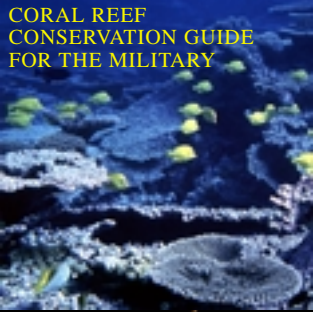


Protecting Coral Reef Ecosystems...



DoD Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan

In October 2000, DoD finalized its Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan outlining policies and actions to implement the military's responsibilities under Executive Order 13089 on Coral Reef Protection. The plan contains a comprehensive overview of DoD policies and programs related to coral reef protection and describes military activities potentially affecting coral reef ecosystems.



Coral Reef Conservation Guide for the Military

The Coral Reef Conservation Guide for the Military is a general outreach brochure for the military and public to heighten awareness of DoD's policy and programs for coral reef protection.



Giant Clams



Biomonitoring at Kwajalein and Johnston Atolls

Biomonitoring programs using giant clams and damselfish are being used to evaluate the uptake of potential contaminants near marine discharges at Kwajalein Atoll and Johnston Atoll. This approach will help monitor coral reef health and detect anthropogenic impacts.



Soft corals



Johnston Atoll

Coral Reef Protection and Management Guidelines for DoD Vessels and Installations

The Navy is sponsoring a project to develop a management plan for vessels operating in proximity to coral reefs and training protocols for personnel to implement such measures. This project will also develop procedures to be used during facility construction to maximize protection of coral reefs. DoD ports and associated reef ecosystems will be surveyed to identify priority areas, based on reef conditions, to develop further project recommendations to protect and restore coral reefs.



Discarded or lost fishing nets



Endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Reef Cleanup at Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Discarded or lost fishing nets pose a serious threat to marine life and can smother and break coral. Marine mammals, turtles, fishes and seabirds can become entangled, with little hope of escape. Since 1998, MCBH has organized reef cleanup activities, working with State and community volunteers. Over 5,000 pounds of net debris is removed each year in Kane'ohe Bay alone. These cleanup activities are an annual Earth Day event.



Recreational divers using a permanent mooring line for a safety stop



A patch reef at Johnston Atoll



Surgeonfish at Johnston Atoll

Installation of Permanent Moorings at Johnston Atoll

The Air Force and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jointly sponsored a project to protect the Johnston Atoll coral reefs by installing permanent moorings for recreational boats used by military and civilian personnel on the island. Mooring lines were installed at the most popular dive sites around the atoll to prevent damage to the coral. Divers can now enjoy the many dive sites around the atoll without damaging the reefs with anchors and chains.



Indo-Pacific Coral Reef



Clownfish with Host Anemone

Kingman Reef Transfer

Effective September 1, 2000, the Department of the Navy transferred custody of Kingman Reef to the Department of the Interior. Kingman Reef, a triangular, atoll-like reef and shoal, is situated about 33 miles northwest of Palmyra Island and 925 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii, and is very rich in marine life.