

From Floodplains to Coral Reefs: Restoration to Generate Impact And Get To Scale

Using science for decision making

James Byrne Maximizing the benefits of reef restoration.

Chad Wiggins Science & Traditional Management- Community-based MPA, HI.

Matthea Yepsen Measuring the ecological uplift of restoration, adaptation to CC and reducing risk and vulnerability of human coastal communities.

Translating science to generate credibility

Amanda Wrona-Meadows Lessons from monitoring, large scale ARRA restoration.

Kemitt-Amon Lewis Reef resilience and coral restoration in the USVI.

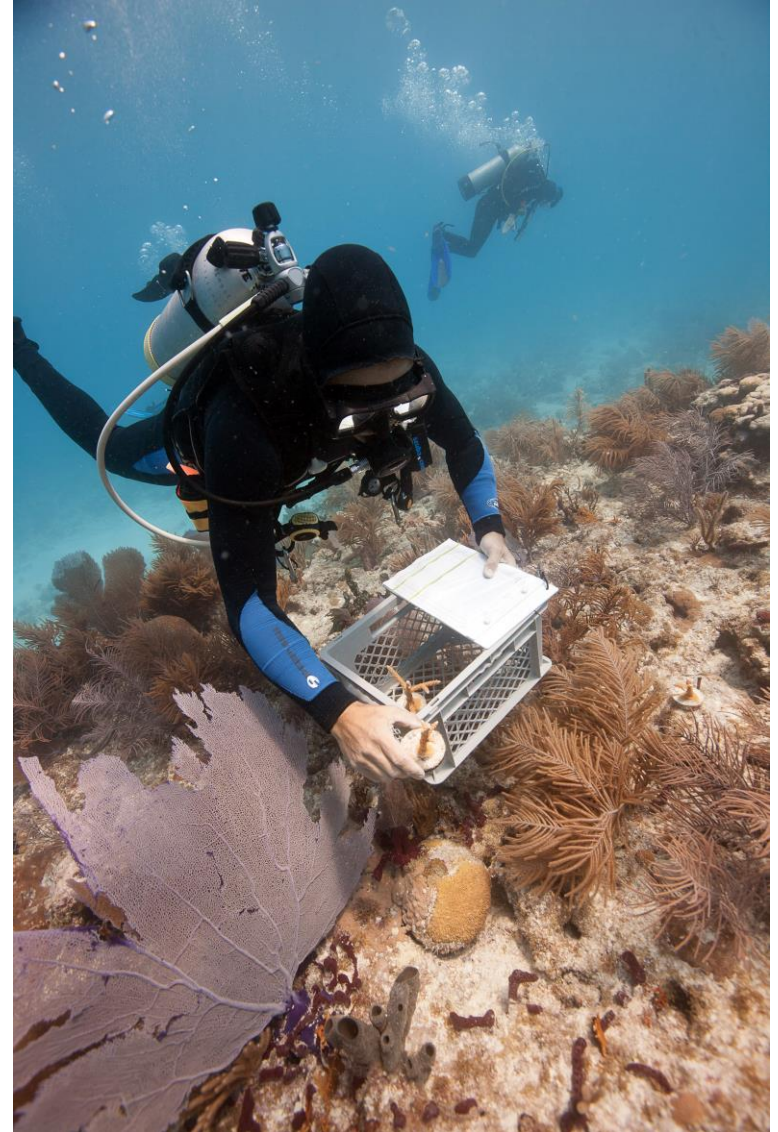
Christine Pickens Hydrologic and oyster restoration through the Albemarle-Pamlico Climate Change Adaptation Project.

Convening diverse partners and stakeholders

Jenny Baker Restoring floodplains and estuaries in Puget Sound

Eric Conklin HAWAI'I SUCKS -- and we are darn good at it!
Invasive algae remediation using the Supersucker.

Restoration by Design: Utilizing Science in Coral Restoration



James Byrne

Main Questions

- Can we grow Coral and Outplant Successfully?
- Can it be done on Ecologically Significant Scale?
- Why are we restoring Reefs?
- What Does Success look like?

Maximizing the Benefits from Coral Restoration

- Restoring Individual Reefs
- Enhancing Tourism
- Enhancing Fisheries
- Population Enhancement/Recovery
- Coastal Protection
- Improved Mitigation

Site Restoration

COMMUNICATIONS

ARTICLE

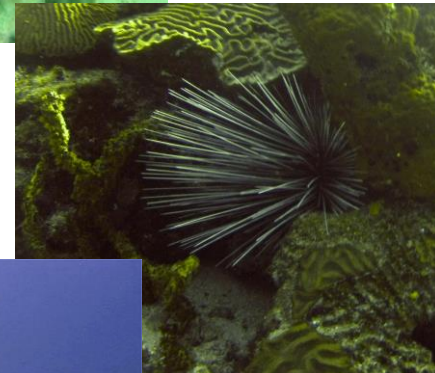
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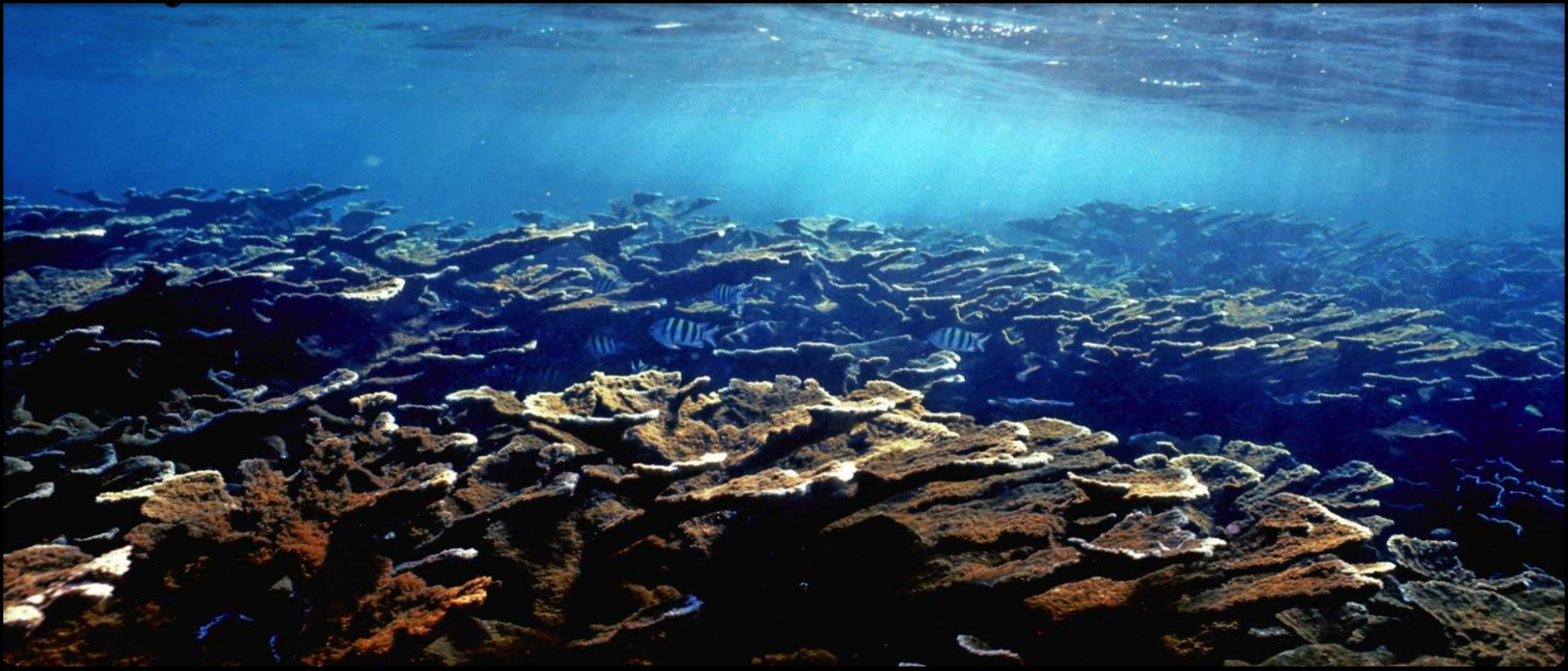
Caribbean-wide decline in carbonate production threatens coral reef growth

Chris T. Perry¹, Gary N. Murphy¹, Paul S. Kench², Scott G. Smithers³, Evan N. Edinger⁴, Robert S. Steneck⁵ & Peter J. Mumby⁶

Global-scale deteriorations in coral reef health have caused major shifts in species composition. One projected consequence is a lowering of reef carbonate production rates, potentially impairing reef growth, compromising ecosystem functionality and ultimately leading to net reef erosion. Here, using measures of gross and net carbonate production and erosion from 19 Caribbean reefs, we show that contemporary carbonate production rates are now substantially below historical (mid- to late-Holocene) values. On average, current production rates are reduced by at least 50%, and 37% of surveyed sites were net erosional. Calculated accretion rates (mm year^{-1}) for shallow fore-reef habitats are also close to an order of magnitude lower than Holocene averages. A live coral cover threshold of $\sim 10\%$ appears critical to maintaining positive production states. Below this ecological threshold carbonate budgets typically become net negative and threaten reef accretion. Collectively, these data suggest that recent ecological declines are now suppressing Caribbean reef growth potential.



