

Guam Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program

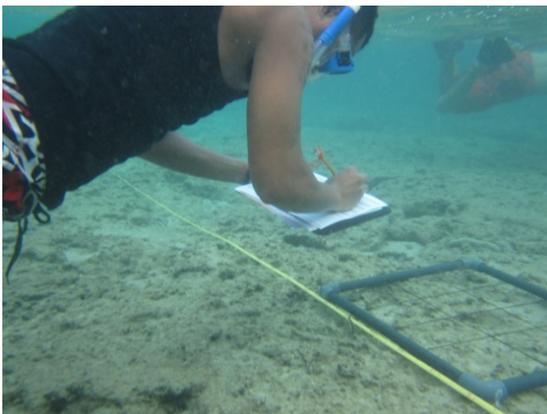


Volunteers from UOG Americorps pose after completing In-Water Training

Looking for a new activity to help protect Guam's environment? Then join the Guam Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program (GCCRMP)! Launched in July 2012, GCCRMP has trained almost 200 volunteers to do conduct coral reef monitoring surveys. Volunteers learn more about Guam's coral reefs and our diverse marine species, coral reef ecology, and challenges facing our reefs. They also learn how to conduct two types of monitoring surveys that will help track the health of our coral reefs.

What is coral reef monitoring?

Coral reef monitoring is collecting information on different marine species on Guam's coral reefs. Through GCCRMP, volunteers learn how to collect information on Guam's reef flats through two types of biological monitoring surveys. GCCRMP focuses data collection on benthic cover and macroinvertebrates. Benthic cover is what's on the sea bottom, such as sand, corals, algae, and other substrate. Macroinvertebrates are animals large enough to see in plain view, such as sea cucumbers, sea urchins, sea stars, giant clams, and more.



Volunteer collects data on benthic cover in Piti

Volunteers can attend monthly monitoring events to help collect at two of our monitoring sites. The program's monitoring sites include Piti Bomb Holes

Marine Preserve and Fouha Bay. We are open to helping residents do surveys at community-adopted sites. Once extensive data is collected and analyzed, results will be made available online. Data can be referenced by local resource managers and the public to help make the best decisions on the island's marine resources.

Our Mission

- ❖ To create opportunities for Guam residents to engage in coral reef management through participation in coral reef monitoring activities
- ❖ To help volunteers interact with and learn more about Guam's coral reefs and the challenges facing them

Community Monitoring Training

Volunteers go through Community Monitoring Training before they can participate in data collection events. Community Monitoring Training is separated into two parts: Classroom Training and In-Water Training. During Classroom Training, volunteers learn about coral reef ecology, threats to our coral reefs, monitoring survey methods as well as marine species that volunteers will monitor. Classroom Training helps volunteers understand the significance of these biological surveys as an effort to track the health of Guam's coral reefs.



Volunteers practice using field guides and data sheets through dry monitoring exercise during Classroom Training

During In-Water Training, volunteers go through all steps to set up their 25 meter transect (survey area) to conduct one macroinvertebrate monitoring survey and one benthic monitoring survey. Volunteers on the same team compare their data by discussing differences and ways to improve their accuracy when doing monitoring surveys. Discussion of data collection will help volunteers build their monitoring skills and ensure they collect good data.

Guam Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program

During In-Water Training and other monitoring events, volunteers are given cameras to take photos. Volunteers take fun photos, photos of marine species that can't be identified on site, or interesting marine species. Photos taken by volunteers are shared on our Facebook page and on our website.



Volunteer takes photo of algae species encountered in benthic survey

Community Monitoring Training is offered every month to Guam residents. Additionally, program staff offers training to organized groups that want to do coral reef monitoring at program events or at a community-adopted site. Don't have your own snorkel gear? The program lends snorkel gear and life jackets at every program event.

Monitoring Events

Volunteers that complete Community Monitoring Training can participate in monthly Monitoring Events. During these monitoring events, members will use their new skills to do monitoring surveys on Guam reef flats. Monthly monitoring surveys will help track changes in the health of Guam's coral reefs. Managers and Guam's residents will be able to see if our coral reefs are growing, dying, or staying the same at our monitoring sites.



Fun Science: Volunteers pose underwater for a quick shot before they set up their transect

Additionally, program volunteers will be able to share their first-hand experience and new knowledge on Guam's reef flats with friends and family. This would result in widespread awareness about the state of Guam's coral reefs and our collective responsibility to take care of them.

Join Our Team!



Volunteers pose after completing training and receiving their GCCRMP member sticker

Still asking WHY?

- Go to the beach
- Learn about Guam's marine species by experiencing it
- Snorkeling
- Fun service learning opportunity
- Writing on paper...UNDER WATER!
- Taking UNDERWATER photos!
- Help local reef managers make better decisions on the island's marine resources
- Make new friends

For more information, visit us online:

 Guamreefmonitoring.wordpress.com

 Facebook.com/gureefmonitoring

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