

CNMI Coral Restoration WG Agenda and Notes
February 4, 2022

1. Government Nursery Update
2. JAMS Nursery Update
3. COTS Outbreak Response Plan (Dr. DJ DIP)
4. Upcoming trainings and opportunities
5. Any other comments

Attendees:

DCRM: Kylie Hasegawa (lead), Rich Salas, Rodney Camacho, Denise Perez, Pheona David, Ellie Perez, Zak Williams

OPD: Ilan Bubb

JAMS: Lyza Johnston, D'amy Steward

PCRPP: Kelsey McClellan, Robbie Greene

NOAA: Steve McKagan, Janice Castro

DFW: Frank Villagomez

NOTES

DCRM Nursery Update:

- Replacement of tables
- Diseased corals present. 3 removed. The rest seem to be healing

JAMS Update:

- Occasional predation present
 - Certain genotypes impacted more than others.

- First fore reef outplanting took place (Oct.-Nov)
 - Lanas priority site
 - 66 corals, 6 species
 - Baseline and post-outplant photomosaics

- LSBs: Juvenile Survival and Outplanting
 - May spawning: *Acropora pulchra*
 - 700 LSBs counted in Oct.

- 2022 Coral Spawning
 - SCORE and CRIBs
 - Full moon May 16th
 - Spawning dives/snorkels May 15-20
 - *A. pulchra*, *muricata*

- Full moon June 14
 - Observation dives June 14-22
- Full moon July 14
 - Spawning dives

Other:

- Further outplanting
- D'amy's Project
- Increase massive corals in nursery
- Outplant massives
- Monitoring

DO NOT USE PC-FIX (PC11 A and B)

Recommended:

- MARINE Hand Moldable All Purpose Epoxy stick
- J-B Weld Water Weld
- All Fix Epoxy Part A and B

COTs Response Plan (Denise)

- Meet at the end for March for feedback regarding plan

Training/Opportunities

- *Ocean Acidification in the Pacific Islands* - February 21 - April 10, 2022
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N6leGvUdIs7BXOv_UdKXZM0_7U6L0Sv-rZPVDaH0liI/edit
- *Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Surveillance Workshop* - February 24th @ 8-10am, virtual
 - Registration link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecrMMqIAM23jGVGsjtUgKvJuTRbIXZYGKkNYvuRMfNhZSoA/viewform>
 - This is the second one in the series of virtual workshops targeted at coral managers and practitioners in U.S. Pacific coral jurisdictions focused on SCTLD preparedness, surveillance, and response planning.
 - This virtual workshop will introduce surveillance strategies for SCTLD in the Indo-Pacific, including site selection, materials needed, decontamination practices, disease identification, and data collection. Breakout sessions will focus on jurisdiction-specific surveillance planning.
 - SCTLD currently is not present in the Pacific, but has devastated reefs in the Atlantic and Caribbean with potential to do the same in the Pacific if introduced here
 - Email Bernardo Vargas-Angel for more info or questions (bernardo.vargasangel@noaa.gov)
- Rosenstiel Opportunity Scholarship

- Master of Professional Science program at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at University of Miami
- **80-100% tuition waiver**
- historically underserved or underrepresented populations
- Submit applications here: <https://www.applyweb.com/miamigrd/index.ftl>
- Contact:
 - Josh Coco, Ed. D.
 - Assistant Dean, Rosenstiel School
 - Tel: (305) 421.4002
 - Fax: (305) 421.4711
 - Direct: jcoco@rsmas.miami.edu
- FWD: *In an effort to support the University's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, the Master of Professional Science program at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami now offers 4 Rosenstiel Opportunity Scholarships. All interested incoming MPS students are welcome to apply (you will receive the link to apply for the award once you submit your MPS application). This scholarship is intended to benefit historically underserved or underrepresented populations. Each scholarship consists of 24 credits and allows recipients to earn an additional 6 credits (maximum) through the MPS program's merit-based waiver. Completion of 30-credits total is required for a master's degree at UM; therefore, scholarship recipients are eligible to complete the MPS program at no or significantly reduced tuition cost: scholarship + waiver (the latter if eligible).*
- *MPS students take the same classes as Ph.D. and MS students and 94% have jobs in the field within 6 after graduating (some even move on to Ph.D. within the university or elsewhere, however, we cannot guarantee that you will be given this opportunity). Instead of research with a faculty member, you get hands-on experience in the field with a job/internship with organizations such as NOAA, NPS, etc. Many students graduate in 15 months. Depending on your GPA and GRE scores (GRE is waived and not required for any program), we may be able to offer up to 20% in tuition waivers as well.*

Robbie Greene: Hazard Mitigation Plan

In short: There is an opportunity for CNMI to be one of the first (if not THE first) place in the U.S. where funding administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supports coral restoration. At the very least I'd like to plant the seed for future opportunities, so if you have a moment, please send me anything you have on costs/benefits of your respective projects.

Context: I'm currently working on a hazard mitigation plan for CDBG Mitigation funds to the CNMI, and the federal register mandates consideration of nature-based solutions as part of

mitigation actions. This could come in the form of planning projects or direct mitigation actions. I've included preliminary discussion of reefs as coastal defense infrastructure and associated \$\$\$ values for CNMI in protection (mostly from Storlazzi et al. 2019), but would also love to include some general project needs/suggestions. These need to be broad, as any mitigation actions I include in the plan are intended to be left open-ended for further refinement once the plan is approved.

So, for those working on either (a) restoration projects that involve outplanting and restoration action, or (b) anyone who has been scoping costs/budget/logistics for some of the items included in the TNC-Led Restoration Planning process, I'm requesting any figures RE: costs that you may have on hand. Please don't go digging, but if the numbers are just sitting in a proposal folder and easily accessed that would be great! Kylie, the NFWF Wetland + Coral Restoration project originally submitted by OPD is of particular interest since one of the metrics is "restoring 1 acre of reef".

Janice and Steve: Funding Opportunity

-Infrastructure Money

-Non Federal agencies can apply

-Late Feb- Early March