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Engaging the Dive Industry

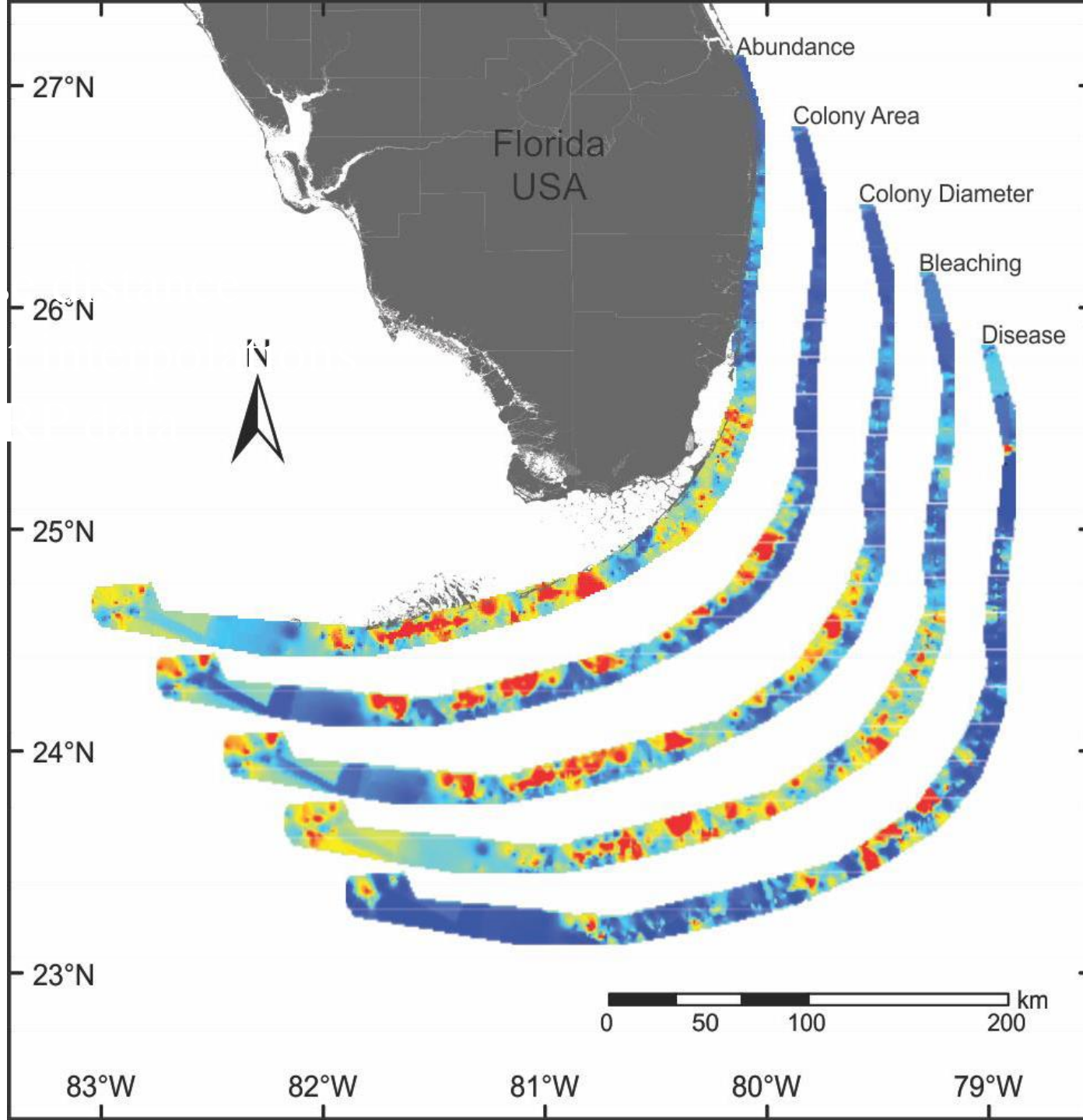


| Recreational | Scientific |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting with assembling of nursery apparatus • Assisting with nursery set-up • Removing algae and other epiphytes from nursery structures/corals • Affixing newly fragmented corals to nursery apparatus • Fixing broken fragments or fragments that fall off the tree or block... epoxying or securing them back into place, or if origin is unknown, moving them to an “unknown” tree or block • Differentiating healthy vs. unhealthy • Estimating percentage affected tissue • Measuring corals • Affixing corals to predetermined nursery apparatus or outplant sites • Removing predators (snails, fireworms) from the nursery • Basic underwater repair of blocks, trees (ie. Epoxying a puck back onto a pedestal; securing a new monofilament line on a tree to replace one that broke) • Photography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral health assessment (differentiating between paling, bleaching, and disease etc.) • Nursery site selection, design, and set-up • Determination of viable corals to be used in nurseries • Collection of viable fragments of opportunity • Fragmentating of corals • Outplant site (and coral) selection • Outplant site mapping and monitoring • Coral nursery and restoration experimental design, data collection, and analysis • Collection of coral tissue for genetic analysis. |

Enhancing Fisheries



Enhancing Populations/Recovery



Enhancing Coastal Protection

Natural coastal protection by intact ecosystems

Coastal forests behind
beaches provide
protection and shade.

Hotels and houses
behind the beach
are safer.

Mangrove forests
further absorb wave
energy and their roots
stabilize coasts.

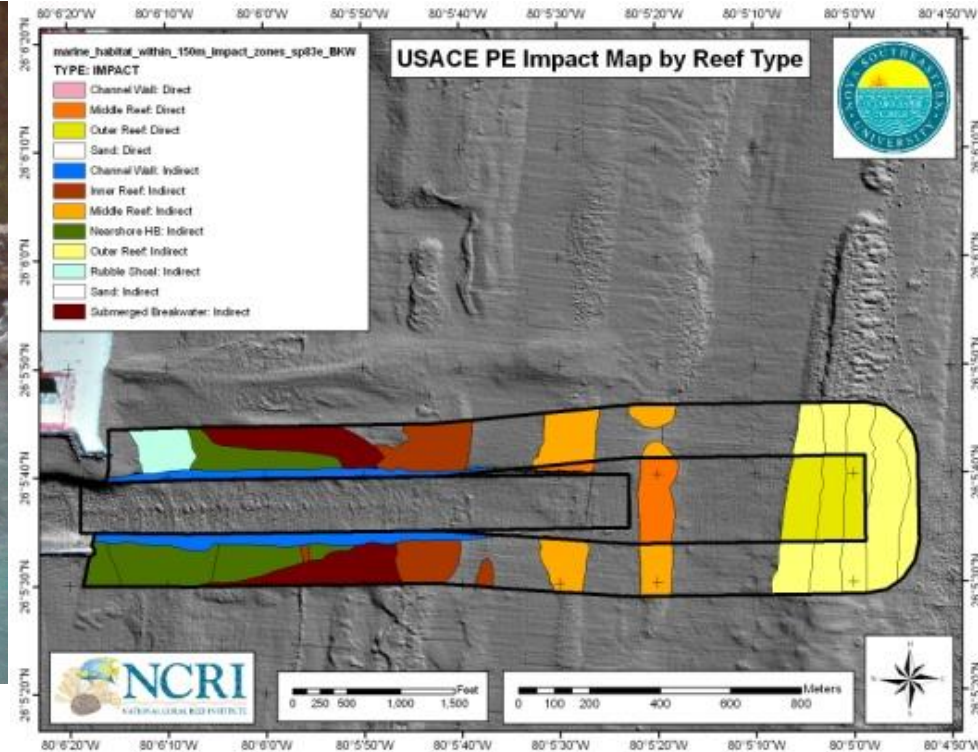
Sustainable manage-
ment of coastal fisheries:
number of boats and nets
are balanced with the
natural productivity of the
fish stock.

Coral reefs help to generate
income for the local population
from dive tourism.

Reefs significantly
absorb wave energy



Improving Mitigation





**Bringing Together Science and Traditional Management
to Support a Community-based MPA in West Hawai**

Chad Wiggins

Hawaiian Newspaper Translation Project – 1923

“...fisheries management appears to have been carried out at a **local level**.....”

“... biological processes that were the basis for management decisions often occurred on **small geographical scales**...”

“..... individuals responsible for these decisions were the priests and **kapu** were put into place by the chiefs...”

“... the priests had considerable **knowledge of spawning seasons** ...for many important aquatic **species important as food** to the people...”

“.....Much of this **information has been lost in modern times**.....”

*Ka ho 'opakele 'ana i nai 'a
From Ka Nupepa Kuokoa, March 8, 1923*

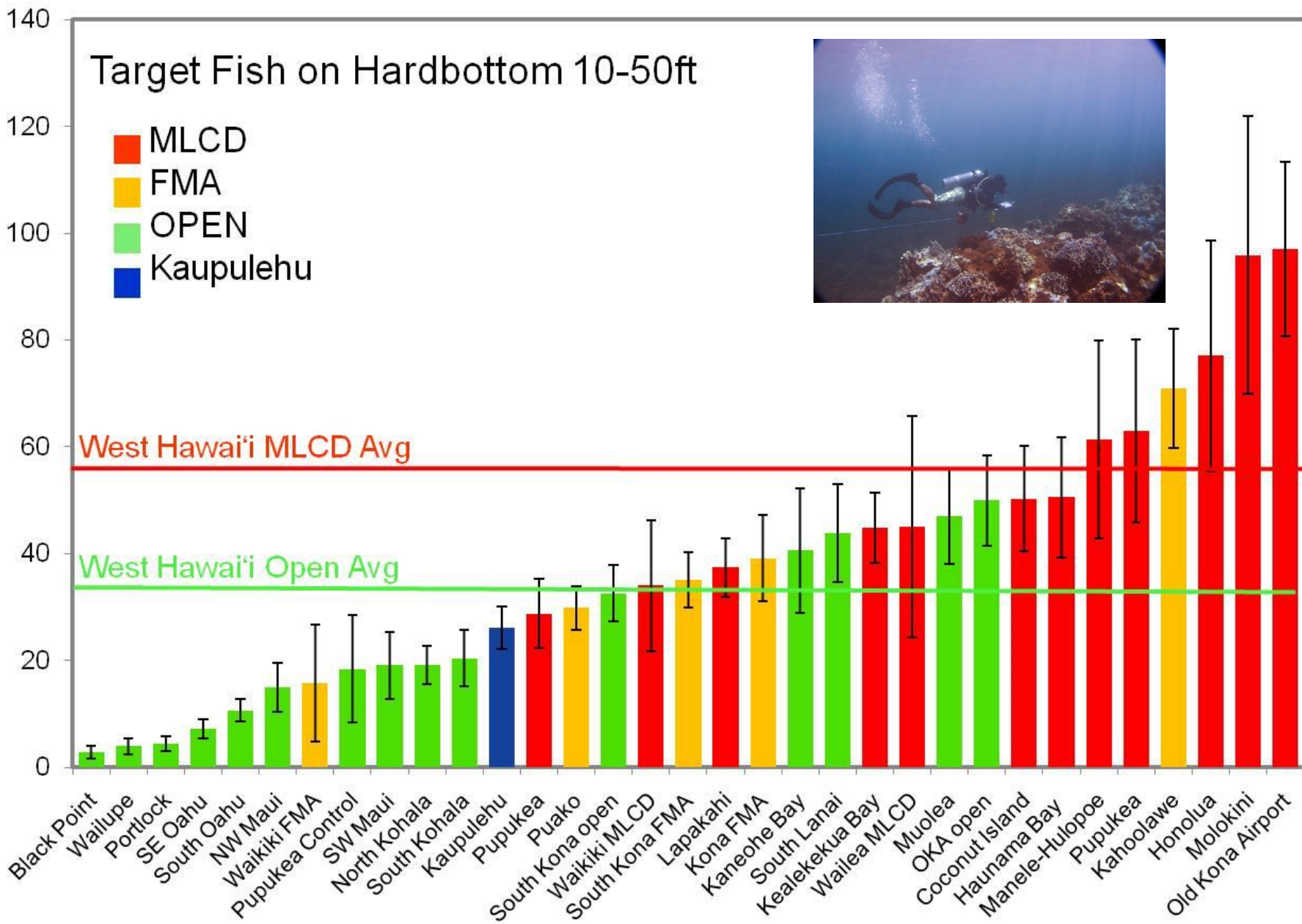


Target Fish on Hardbottom 10-50ft



- MLCD
- FMA
- OPEN
- Kaupulehu

Biomass (g/m²)



