

Coastal Ocean Quarterly

Spring 2020

News from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) formed the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) in 1999 as the focal point for NOAA's coastal ocean science efforts. We provide coastal managers with the scientific information necessary to decide how best to protect environmental resources and public health, preserve valued habitats, and improve the way communities interact with coastal ecosystems.

NCCOS Awards \$1.5 Million to Support Coastal Communities Facing Changing Sea Levels and Flooding

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is awarding over \$1.5M for research into the ability of natural coastal habitats and partially engineered or restored habitats to reduce the impacts of sea level rise and flooding and improve the resilience of their communities. [Continue reading](#)



Celebrating 30 Years of Competitive Coastal Ocean Science Research

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Competitive Research Program (CRP) is celebrating 30 years of competitive coastal ocean science research in

2020. The NCCOS-managed program remains committed to funding cutting edge science that improves the management of coastal resources and communities and supports NOAA's mission. [Continue reading](#)



[NCCOS Supports 20-year Plan to Restore Seven Coral Reefs in Florida Keys](#)

In collaboration with state and local partners, [NOAA has announced a bold strategy](#) to restore and preserve seven coral reef sites in the Florida Keys, part of an unprecedented, decades-long effort to revitalize the region's highly diverse and economically valuable marine ecosystem. [Continue reading](#)



[Promising HAB Control Method Builds on NCCOS Funded Discovery of Natural Algicide](#)

An NCCOS-funded project, led by University of Delaware marine scientist [Dr. Kathryn Coyne](#) (on right in picture shown), characterized an algicidal compound produced by the bacterium *Shewanella*, and [confirmed](#) the compound can selectively kill marine dinoflagellate phytoplankton known to produce harmful algal blooms. [Continue reading](#)



[Shoreline Armoring Along Oregon Coast Lowers Value of Adjacent, Unarmored Land Vulnerable to Erosion](#)

New NCCOS-sponsored [research](#) focused on the Oregon coast shows that armoring properties threatened by shoreline erosion economically benefits the owners of such properties at the expense of adjacent, at-risk, unarmored properties.

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[New Technique Shows Oyster Shell Seeding is Possible in Open Water](#)

Traditional oyster restoration strategies involve seeding oyster shells with lab-harvested oyster larvae in enclosed tanks before returning the seeded shells to their natural habitat. A research team led by NCCOS has been studying the feasibility of directly releasing oyster larvae onto open water oyster reefs as an alternative to the current restoration process. [Continue reading](#)



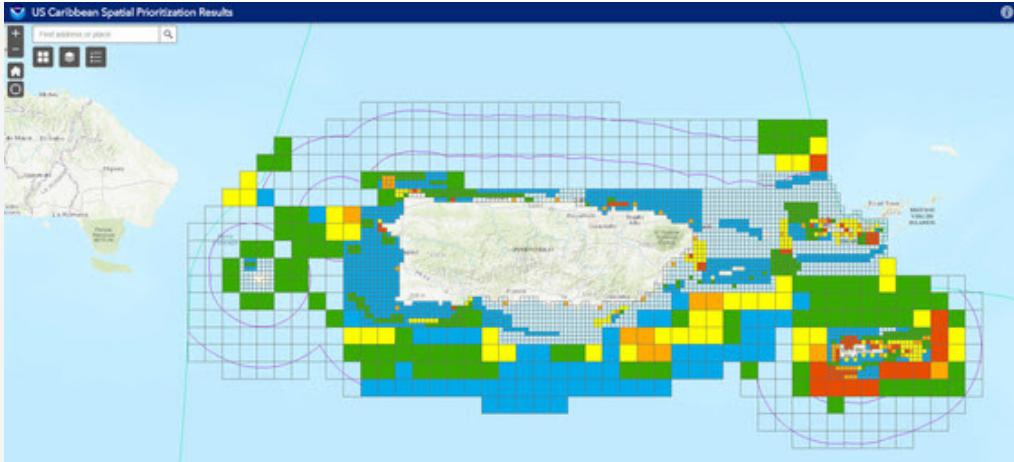
Scientists Document Effect of Crude Oil on a Pacific Stony Coral

