



NOAA's Undersea Research Center for the Wider Caribbean Region

Caribbean Marine Research Center / Perry Institute for Marine Science

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The marine ecosystems of the Wider Caribbean region are increasingly threatened by a variety of anthropogenically and naturally induced factors that have contributed to depleted fisheries yields, diminished coral cover, and loss of coastal habitats. Effectively managing and conserving these economic and cultural resources requires accurate information obtained through sound science.

As a regional leader in conducting and supporting marine research, the Caribbean Marine Research Center (CMRC) is actively working to address the marine science and conservation needs of the wider Caribbean through NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) projects, internal science programs, and partnerships with visiting researchers.



Highlights



- Research on Nassau grouper played a pivotal role in the decision to close the 2004 Nassau grouper (left) fishing season
- Provided impetus to increase the amount of area set aside as marine reserves
- Helping to understand and predict major coral bleaching events through continuous long-term monitoring of environmental conditions at sensitive reefs in Florida, the Bahamas, and U.S.V.I.

- Illuminated aspects of fish and sponge interactions in Caribbean reefs by discovering the importance of parrotfish predation on sponges
- Provided a greater understanding of the fertility rates of Caribbean stony corals, which has helped to protect this declining species
- Contributed to understanding white plague disease which not only destroys isolated corals but has the potential to impact the function and productivity of entire coral reef ecosystems



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