West Hawai'i MLCD Avg

West Hawai'i Open Avg



SOUND SCIENCE AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF TAKING HABITAT RESTORATION TO SCALE

Metthea Yepsen

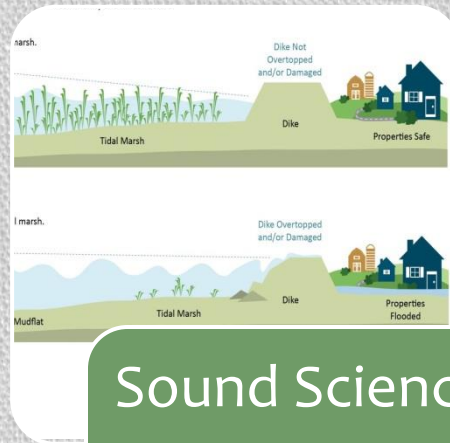
NJ Chapter

Superstorm Sandy Funding



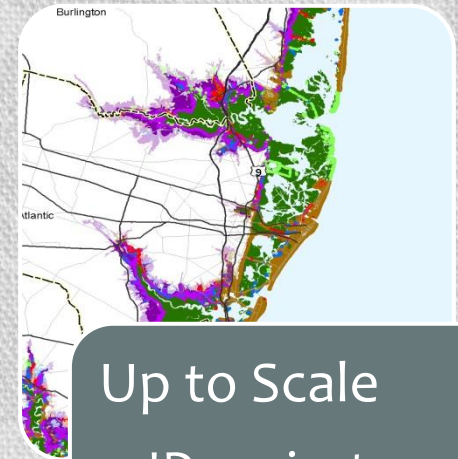
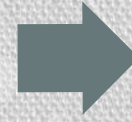
Pilot Sites

- Multiple methods
- Multiple locations



Sound Science

- Do no harm
- Ecology
- Ecosystem services



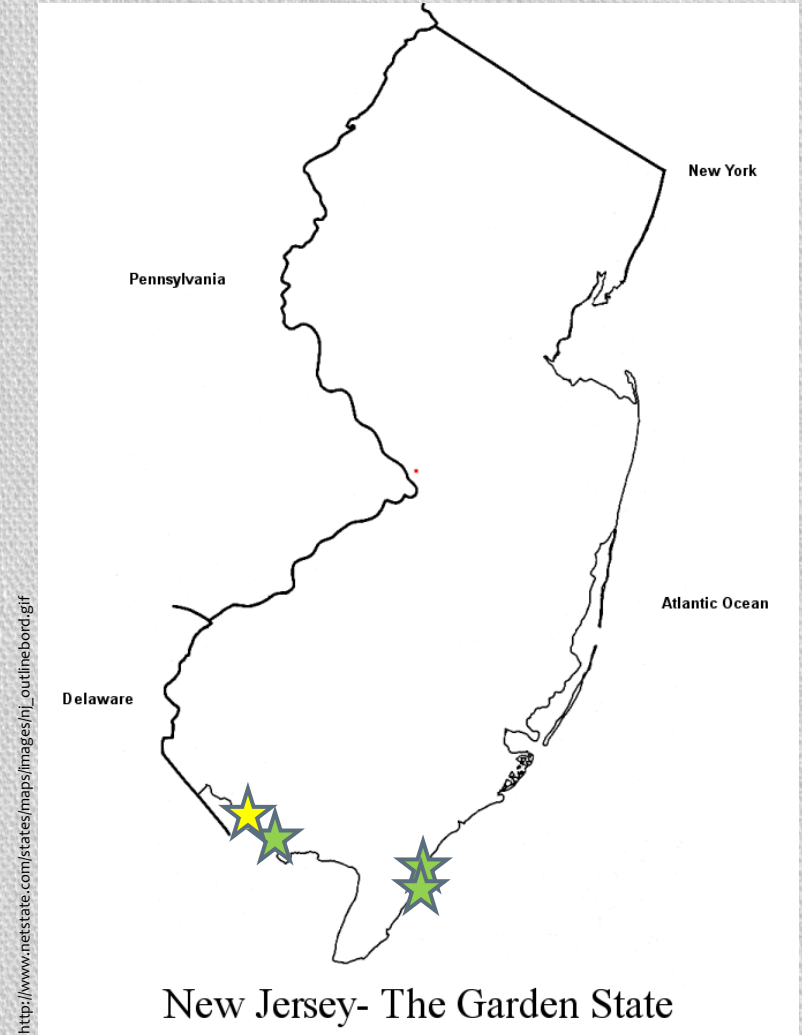
Up to Scale

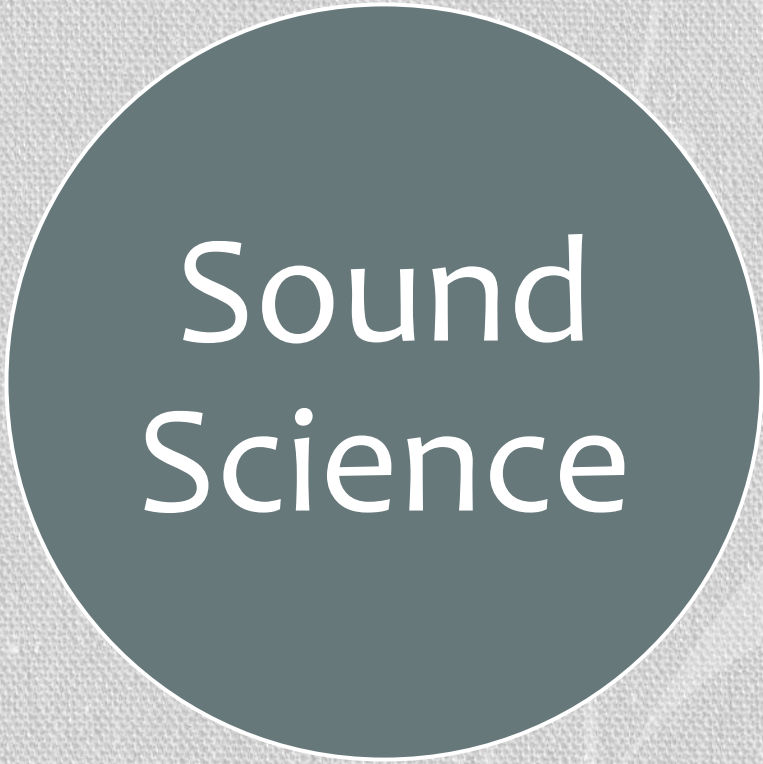
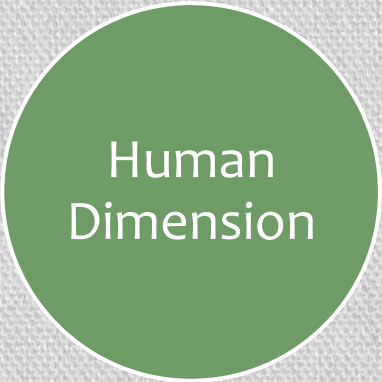
- ID projects
- Lessons learned
- Promote

Pilot Sites

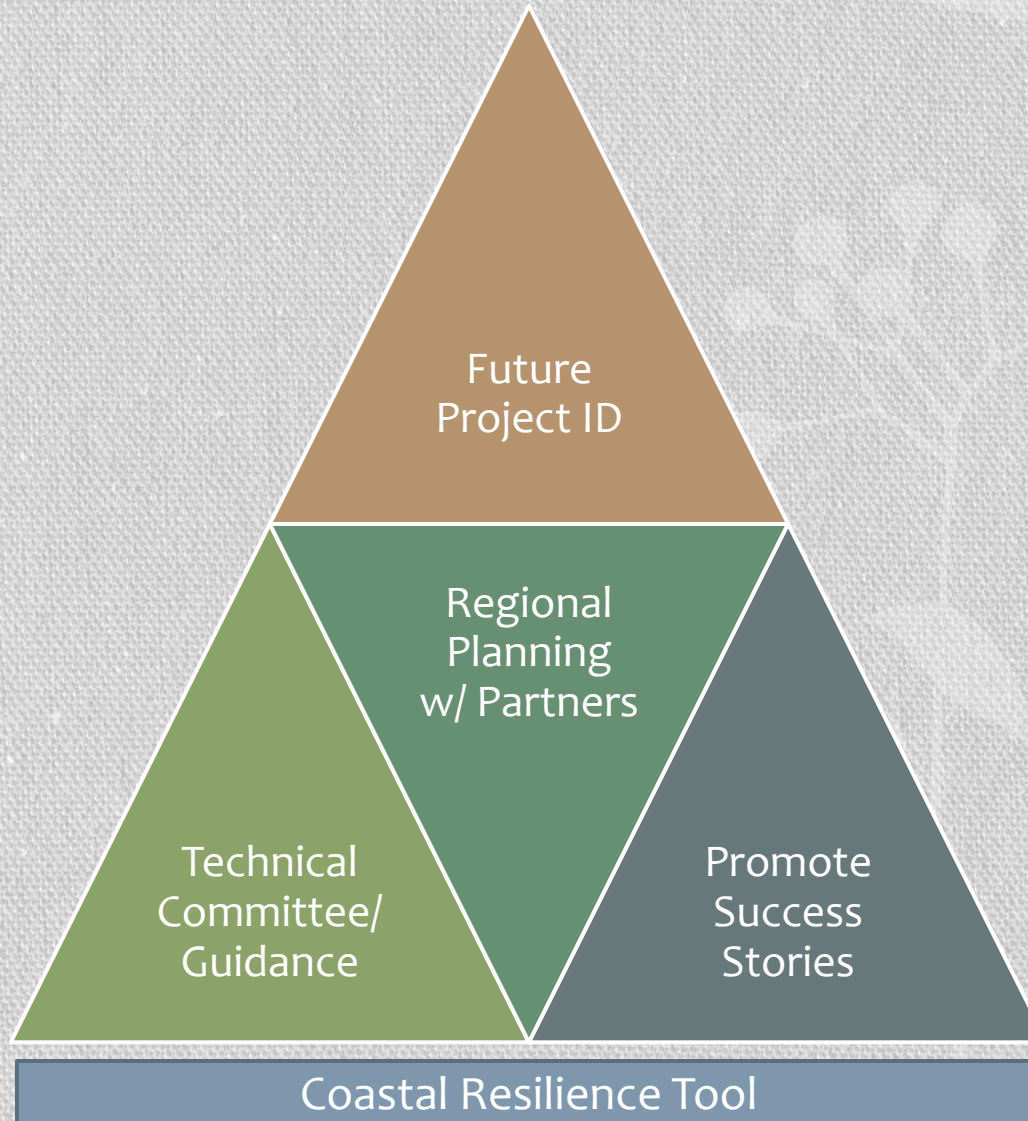
Current Methods

- ★ Oyster reef breakwaters
- ★ Beneficial use of dredge material
 - Thin-layer placement
 - Marsh edge restoration





Taking Natural Infrastructure “Up To Scale”



Summary



Pilot
Sites

Sound
Science

“Up to
Scale”

Coastal and Marine Restoration: Benefits for Humans and Habitats

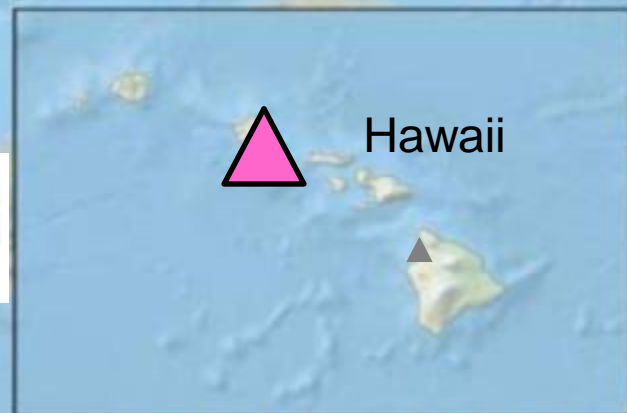


Recovery Act Projects 2009-2012

2009 -2012 American Recovery and Reinvestment

Restoration Target

- ▲ Shellfish reefs & beds
- ▲ Anadromous fish
- ▲ Salt marsh
- ▲ Seagrasses
- ▲ Coral
- ▲ Mangrove
- ▲ Other



Alabama Breakwater and Estuary Restoration

Goals: Restore and enhance shoreline habitat with a long-term goal of boosting the economy of coastal Alabama

1.5 miles submerged breakwater, 3 acres oyster reef, and 30 acres seagrass beds over 10,000 feet of shoreline.