NCCOS scientists and their colleagues at NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration have determined the toxicity of Louisiana sweet crude oil on a stony coral (*Pocillopora damicornis*) native to the Pacific Ocean. The [study](#) found that coral exposed to a mixture of crude oil and seawater for 96 hours had great difficulty regenerating tissue. Shorter term exposures (6–24 hour durations) to the crude oil–seawater mixture also had a negative effect on coral tissue regeneration. [Continue reading](#)



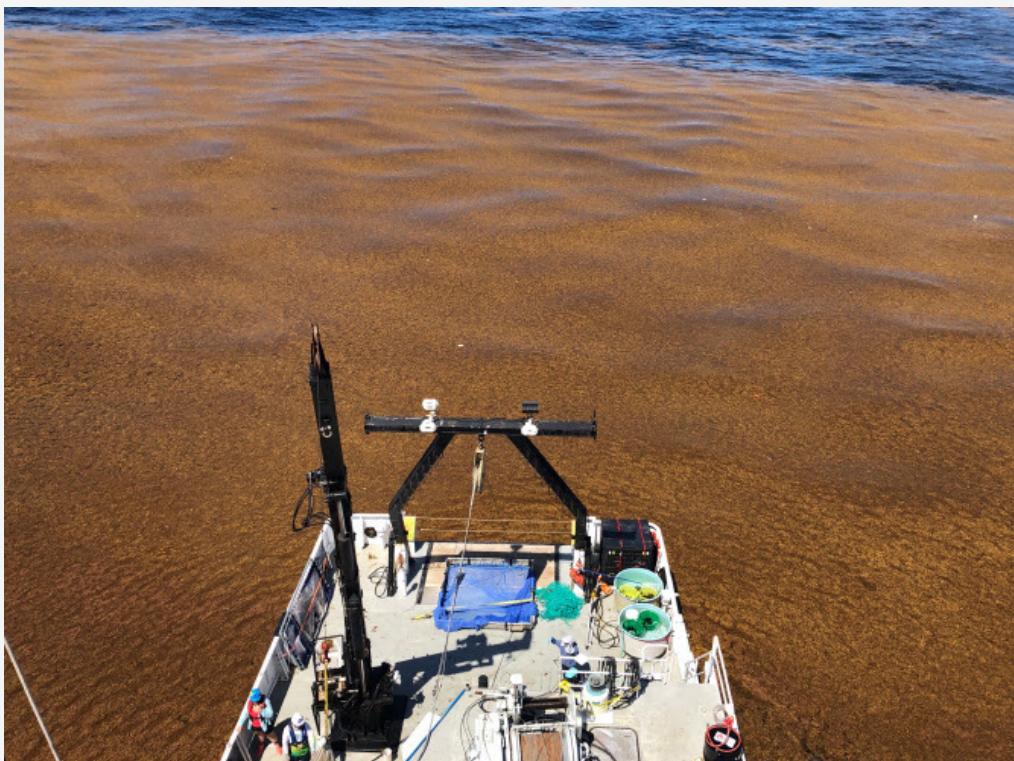
Spatial Analysis Completed to Prioritize U.S. Caribbean Mapping and Exploration

NCCOS recently completed the spatial analysis that will guide the prioritization of future seafloor mapping, research, and exploration in the U.S. Caribbean. With input from regional stakeholders, the research team developed a spatial framework and a [web-based mapping tool](#) to identify common management priorities for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). [Continue reading](#)



[Searching for Seaweed](#)

Did you know the brown seaweed that washes up at the beach is a biologically important habitat? With support from the NOAA RESTORE Science Program, a team led by Dr. Frank Hernandez is searching for this seaweed, also known as sargassum, in the Gulf of Mexico and gaining a better understanding of its importance to fisheries. [Continue reading](#)



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