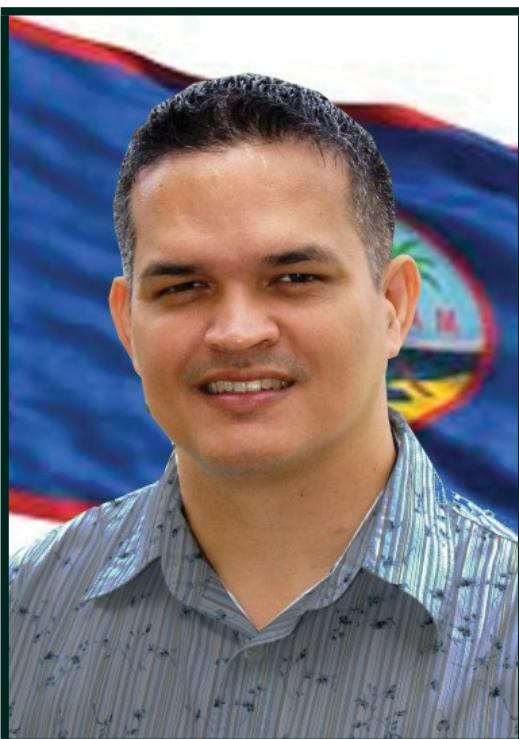




A message from the Director



Hafa Adai and thank you for reading Man, Land and Sea this month.

We wish to extend a sincere thank you to the thousands of people who volunteered at the International Coastal Cleanup this month.

Your dedication will help keep plastics and other types of marine debris out of the ocean. This effort helps

protect corals, fish, our tourism industry and everything connected to our resources.

We hope to see you at future cleanup events and once again, thanks for getting up early and coming out to the International Coastal Cleanup. Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

TOMMY A. MORRISON
Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

Community monitoring program starts in Piti

HAGATNA - A new coral reef monitoring initiative will be starting this month.

Marybelle Quinata, program coordinator for the Guam Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program (GCCRMP), will be leading this community outreach program in which community members are trained to do monitoring surveys on Guam's coral reefs.

The program not only educates about the importance of coral reefs to the island and teaches about the different marine species that call Guam home, it also provides an avenue for communities to provide support to, and communicate with, local reef managers.

Like other agencies' monitoring programs, data will be collected regarding what is found on the ocean floor (benthic cover) and



MONITORING CORALS - Volunteers learn how to monitor corals in Piti.

how many invertebrates (animals without a backbone) are present in Guam's waters (macro-invertebrate abundance). The organisms which are included in benthic cover are corals, algae, and any other living organism found on the ocean floor. Benthic cover also includes non-living surfaces of the ocean floor, like sand,

rock, and old dead coral. Macro-invertebrates include sea urchins, sea cucumbers (balate), sea stars, and sponges, just to name a few. Quinata and her team will be providing coral reef monitoring training for all volunteers, all the snorkeling gear, and the monitoring equipment needed to collect the data.

MANLANDANDSEA

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