Jobs: 35 to 40 new jobs



Virginia Seaside Bays Restoration

- Oyster reef structure and function
- Functional eel grass meadows
- Evaluate potential techniques for bay scallop restoration
- Conduct water quality monitoring

| Goal | Objective | Parameter | Technique & Method | Baseline | Reference | Target | Pre-restoration | Post-restoration | |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Restore oyster reef structure and function | Restore reef structure with fossil shell | Acres of planted shells | Dredge local fossil shell and import fossil shell to restoration for shell planting | Benthos devoid of oysters | N/A | 24 acres of functional substrate | Pre-project survey | One GPS survey per reef of substrate footprint | |
| | | Increased vertical topography | Photograph and measure topography of restored reefs with chain method | Flat | Average topography of reference reef | Average topography of reference reef (TBD) | N/A | Annual sample at each reef; 3 transects per acre | |
| | Restore functional oyster reefs | Length of growing oysters | Measurement of oyster shell length | | N/A | Average size of oysters on reference reefs - value? | Mixed-size (age) oysters | N/A | Minimum of 3 - 1/16 m ² quadrat samples at each reef annually |
| | | Number of oysters per square meter (density) | Average number of oysters per 1/16 m ² quadrat | | N/A | Average density of oysters on reference reefs - value? | Average density of oysters on reference reefs (TBD) | N/A | Minimum 3 - 1/16 m ² quadrat samples at each reef annually |
| | | Create biomass reference for oysters in VA Seaside Bays | Ash free dry weight and length | | N/A | N/A | TBD | N/A | Subsample of 10 oysters from each 1/16m ² quadrat and determine ash free dry weight |
| | | Percent Coverage of Macroalgae | Visual observation estimate | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Minimum annually at time of sampling in the fall |
| | | Number and kinds of other fauna present | Count, identify, and measure length | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Minimum of 3-1/16m ² quadrat samples at each reef annually |
| Restore functional eelgrass meadows | Collect eelgrass seeds | Number of eelgrass seeds | Hand and machine collections | N/A | N/A | 10 million seeds per year | N/A | N/A | |
| | Planting eelgrass seeds | Number of acres | Hand broadcast of seeds at a rate of 50,000 - 150,000 per 1-acre plot | N/A | N/A | 100 acres planted | Pre-project survey and trial planting | Seedling success monitored each spring with diver transect surveys | |
| | Establishment and spread of eelgrass | Increasing acreage of eelgrass in the coastal bays | Vertical aerial photography | 0 acres | N/A | 100 acres planted and spreading | Pre-project survey and trial planting | Vertical aerial photography at 2,000 and 12,000 feet and standard mapping procedures | |
| Evaluate potential techniques for bay scallop restoration | Evaluating spawning potential | Number of larvae spawned | Count number of eyed larvae in a subsample per spawning attempt | N/A | N/A | TBD | N/A | TBD | |
| | Evaluate growth potential | Length of growing bay scallops | Measurement of bay scallop shell length | N/A | N/A | TBD | N/A | TBD | |
| | Establish survival rates in the nursery and at the field site | Number of living bay scallops | Number of living scallops in the nursery; Number of living scallops per cage and on bottom plots | N/A | N/A | TBD | N/A | TBD | |
| | Evaluate the costs associated with each approach | Measure cost per viable bay scallop in the field | Determine cost associated with each approach | N/A | N/A | TBD | N/A | TBD | |
| Conduct water quality monitoring | Assess eelgrass plot performance | Turbidity, chlorophyll fluorescence, temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, depth | Discreet measurements with flow-through system from boat and fixed stations sampling using sensor arrays | N/A | N/A | Suitable water quality for restoration and growth - values? | Pre-restoration survey (July-November 2009) | Conduct Dataflow cruises throughout the SAV growing season (March - November) and to deploy the fixed stations for a minimum of 14-day intervals bi-monthly throughout this same period. | |
| | Evaluate habitat suitability for eelgrass and bay scallops | | | | | | | | |

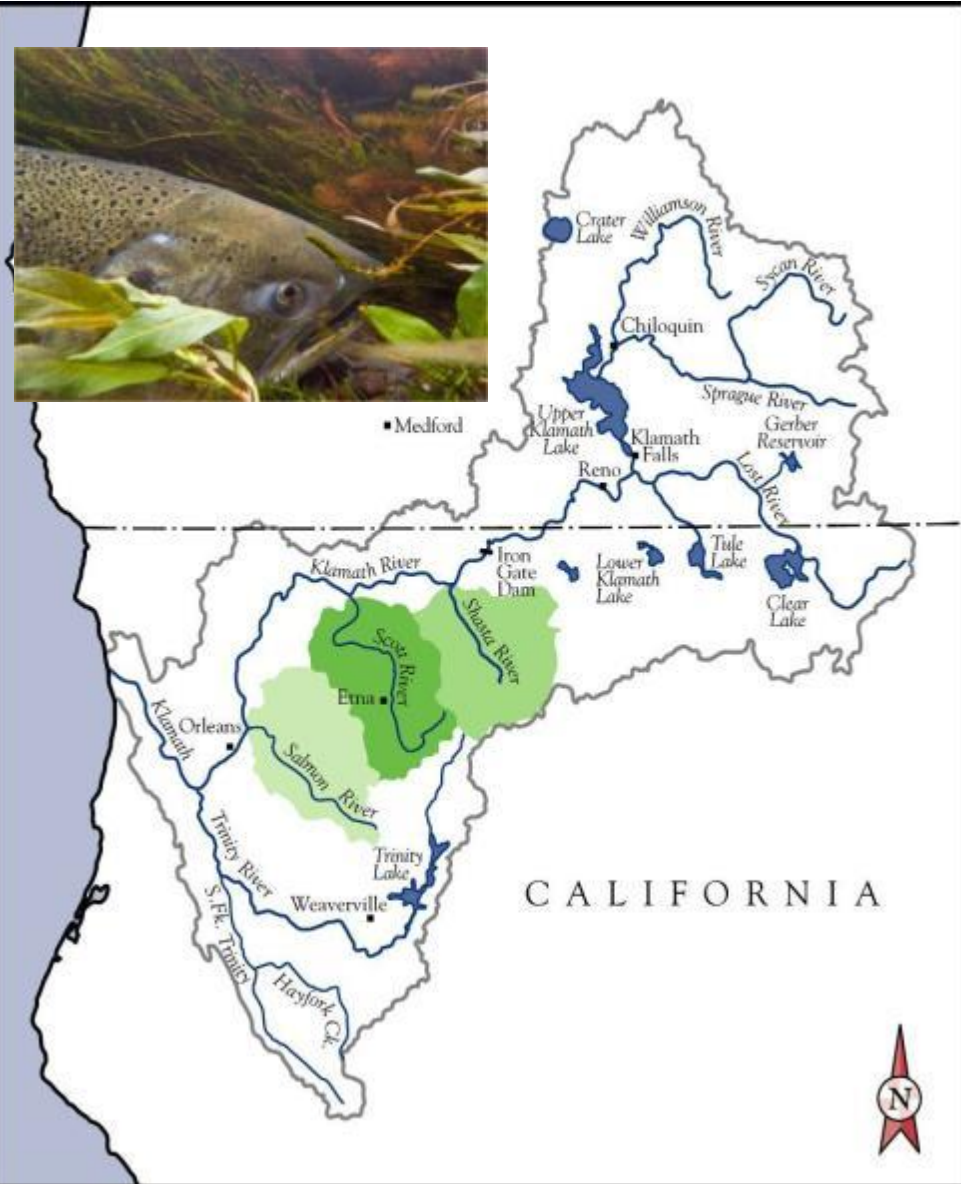
TNC Recovery Act Projects

| Project | Monitoring | % Invested Monitoring | Right amount? |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alabama | \$750,000 | 25.4 | Just Right |
| California | \$330,000 | 20 | Just Right |
| Virginia | \$295,000 | 13.6 | Just Right |
| Hawaii | \$250,000 | 7.4 | Just Right |
| Alaska | \$35,000 | 3.4 | Too low |
| Louisiana | \$140,000 | 3.0 | Just Right |
| Washington | \$95,800 | 1.6 | Too High |

CA – Big Springs Creek Shasta River habitat restoration

Goals: Restore degraded salmon habitat and demonstrating agricultural practices that benefit both people and fish.

Jobs: 54 jobs and 18,741 labor hours of employment



Problem: Loss of CA Salmon Habitat

Irrigation return



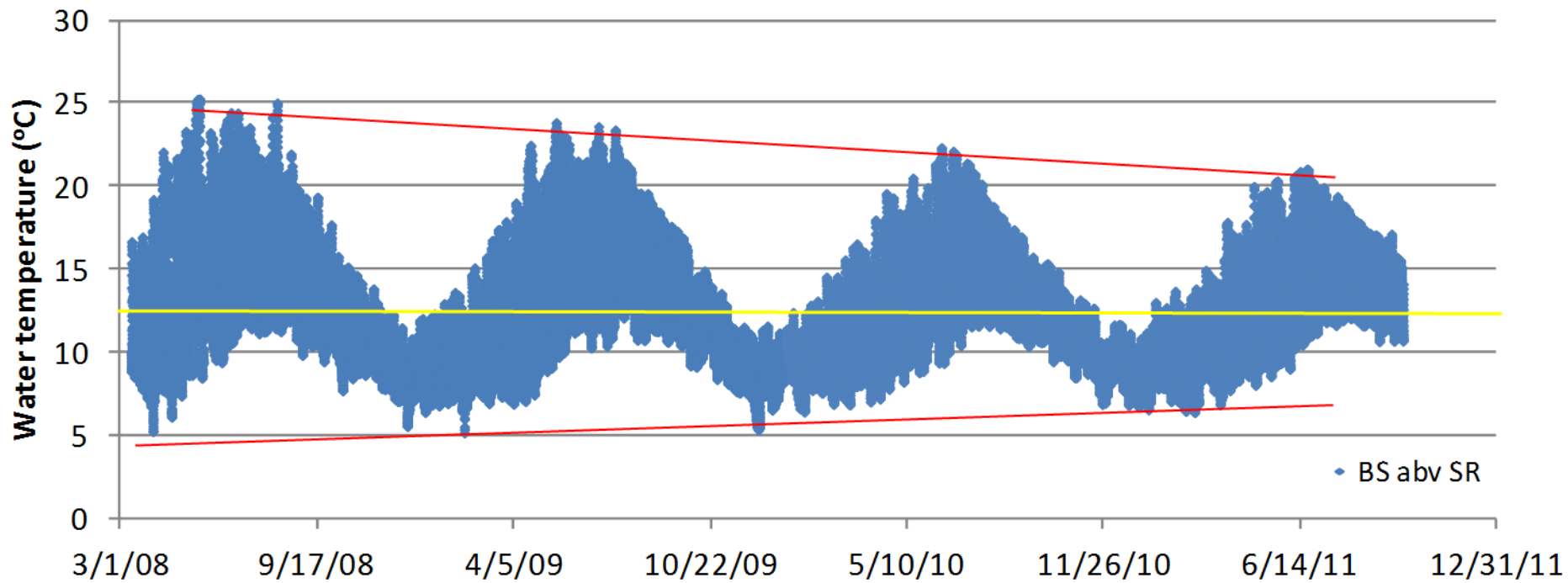
Cattle in streams and creeks



Large irrigation diversions



Monitoring Water Temperature



BEFORE 2008



**AFTER
2010**



SE Alaska – Hydrological Reconnection Salmon Habitat

Goals: Improve salmon habitat to restore fisheries to historic levels to meet the needs of local residents and others.

