



NFWF

Coral Reef Conservation Fund

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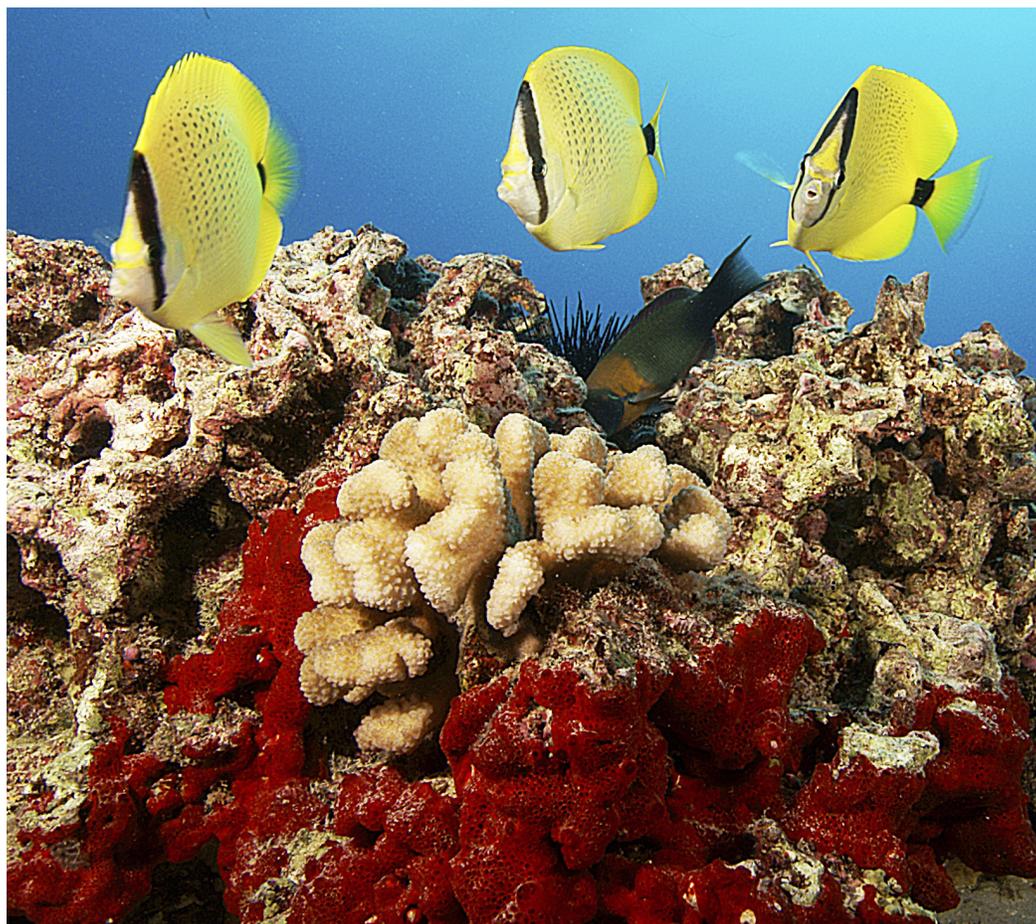
ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Butterflyfish swimming along a coral reef, Hawai'i

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and Aramco announced funding for seven new projects under the 2021 Coral Reef Conservation Fund funding cycle. These seven project awards totaled over \$1.1 million in funding and leveraged \$2.3 million in grantee matching contributions, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$3.4 million. Additional support for select projects was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Coral Reef Conservation Fund seeks to provide catalytic funding for innovation in management and science, and foundational capacity at the local level. The 2021 project slate addresses three key categories for coral reef conservation:

- 1) Targeted watershed and runoff abatement
- 2) Fisheries management of key herbivore species
- 3) Increasing innovation and capacity for coral restoration efforts

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Orange cup coral, Puerto Rico

Evaluating Success of Land-based Pollution Management for Coral Habitat (PR)

Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas, Inc.

Grant Amount:..... \$150,866
 Matching Funds:..... \$158,969
 Total Project: \$309,835

Pilot a cost-effective water quality and sediment monitoring program, including citizen science monitoring, sediment traps, remote sensing, data sondes and watershed modeling in Culebra, Puerto Rico. Project will evaluate land-based pollution to help management in reducing sediment reaching nearshore coral and seagrass habitats, while engaging the local community and federal and local government.

Building Ungulate Excluding Fencing to Reduce Sediment Loading to Coral Reefs in West Maui (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$222,570
 Matching Funds:..... \$400,000
 Total Project: \$622,570

Protect 7,000 acres of forests from non-native hooved animals, maintain firebreaks and replant eroding areas upland of West Maui's coral reefs near Olowalu. Project will reduce land-based sources of pollution by improving native vegetation cover, ultimately improving water quality for coral reef habitat.

Quantifying Herbivory Thresholds for Reef Resilience (HI)

Grantee: Arizona State University

Grant Amount:..... \$196,372
 Matching Funds:..... \$196,376
 Total Project: \$392,748

Identify herbivory thresholds for reef resilience in Hawai'i that relate to coral reef condition, and changes before and after the 2014 to 2015 bleaching event through statewide and priority site-based analyses. Project will help reef managers with place-based planning, management to defined fish biomass targets and identifying sites best suited for coral restoration.

Improving Coral Restoration Monitoring Through Implementation of an Automated Photomosaic Tool (FL)

Grantee: Coral Restoration Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$148,430
 Matching Funds:..... \$148,430
 Total Project: \$296,860

Design and implement an automated web-based application to stitch, store and analyze reef-scale photomosaic images for the purpose of coral restoration monitoring. Project will increase monitoring scalability and efficiency using large-scale photomosaics and machine learning recognition of coral species.

(continued)



Coral reef, Northern Mariana Islands

Informing Southeast Moloka'i Watershed Restoration and Fisheries Management (HI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:..... \$110,884
 Matching Funds:..... \$110,884
 Total Project: \$221,768

Collect benthic, fish, sediment and water quality data to assess the condition of the marine resources around Kawela in Southeast Moloka'i, Hawai'i. Project will build upon baseline data previously collected by project partners to assess how the reef has changed after years of watershed restoration activities, informing management for future restoration activities.

Improving Coral Reef Restoration Outcomes in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Grantee: Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
 Grant Amount:..... \$ 50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$681,513
 Total Project: \$731,513

Gain a comprehensive understanding of how outplanting strategies and site-level environmental conditions influence coral reef restoration outcomes in the

Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. Project will inform future coral reef restoration and management decisions and increase local restoration capacity by contributing to the expansion of an existing coral nursery.

Saving the Corals of Florida's Iconic Reefs Using Proven Disease Mitigation Techniques (FL)

Grantee: Nova Southeastern University
 Grant Amount:..... \$233,238
 Matching Funds:..... \$615,168
 Total Project: \$848,406

Utilize proven disease mitigation techniques to stop stony coral tissue loss disease on large coral colonies at Florida's Iconic Reef sites. Project will provide treatment along the disease line to maintain existing coral cover with prioritization for species diversity and large colony size classes at key restoration sites.