

The Coral Fellowship
Newsletter
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Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
Coral Reef Conservation
Program (CRCP) to
relay information about
the fellowship program
and provide a forum for
information exchange
among fellows, mentors,
program coordinators
and other stakeholders

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Coral Fellowship Newsletter

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Coral Fellows Present at USCRTF DC Meeting

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force held its 25th meeting in D.C. in February 24, 2011. During this week, the coral fellows presented their work twice: once to the Task Force Steering Committee members and also at the NOAA Central Library, a well-attended presentation open to the NOAA community—an opportunity for to see many of the on-the-ground and in-the-water efforts that the fellows have been working on. The fellows also received training



on project management and program evaluation from Kevin Doyle, and from the MPA Center on stakeholder engagement and the MPA Advisory Committee. Finally, the fellowship class was invited to participate in the anticipated *Reefs at Risk Revisited* DC launch event, that featured NOAA administrator Dr. Lubchenco as key note speaker.

Talakhaya: Digitalization of Revegetation

The Talakhaya Watershed Revegetation Project has kept several CNMI coral fellows busy working to reduce the nonpoint source pollution running off steep slopes of the Talakhaya Watershed into the adjacent coral reef ecosystem. Identified as a priority watershed in 2005 in the CNMI LAS, revegetation of the badlands began in 2006 to address deforestation and soil loss caused by illegal burning activities. Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*) seedlings have successfully stabilized the soil, and more than 17,563 seedlings have been planted.



But because of continuing burning, teams have to go back and replant many areas—how do you keep track of all this work? CNMI Fellow Aric Bickel, who has been leading the replanting effort, has also been updating a GIS system that shows the shifting balance between advances in the regvegetation efforts and the setbacks that occur as a result of burning.



2007 Planning
2008 Planning
2009 Planning
2010 Planning
Burned areas (surveyed in 2009)



Check Out
the Coral
Fellowship
Website for
a complete
profile on
each of the
current
Coral
Fellows

Introducing Carolyn Doherty, American Samoa Fellow

Carolyn Doherty, University of Richmond Class of 2011 (December 2010 graduate), has recently arrived in American Samoa as the new Coral Fellow for 2011. Carolyn received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Geography, focusing her academic research on the challenges small-island developing states face in terms of global climate change and the opportunities available for mitigation and adaptation. Carolyn's research emphasizes using community-based natural resource management strategies to encourage resilience to climate change. Though her academic research focused upon the Caribbean region, Carolyn is familiar with Pacific island nations as well. As a Ernest F. Hollings Fellow, Carolyn traveled to American Samoa to work with Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary to help develop a climate change risk assessment for the Territory.



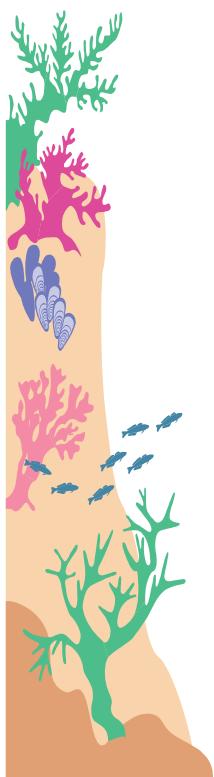
Carolyn Doherty

As the Coral Fellow, Carolyn works with a variety of local agencies to ensure that American Samoa continues to pursue progressive actions in terms of climate change education and adaptation. Among other projects, she is currently completing a Territorial Climate Change Framework and developing a Community Resilience Planning Guide

as a result of mandates generated from the recent, and very successful, Climate Change Summit in February. In addition, Carolyn is finalizing the Climate Change Curricula that the previous Coral Fellow, Clare Shelton, developed in 2010. The Climate Change Curricula are currently in testing phase and will be finalized and integrated into the Territory's science curriculum.



Carolyn in the field



A Sample of what each Fellow has been Doing so far...

Florida: Lauren Waters

Lauren, in southern Florida, has been working on Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts, looking at permitting process and across-agency documents, working to make this data organized and available. She has also been researching how the public reports to local agencies environmental events such as groundings.

Puerto Rico: Rina Haupfield

Rina has been working on Tres Palmas Marine Reserve, in the west side of the island, creating the environmental education and outreach program, involving the local communities that surround the reserve. She also established a plastics reduction campaign for the Tres Palmas Marine Reserve Watershed.

USVI: Marija Micuda

Marija has been working on the St Croix East End Marine Park and the St. Thomas East End Reserve. She has been assisting in the a *Use Assessment Survey*, collecting data and engaging the tour operators. She has also been developing sustainable tourism plans and marketing strategies for both parks in the USVI.