460 acres of seagrass estuary and 65 miles of stream habitat

Jobs: 20 jobs and an estimated 10,800 hours



The Solution: Hydrologic Reconnection



Fish Passage Captured on Video



The Problem: Extensive invasive algae covers shallow reef





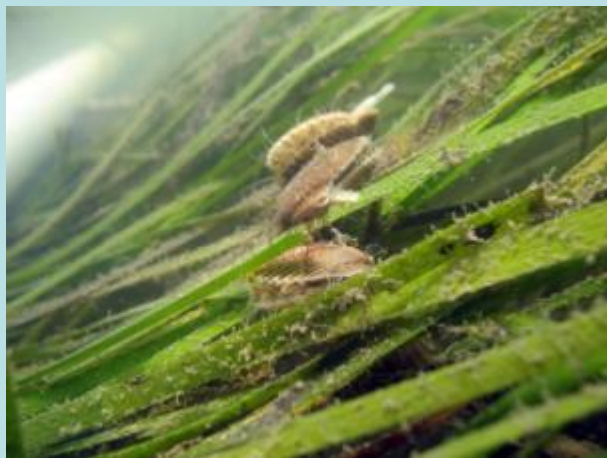
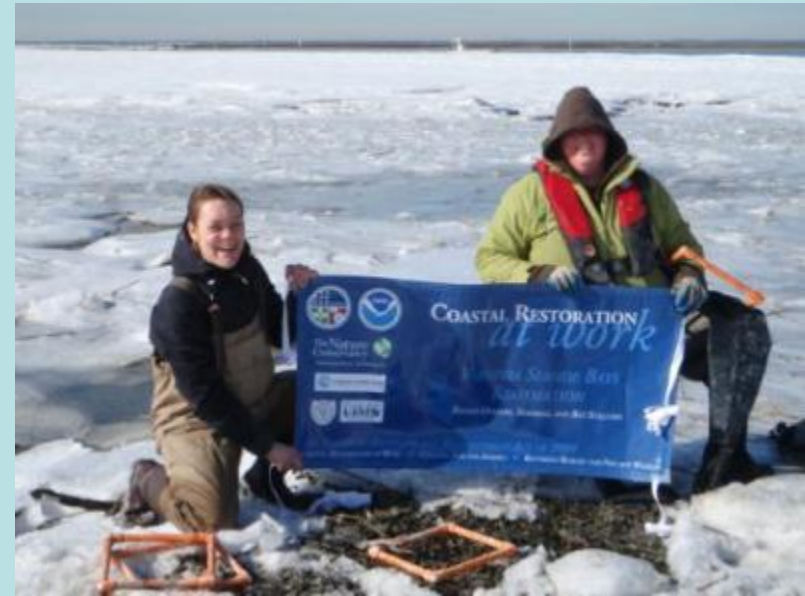
May 2011

Aerial imagery collection and processing by Resource Mapping Hawaii

VA Seaside Bays Restoration

Goals: **Twenty-four acres** oyster reefs at 12 sites and **262 acres of seagrass** planted. Test the re-introduction of Bay Scallops

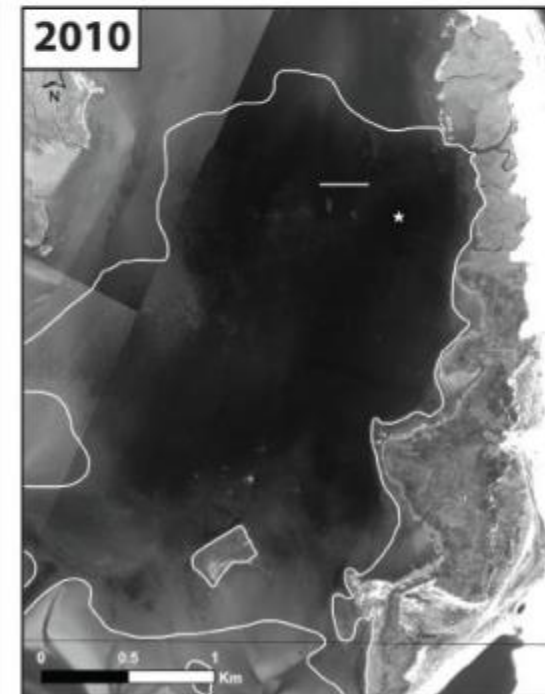
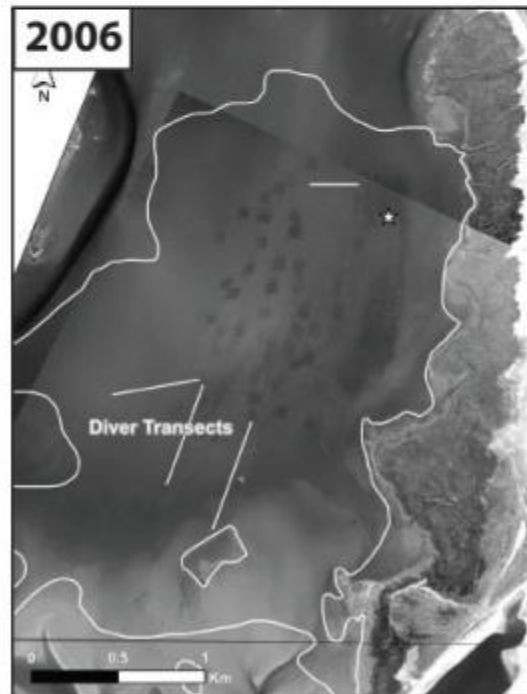
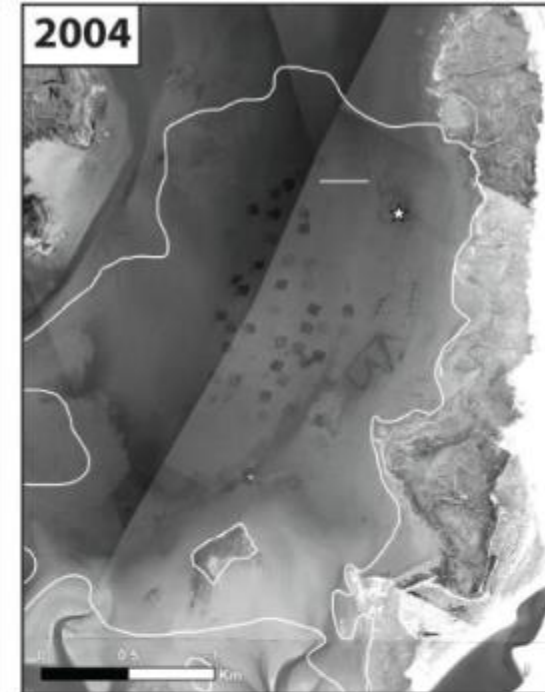
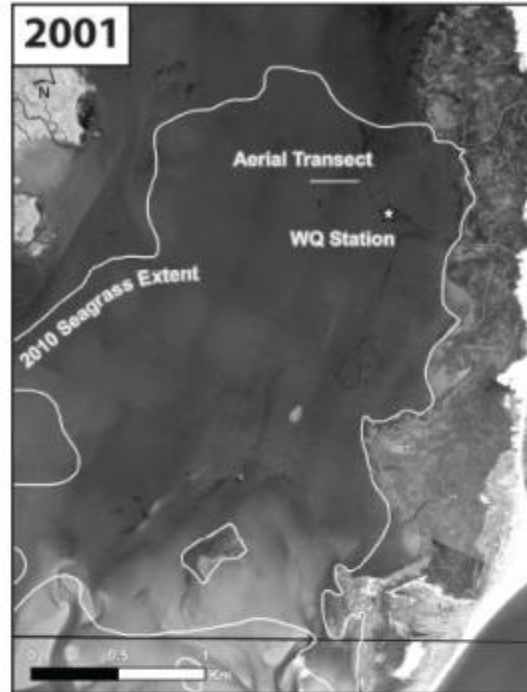
Jobs: 57 jobs with 59,927 labor hours



Since 1999:
38 million seeds, 369 plots

Monitored: aerial photos,
sediment, genetics, water quality
(seven years)

Source: Bob Orth VIMS



Z O A A

A Million and One Answers to the Questions about Caribbean Coral Reef Restoration



Kemit-Amon Lewis
Caribbean Coral Conservation Manager

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Caribbean Coral Reef Restoration FAQs

How will coral restoration make a difference with on-going climate issues?

How do you define restoration success?

How can I help?



