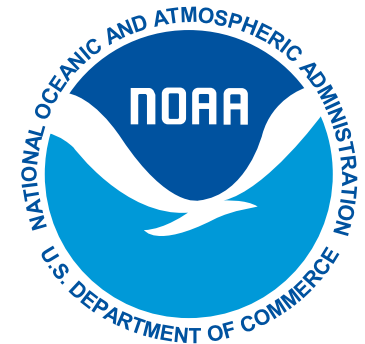


# NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

## Grants Program

Liz Fairey



# **CRCP Authorized By CRCA 2000**

**Coral Reef Conservation Act 2000 includes:**

## **A National Program implemented by NOAA**

**The Goal of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is to support effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems.**

## **Coral Reef Conservation Grants Program**



# NOAA CRCP Program Categories

1. State and Territory Coral Reef Management;
2. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring;
3. *Coral Reef Ecosystem Research;*
4. General Coral Reef Conservation;
5. *Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and*
6. International Coral Reef Conservation.



# **Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants**

## **FY2005 Priorities**

- **Define the role of keystone species within coral communities and determine how they sustain such roles through studies of their trophic and behavioral webs;**
- **Assess the baseline microbial communities of keystone species;**
- **Study life histories of economically important marine organisms associated with coral ecosystems and identify indicators of community change and recovery;**
- **Conduct research to better understand the threats faced by shallow coral reefs; and**
- **Determine the effects of environmental and climatic factors on infectivity and susceptibility.**

# Priorities for Coral Reef FMP Grants

1. Identification, mapping and characterization of EFH, HAPC, or reef fish spawning aggregation sites;
2. Monitoring reef fish stocks;
3. Efforts to reduce overfishing of coral reef resources;
4. Identification and reduction of adverse effects of fishing gear, including the elimination of destructive and habitat-damaging fishing practices;



# Priorities for Coral Reef FMP Grants Continued

5. Assessment of the adequacy of current coral reef fishing regulations;
6. Education and outreach efforts to recreational and commercial fishers; and
7. Ecosystem-scale studies and inclusion of ecosystem approaches into coral reef FMPs.



# **SAFMC Activities Supported through the Coral FMP Grants**

**CRCG funds have been used to support research and develop tools for conservation and management of coral reef resources including live/hard bottom habitats.**

## **Major activities:**

- Web-based browser with interactive web-mapping allowing data browsing and querying. Also includes video and photography of coral and bottom habitats.**
- Multibeam mapping of outer continental shelf and upper continental slope deep reef systems.**

# **Coral FMP Grant Activities by other FMCs**

## **Gulf of Mexico FMC**

**Mapping and assessing the Florida Middle Grounds and Mid-Bank areas as EFH, HAPC, and spawning populations in the US coral reef ecosystem.**

## **Western Pacific Regional FMC**

**Implementation of WPRFMC's Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan. Activities focus on the collection data to determine the status of reef fish stocks and to develop stock assessments. These activities are intended to be the basis for additional management measures (e.g. closed areas).**

# Potential NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Activities for FMC Grants

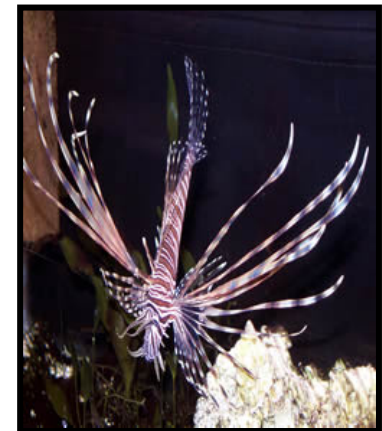
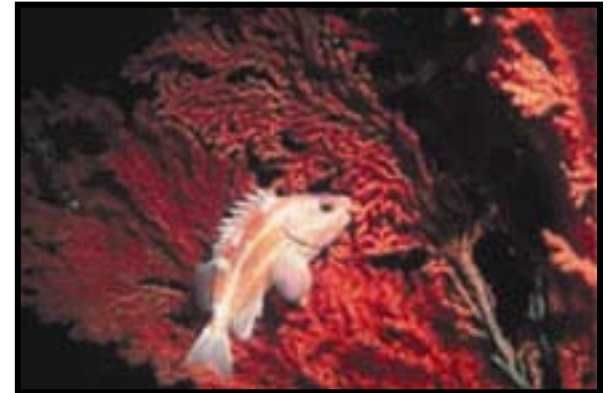
- Research to identify critical habitat needs of regulated coral reef fish stocks with particular emphasis on over fished.
- Mapping, assessment and characterization of coral reef fishery habitat
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the established marine protected areas that include coral reef ecosystems.
- Identification of additional areas of coral reef habitat in need of protection.



# Additional NOAA Priorities Related to the CRCP

## Deep Sea Corals

- Mapping, identification, and characterization of areas with deep coral communities
- Research the value of deep coral habitats
- Assessment of the role of deep corals as EFH
- Enforcement of established MPA's
- Monitoring of the condition of protected areas



## Invasive Species

- Lionfish invasion in the SAB