Hawai'i: Luna Kekoa

Luna has been coordinating a Coastal User Mapping project in Maui, bringing several group partners together, and involved in Maui's Conservation Action Plan. He has also been helping implement several creel surveys and Makai Watch in Maui, assisting in community environmental monitoring in Kaanapali.

CNMI: Aric Bickel

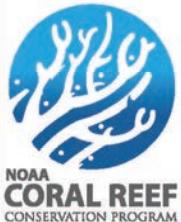
Aric has been working to finalize the Talakhaya Conservation Action Plan, now in the final stage of public comments. He has also been leading the revegetation project, assisting creating the bleaching response plan, and a popular environmental movie night that attracts a large audience every month.

Guam: Tammy Jo Anderson Taft

Tammy has led the Guardians of the Reef program, which reached 25 elementary schools this year! For adults, she chairs the Guam's Env Ed Committee, and has been crafting press releases that translate NOAA scientific products into Guam-specific materials, as well as island-wide PSAs.

AS: Carolyn Doherty

Carolyn has arrived in American Samoa, hitting the ground running! She has begun coordinating work with local agencies to develop plans and projects that address climate change education and adaptation.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Management Fellowship was established in 2003 to respond to the need for additional coral reef management capacity and capability in the U.S. Flag Pacific and Caribbean islands. The fellowship program's mission is two-fold, it provides coral reef management support in each participating island jurisdiction by placing highly qualified individuals whose education and work experience meet each island's specific coral reef management needs, while providing individual fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.

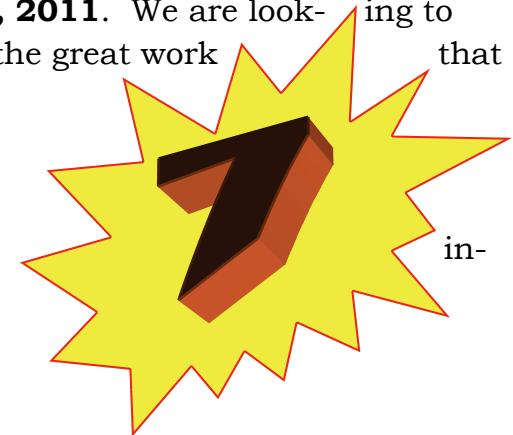


WE ARE HIRING!!!

The Coral Reef Management Fellowship will be recruiting for the upcoming 2012-2014 cycle. We are drafting Statements of Work for each of the seven fellowship positions, and will be accepting **applications during the month of June, 2011**. We are looking to find seven highly-qualified individuals to help us carry on the great work that the fellows have been doing.

As always, while we at the headquarter level advertise the position nationally, we count on the many on-the-ground connections the fellowship has to assist us in generating interest in the positions among potential local candidates. Please check the fellowship site:

<http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrcp/fellowship/>



for detailed Statement of Works for each position, application procedure and closing date.

Closing Notes...

American Samoa hosted its first *Climate Change Summit* in February 2011, organized by the previous fellow, Claire. The summit was a very successful one, presenting tools for community adaptation planning, sustainable development, and incorporating traditional knowledge into climate change resiliency plans. Carolyn, as the current fellow, will be working in developing a planning guide for the local communities based on the results and outcomes of the summit. Great job, America Samoa!

Not allowed: *underwater fireworks, underwater tazers or taking sea cucumbers on a jet plane...*

Guam's Tammy Jo created a poster of the island's fishing regulations, in collaboration with Guam's Dept of Agriculture, with an initial run of 1,500 posters. The poster (a small portion of it shown on the right) outlines many of the laws that help protect Guam's beautiful underwater ecosystem.

FISHING LAWS



For questions about Guam's fishing laws and regulations, contact the Guam Department of Agriculture Public Law 24-21 (An act to establish rules and regulations for the control of fisheries by the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources of the Department of Agriculture. 5 Guam Code Annotated to add new subsections 63116.1 and 63116.2 to section 63116 chapter to expand the protection of Guam's marine resources). This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOT ALLOWED

CALL 911 OR 735-3955 TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

- No explosives for fishing
- No damaging or removing coral
- No poisons for fishing
- No taking or selling of any endangered animal (sea turtle)
- No electric shocking devices for fishing
- No gill nets for commercial fishing. Maximum length 1,000 feet
- No export of sea urchins or sea cucumbers

MEASURE BEFORE YOU TAKE