Science + Conservation = AWESOME

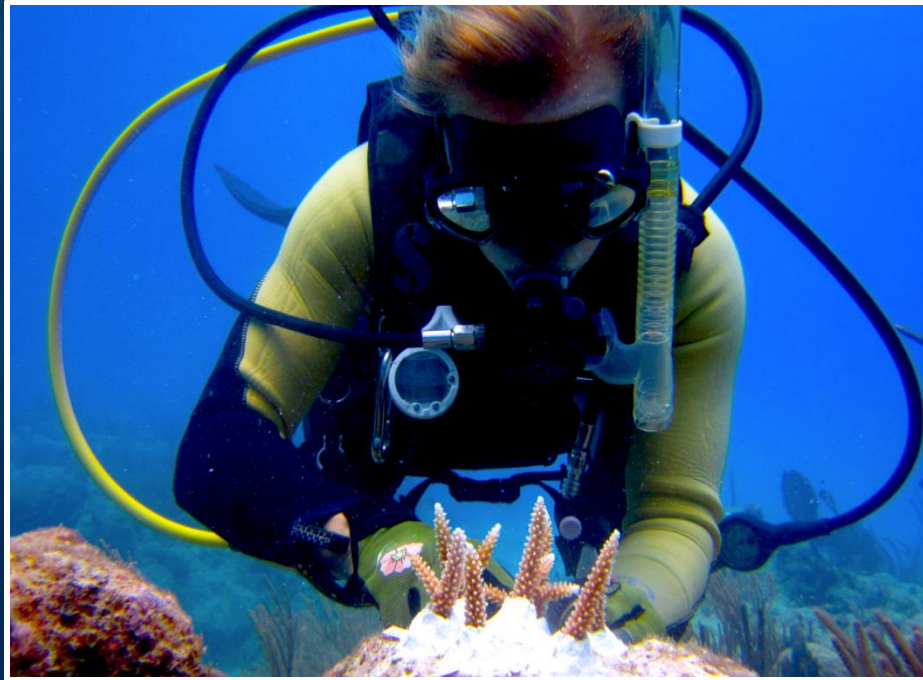
CONSERVATION BY DESIGN MEASURES

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

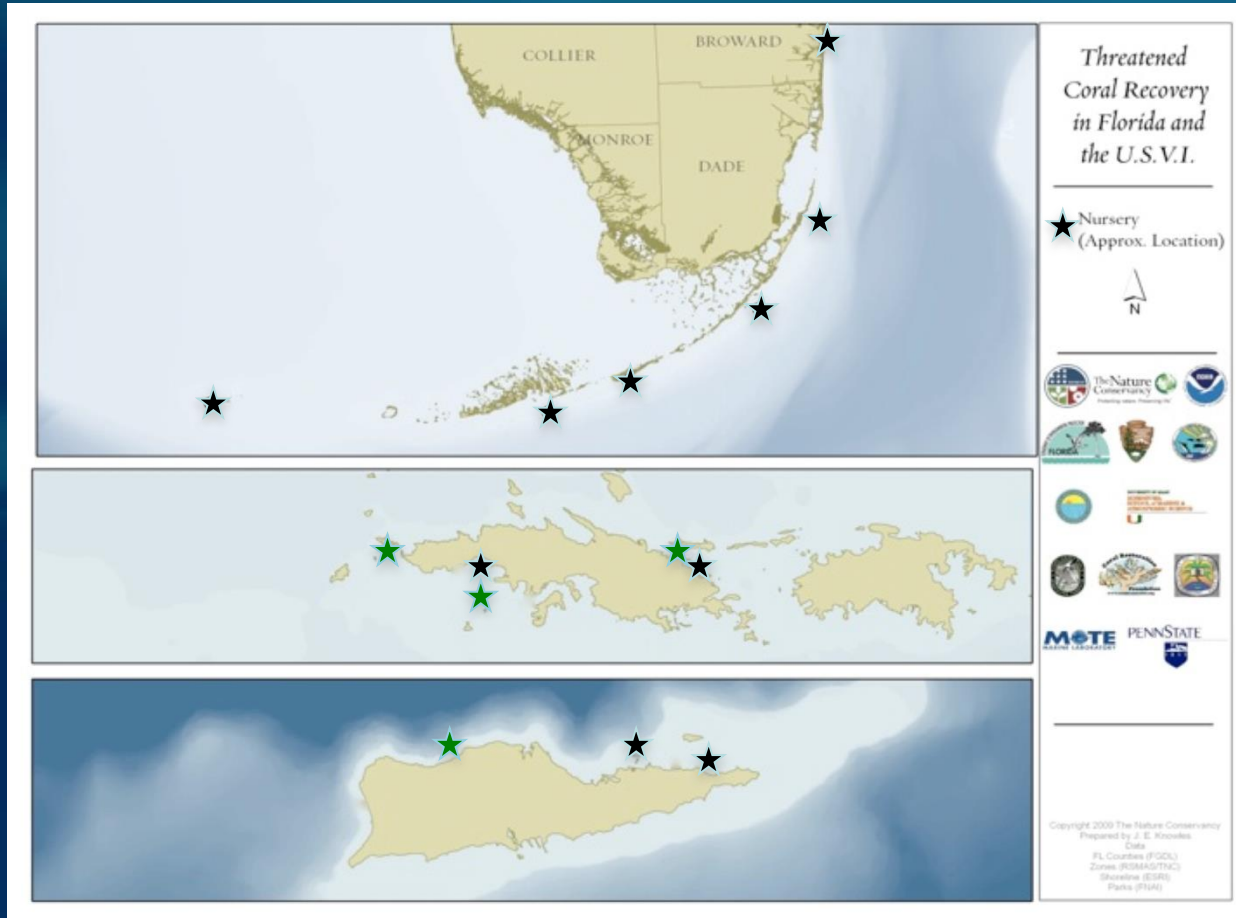
SCIENCE THAT GUIDES CONSERVATION



From 1 to 1,000 to 1,000,000,000



Love Your Partner(s)



Understanding the Importance of and Enhancing Genetic Diversity



“If we control the things that we can, **we can make the world a better place** for those that can’t.”

US Virgin Islands Reef Resilience Plan



“... we need to recognize that the coral reef crisis is a crisis of governance. Scientists can help by undertaking solution-focused research, by participating more vigorously in policy debates to improve coral reef legislations and implementation, and by sending the clear message that reefs can still be saved if we try harder.” - Hughes et al., 2010



Focusing on Resilient Sites Towards a Higher Potential for Restoration Success

Positive Attributes

Good Water Quality

Living Acroporids
and Recruits

Flow and Flushing

Calcareous Algae

Diverse Coral
Speciation

Diadema

Herbivorous Fishes

Available Space

Negative Attributes

Excessive Macroalgae

Hermodice

Coralliophila

Bleaching/Paling

Disease

Proposed Restoration Sites for TNC's USVI Coral Restoration Program Yr 1

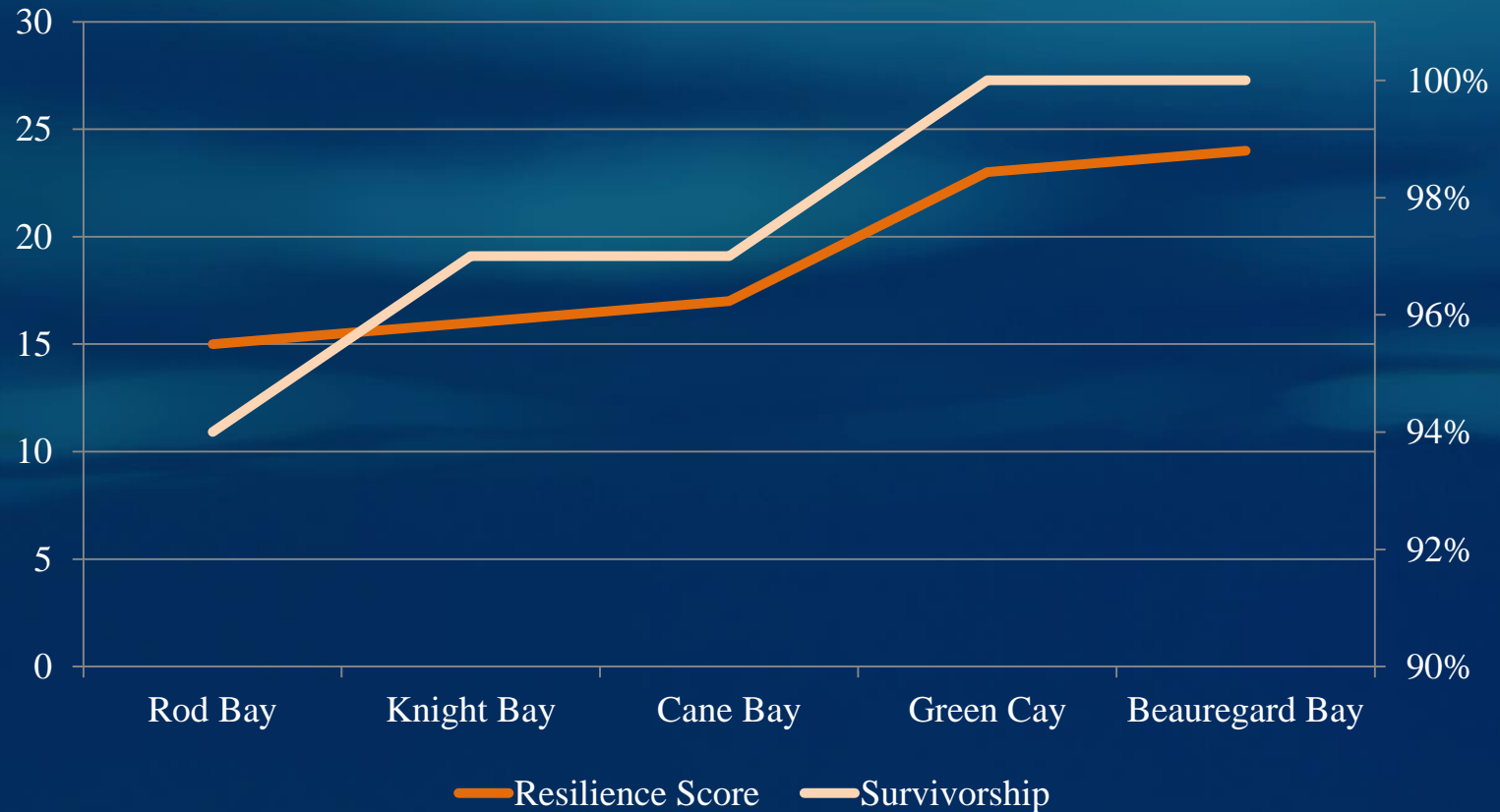


The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The above sites were chosen based on surveys conducted using modified AGRRA methodology to assess probability of restoration success based on water quality and flow dynamics, herbivore trophic structure, reef health, available space, and presence and health of living Acroporid corals.



Out-Plant Site Resilience Score vs. Out-Planted Coral Survivorship



It Takes a Village to Raise a Child Corals



VISION

“Thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom.”



Archie Carr, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, George Washington Carver, William J. Clinton, General Buddhoe, Barack Obama, Matthew Gilligan, Phil Kramer, Ruth Blyther, Jane Goodall, Arthur Ashe, Steve Jobs, Jacques Cousteau, John Audubon...



