

RESEARCH AREAS

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Florida
Guam
Hawaii
Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands

The National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program

in partnership with

Nova Southeastern University's National Coral Reef Institute,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's
Coral Reef Conservation Program,
U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, and
U.S. Coral Reef All Islands Committee
proudly introduce our current fellows.

GOAL To develop a thriving and collaborative fellowship program that builds excellent, next-generation leaders and capacity for effective, local coral reef ecosystem management

PROCESS Recruit and place highly qualified individuals, whose education and work experience meet specific coral reef management needs, in each the seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each fellow works to address current capacity gaps and build longer-term solutions in these locations.

TILALI SCANLAN American Samoa



Born and raised in Vaitogi, American Samoa, Tilali Scanlan received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Science from the University of the South Pacific at Fiji.

During her fellowship in American Samoa, Scanlan will be working with the Coral Reef Advisory Group and partner agencies, conducting coral restoration trials in the village of Aua, raising community awareness and knowledge of coral restoration techniques and practices, building local technical capacity, and ensuring ongoing success with coral restoration efforts. Additionally, Scanlan will help bolster and implement the territorial coral restoration plan and support the work of general conservation activities and projects.

ELLY PEREZ—Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Elly Perez attended Indiana University—Bloomington where she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Biology and Certificate in Underwater Resource Management.

As the fellow in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Perez will work to develop and implement the CNMI-wide Coral Bleaching Response Plan and resilience-based management strategies to address acute disturbances of bleaching. This will include raising community awareness regarding impacts of climate change on CNMI's reefs and working toward developing a monitoring program to assess long- and short-term impacts of coral bleaching. Additionally, she will work collaboratively with federal and state partners, as well as nonprofits and local businesses to address all concerns with climate change on CNMI's reef ecosystem health.



SAMANTHA COOK—Florida



Samantha Cook, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University and her Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University.

As the South Florida fellow, Cook will primarily help coordinate the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) response team across Florida's Coral Reef Tract, which includes working with state and federal partners, as well as universities and nongovernment organizations to help translate ongoing research into management practices. She will also support restoration efforts by helping to coordinate the implementation of defined priorities within the SCTLD Restoration Team.

CAMILLE QUICHOCHO—Guam



Born and raised in Guam, Camille Quichocho received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Life Sciences and her biology minor from the University of Guam.

During her fellowship in Guam, Quichocho will work with the Guam Coral Reef Initiative to develop a comprehensive action plan to guide Guam's coral reef restoration efforts for the next 10 years. The focus of these efforts is to enhance reef resilience to thermal stress, restore reef fish habitats to support sustainable subsistence and commercial fisheries, and recover ecologically important coral species.

LARA NOREN—Hawaii



Originally from Minnesota, Lara Noren received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina—Wilmington.

As the fellow in Hawaii, Noren will work for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to amplify and investigate diverse sustainable funding streams for coral restoration projects and other nature-based solutions. These sustainable funding streams include developing a reef insurance report for the Hawaii state legislature, submitting updates to the Hawaii Mitigation Bank Prospectus for DAR, and assisting in the Ocean Stewardship Feasibility Study for DAR's Ocean Stewardship Fund. These projects will ensure diverse funding to protect Hawaii's coastlines from natural disasters and to enhance the state's marine resources for recreational use.

FABIOLA TORRES—Puerto Rico



Born and raised in the island of Puerto Rico, Fabiola Torres received her Bachelor of Science in General Biology from the University of Puerto Rico—Aguadilla and her Master of Science in Biology from the University of California in Los Angeles.

During her fellowship in Puerto Rico, Torres will work with the island's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to promote the use of citizen science to fill coral reef knowledge gaps and encourage local participation in ongoing monitoring of reef health, especially regarding Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). Additionally, she will facilitate conversations between research, education, rescue, and management groups to maximize collaboration in SCTLD response efforts in the archipelago.

ERIN BOWMAN—U.S. Virgin Islands



Erin Bowman received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island and her Master of Science in Marine Ecology and Conservation from the International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources program.

As the U.S. Virgin Islands fellow, Bowman will work with the Division of Coastal Zone Management in the St. Croix East End Marine Park. Primarily, she will coordinate coral disease treatments intended to reduce the impact of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in the area. She will also work with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to evaluate the effects of coastal development in the form of watershed interventions on the nearby marine environment, as well as support the preparation and execution of the 2023 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

