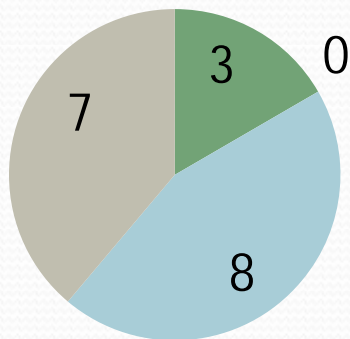
# Florida Draft Coral Reef Management Priorities

## Objectives

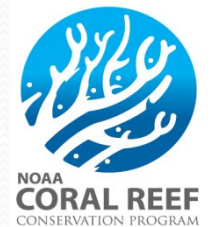


- integrated reef management
- impacts of climate change
- lbsp
- fishing, diving and other uses

## Priority Objectives

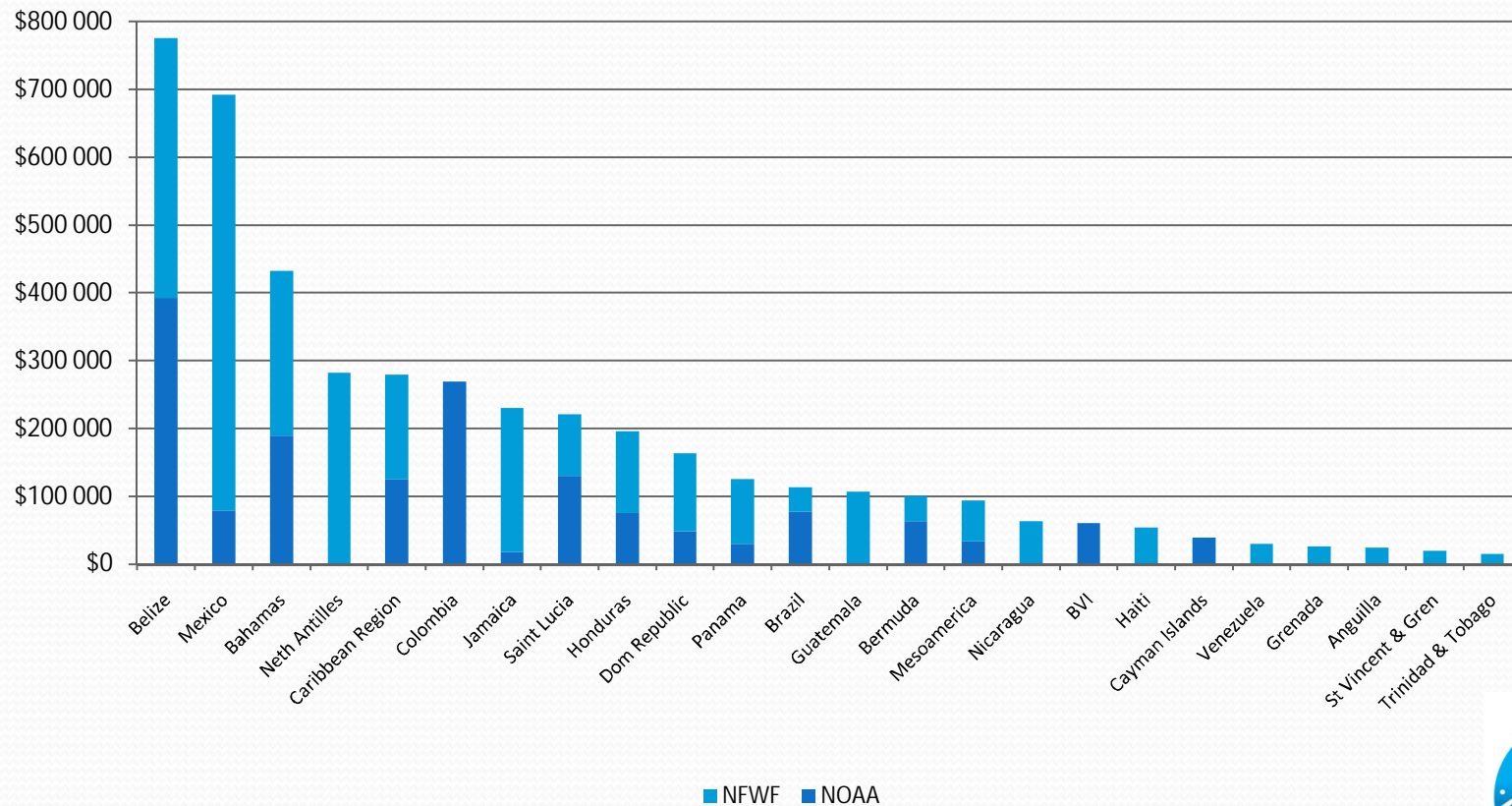


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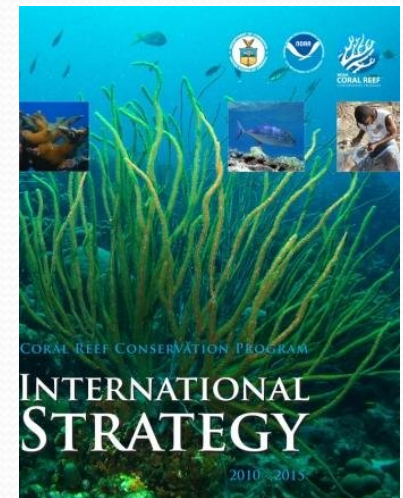
# NOAA International Support

## NOAA Caribbean Competitive Coral Grants, 2001-09



# Recent Coral Program Activities

- CRCP International Strategy
  - Priority Goal: Strengthen local MPA management capacity and promote MPA networks
  - Four priority regions: Wider Caribbean; Micronesia; SW Pacific (Samoa); and the Coral Triangle
- New International Coordinator
- CaMPAM Network and Forum
  - Coordinator Support (with UNEP CEP)
  - Regional MPA Capacity Assessment
- TNC Agreement





# Next Step: Regional Implementation

For each region, NOAA CRCP wants to know:

- How can we be more strategic?
- What are the priorities?
- What is the geographic scale?
- Who are our partners? What do they want to accomplish?