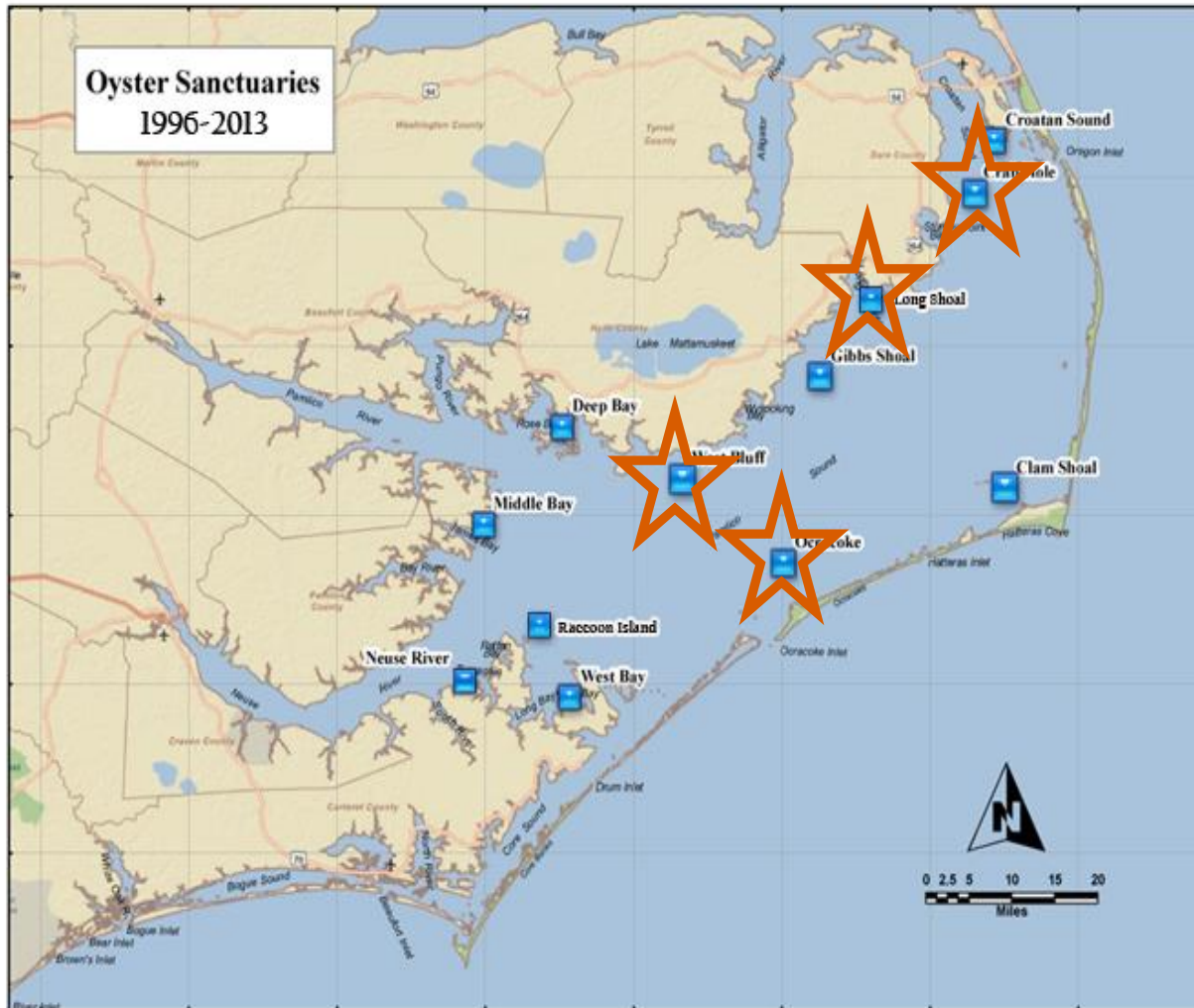
Albemarle-Pamlico Climate Change Adaptation Project: Oyster Habitat Creation

Christine Pickens

Coastal Restoration and Adaptation Specialist
The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina Chapter



TNC/NOAA CRP Partnership 2002-2006



- 4 Oyster Sanctuaries
- TNC starts oyster shell recycling with restaurants 2003-2006, 4000 bushels over 4 years
- NC starts a state-run program 2006-2013
- Remote setting spat on limestone marl
- Monitoring

A-P Climate Adaptation Project



Carbon
Sequestration

Goal:
To develop, implement,
and refine climate
adaptation strategies for
coastal wetlands such
that ecosystem functions
are preserved.



Ecosystem
Services



Wetland Restoration
Facilitate Transition



Hydrologic Restoration



Oyster Habitat
Creation

600' of marl at Bell Island
Swanquarter National
Wildlife Refuge



1200' of marl or shell
bag at Alligator River
National Wildlife Refuge

100' of shell bag at
Nag's Head Woods
Preserve



Oyster Sanctuaries 1996-2013



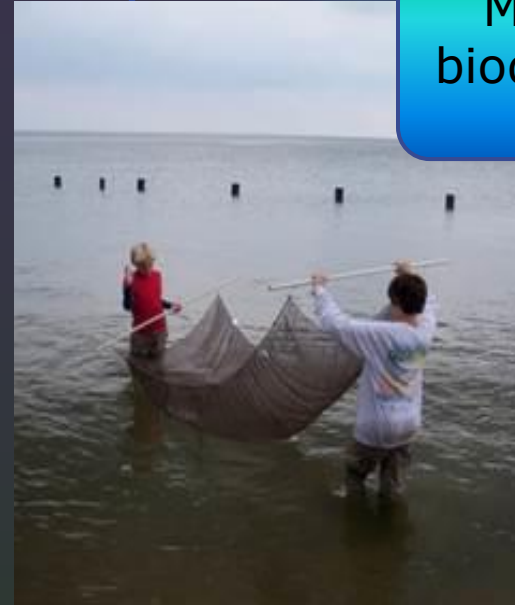


Scientific Information

- Monitoring component to oyster projects
- Partnerships
 - State Agencies
 - Academic Researchers
 - New Stakeholders
- Ability to leverage funding to achieve science-driven oyster habitat creation
- Communicate effectiveness and scale



Credibility



Measuring biodiversity at reefs

Oyster dispersal research in Pamlico Sound

Control Site



800' of Subtidal Reefs!



