



Featured Reef Champion:

Andrew Sablan
Seahorse Marine Sports

Word on the reef is that we have a new ocean champion in our midst. Andrew Sablan is a Saipan native who recently returned from the States is now working as a crew member for Seahorse Marine Sports. He is a passionate advocate for the protection of CNMI's coral reefs and reef fish, and is often seen on the water informing tourists and other operators of how to best treat our ocean. When he sees people stepping on coral or feeding fish, he immediately tells them to stop and explains that our reefs are fragile. He also makes sure to remind his tourists to protect our corals and not to step on them, break them or kick them. He envisions a community of individuals dedicated to conserving the reef, and hopes to see more tour operators who take the same approach he does to protect our precious coral ecosystems. Way to be a CNMI Reef Hugger, Andrew!

If you know a CNMI Reef Hugger, someone is passionate about protecting and conserving our reefs, please share their story with us! Contact Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Education and Outreach Coordinator, Jihan Buniag, at 664-8500.

Ways to protect CORAL REEFS on land.

PROTECT OUR SEA, PLANT A TREE



Help protect coral reefs by planting trees, grass, and shrubs on bare soil helps prevent sediment from entering our ocean. Visit CNMI Forestry for free native plants to put in your yard or farm.

Learn more about coral reefs.



Participate in training or education programs that focus on reef ecology to help you and others understand the fragility and value of coral reefs and how we can work to protect them.

Visit www.cnmicoralreef.com for more information.

CONSERVE WATER.

Harvest rain water by installing a rain barrel. They collect water from roofs, yards, and paved surfaces. You can help keep stormwater on your property and pollutants out of the waterways by using rainwater the way nature intended- to water the grass, trees, and plants in your yard.



Volunteer!

Volunteer in local beach or reef cleanups and get involved in protecting your watershed."



Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Nutrients from excess fertilizer increases algae growth that blocks sunlight to corals



Ways to protect CORAL REEFS at sea

Support Marine PROTECTED AREAS.

Follow the rules and regulations of our Marine Protected Areas.

- Do not feed fish
- Do not take or step on coral
- Do not collect shells
- Do not fish

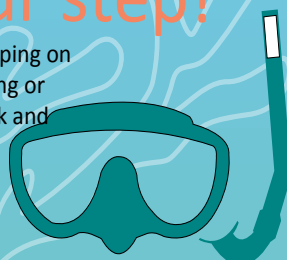


Love our BEACHES, Keep them Clean!

In addition to picking up your own trash, collect the trash that others have left behind.

Ocean floor isn't a dance floor. Watch your step!

Corals are living animals, stepping on them when snorkeling or diving or stirring up sediment can break and suffocate them. Make sure to maintain buoyancy when snorkeling and diving.



DON'T DRAG THE REEF INTO THIS!

Use mooring buoys or anchor in sandy areas away from coral and sea grasses so that the anchor and chain do not drag on nearby corals. Damage from anchoring is a threat to our coral reefs.



For more information about CNMI's coral reefs, visit www.cnmicoralreef.com

