

# 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 to people around the world. However, they face a myriad of threats. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program is leading efforts to study and conserve these precious resources for current and future generations.

Established in 2000 by the Coral Reef Conservation Act, the program protects, conserves, and restores the nation's coral reefs through a multidisciplinary approach. This approach brings together expertise from across NOAA to address existing and emerging issues, focusing on impacts from the top three global threats to coral reefs: climate change, land-based sources of pollution, and unsustainable fishing practices.

Visit the website at [coralreef.noaa.gov](http://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
- Florida
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- 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 the primary threats faced by coral reef ecosystems. The approach includes

- Taking into account the inextricable 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 to take targeted approaches to inform more effective management and target issues that impact coral reef ecosystems.

### Core Conservation Activities

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

- The National Coral Reef Monitoring program, a framework to collect biological, climatic, and socioeconomic data on coral reefs;
- Coral reef ecosystem mapping to locate key habitats and inform conservation actions;
- Forecasting and modeling of oceanographic conditions, coral bleaching and disease, runoff, and more;
- Capacity-building efforts, including training and workshops, to help local staff members implement projects that address threats and restore habitats;
- Support of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force—a body of 12 federal agencies, seven U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths, and three freely associated states—which builds partnerships and strategies to conserve coral reefs; and
- Communications, outreach, and education activities to build awareness and stewardship among target audiences.

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Coral Reef Conservation Program  
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