Moving restoration to the whole-system scale in Puget Sound, Washington





PUGET SOUND

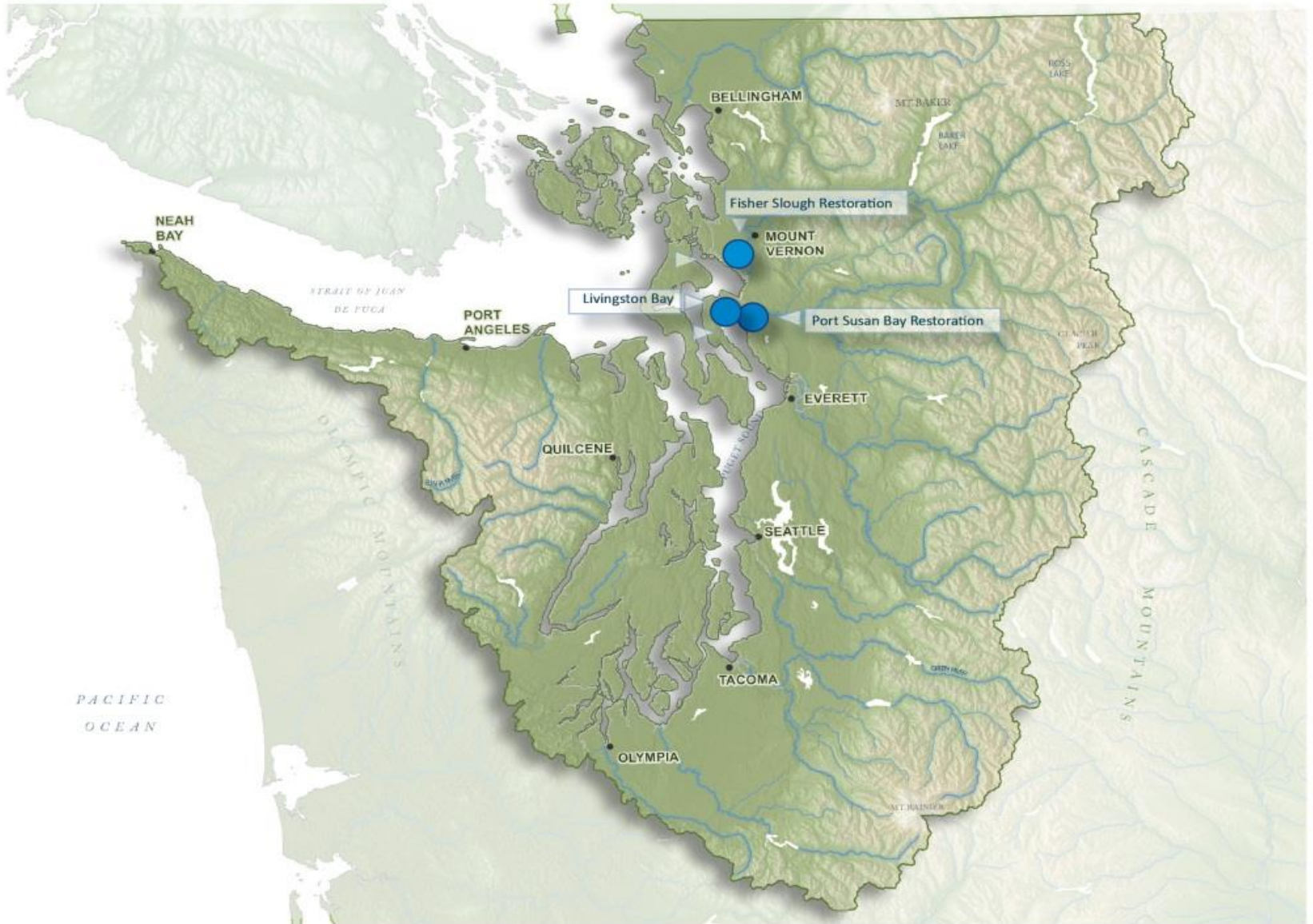


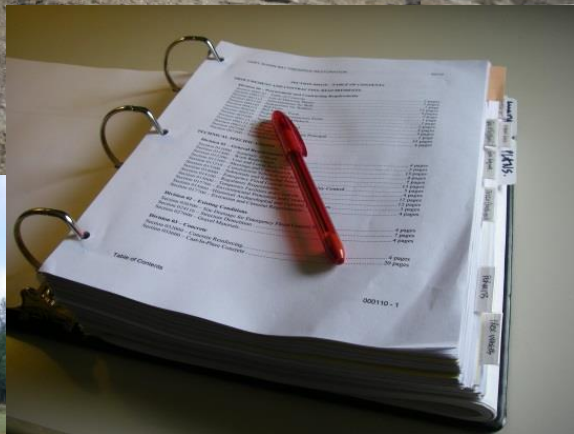




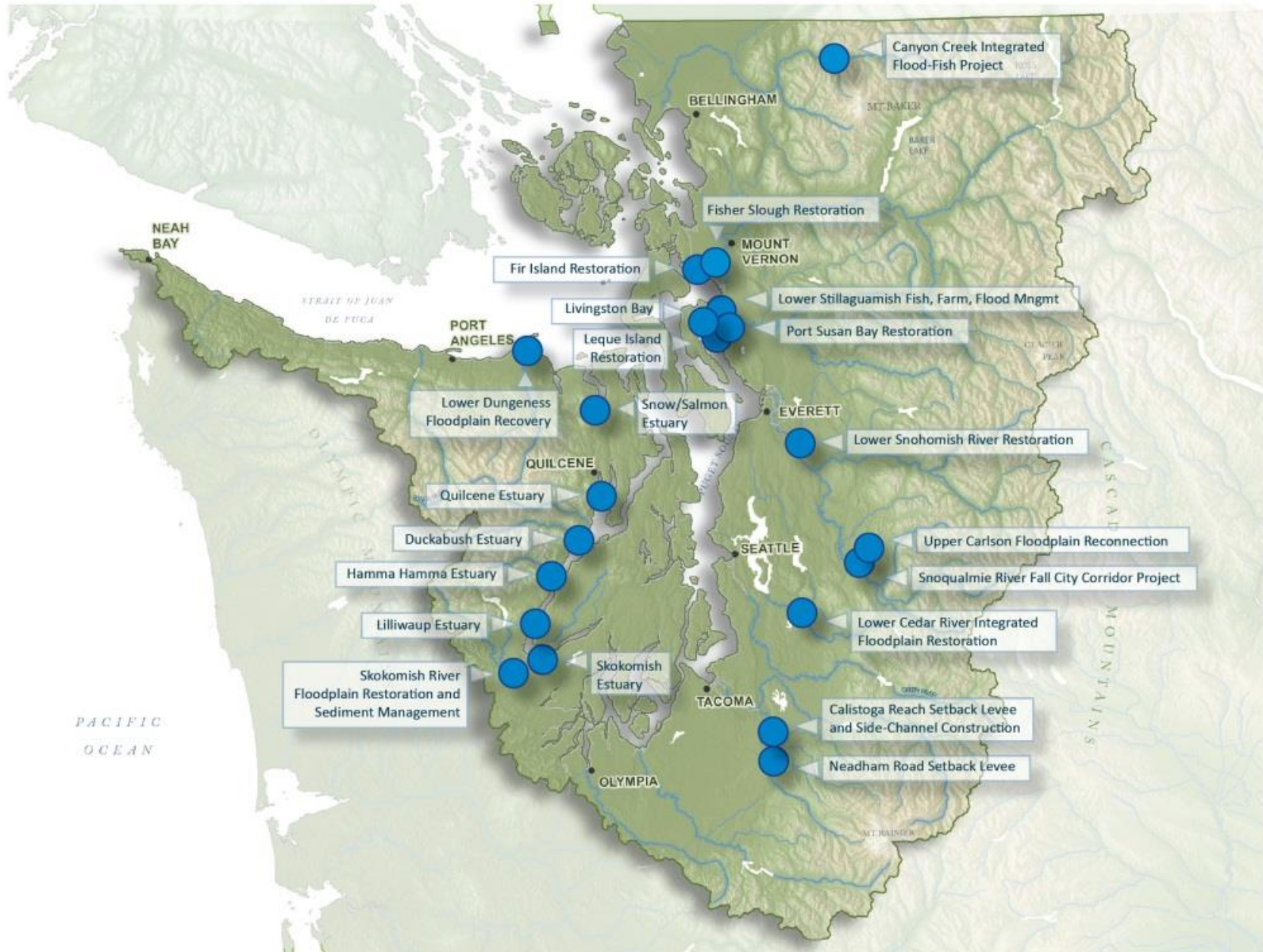


TNC-Owned and Managed Floodplain and Estuary Projects





Applying Place-Based Lessons: Current Floodplain and Estuary Projects





Hawai'i Sucks!

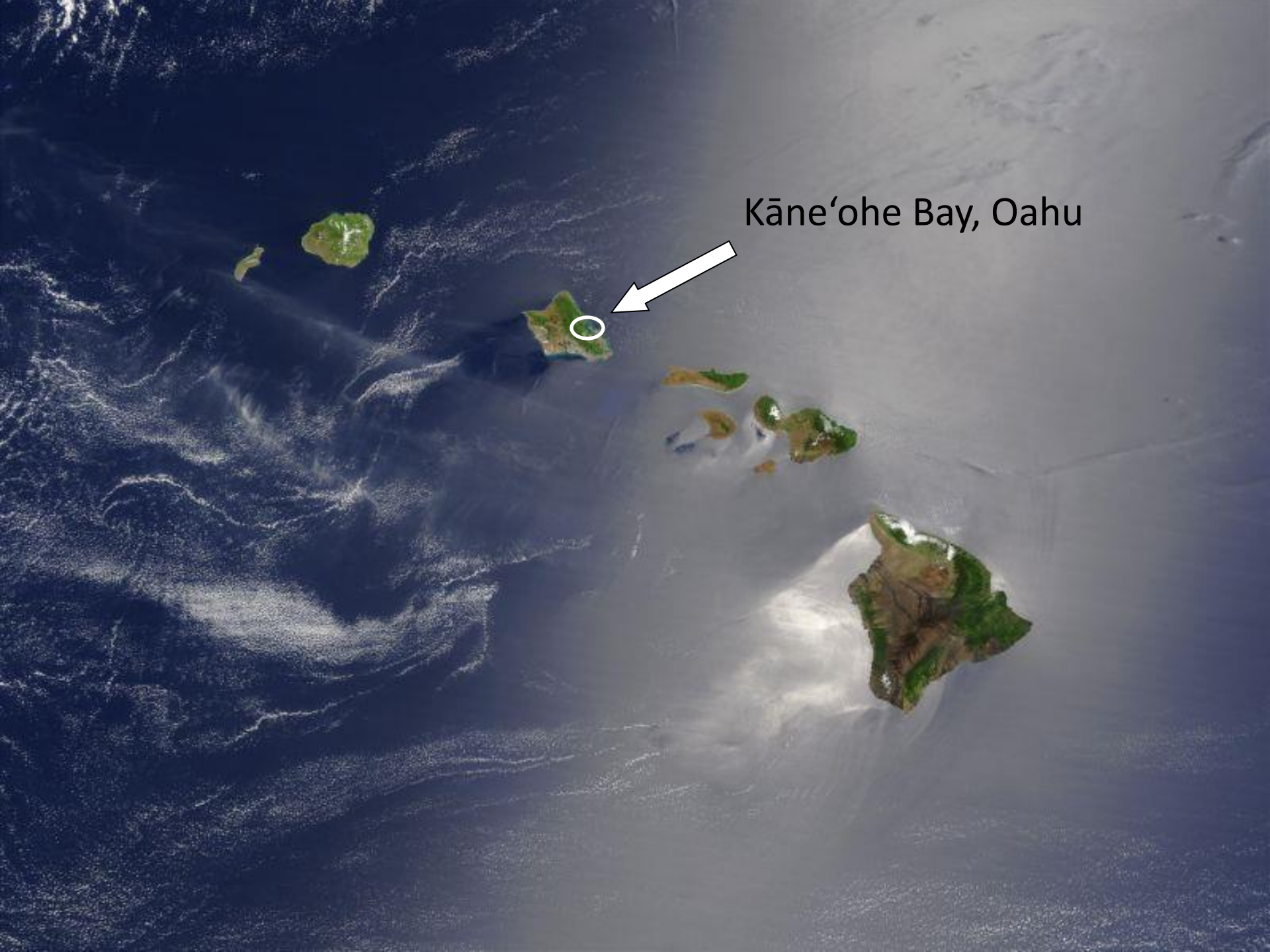
And we are darn good at it.

(And this title was NOT my idea....)



Eric Conklin
Hawai'i Marine Science Director

Kāneʻohe Bay, Oahu





Kāneʻohe Bay

“A healthy, vibrant,
sustainable Kaneʻohe Bay”

Strategies:

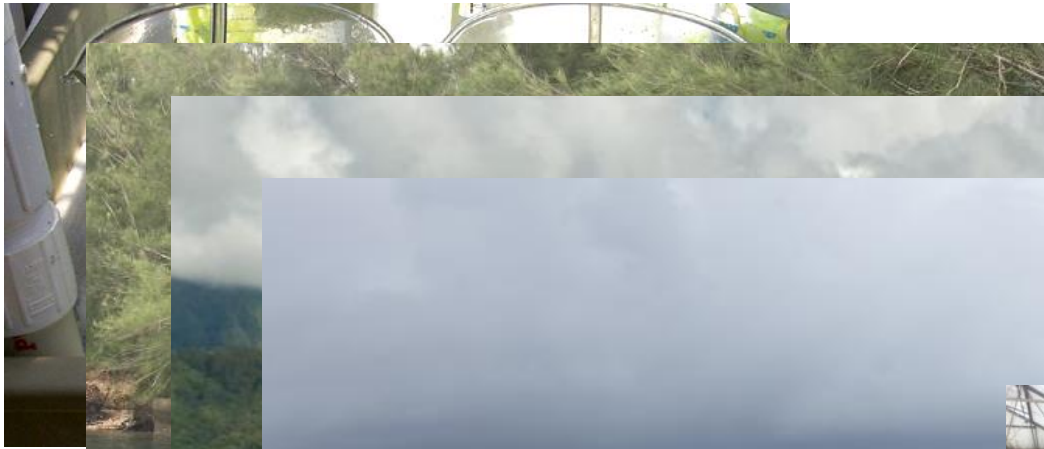
Short- to mid-term

- Supersucker
- Urchins

Mid- to long-term

- Better land-use practices
- Effective fisheries management





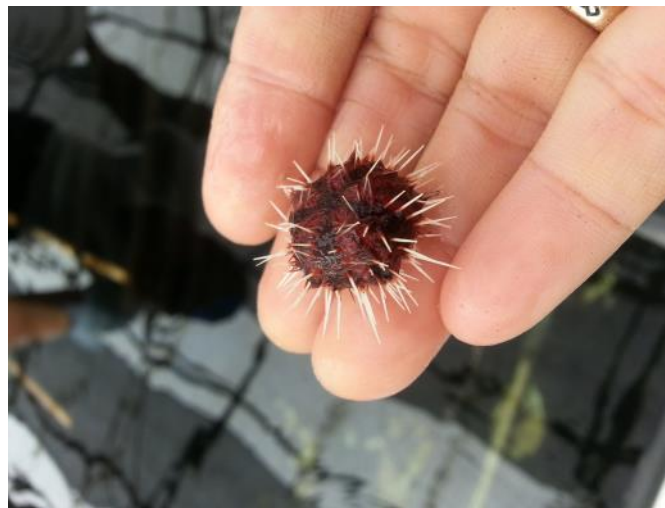


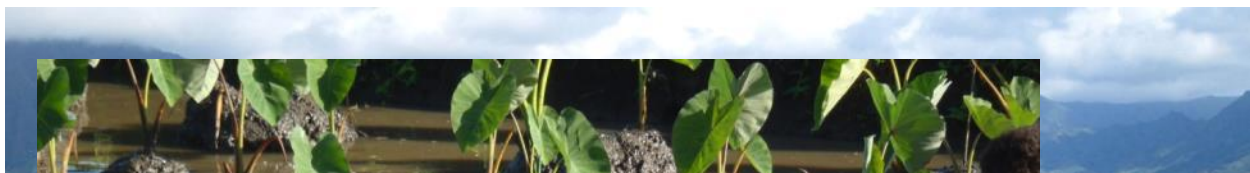
The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™







“A healthy, vibrant,
sustainable
Kane‘ohe Bay”

