

Photo credit: David Burdick

APRIL 2018

GUAM YEAR OF THE REEF 2018 NEWSLETTER

Håfa Adai!

In celebration of **Guam Year of the Reef 2018**, the Guam Coral Reef Initiative partners and stakeholders would like to share news, reef facts, happenings, and upcoming events with our coral reef community through this monthly newsletter.

Each month we will highlight the monthly theme with facts about Guam's coral reefs. We will also take a look back on the previous month's events to share how Guam's community members, local leaders, scientists, government agencies, businesses, and nonprofits are working together to protect and study Guam's coral reefs.

If you would like to contribute content or photos, please contact Mallory Morgan at the Bureau of Statistics and Plans via email at mallory.morgan@bsp.guam.gov. Don't forget to check out our website at www.guamcoralreefs.com and like us on Facebook at [@GuamYearoftheReef2018](https://www.facebook.com/GuamYearoftheReef2018).

#GYOR2018



“Guam’s Marine Preserves”

This month's GYOR theme is **Guam's Marine Preserves**.

The Government of Guam established five marine preserves through Public Law 24-21, passed in 1997 (Figure 1). The preserves have been enforced since 2001. Marine preserves help protect coral reefs and the many fish and animals that depend on them. They are especially useful for protecting reef fish stocks by regulating activities such as fishing.

Restrictions vary by preserve, but generally prohibit most types of fishing, shell collecting, removal of sand and rocks, and the taking of aquatic animals including corals.

Guam's marine preserves protect about 10% of the island's coastline and adjacent waters. They are great places to recreate and enjoy Guam's reef life, attract tourists, and increase economic value of our fisheries.

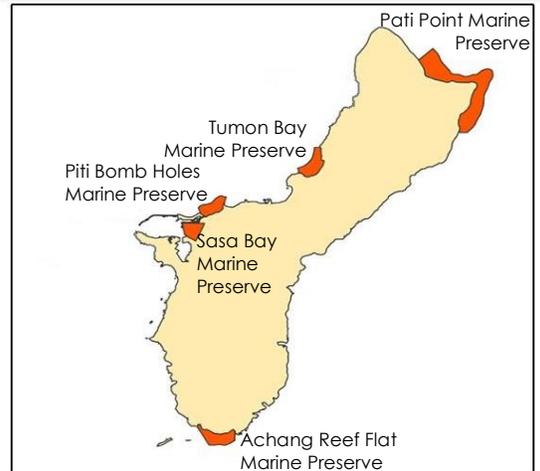


Figure 1: Map showing boundaries for the five marine preserves designated by the Government of Guam in 1997. [Source: UOG Marine Lab 2018]

Guam Department of Agriculture's Conservation Officers are responsible for enforcing the island's natural resource regulations. Signs posted at each of the marine preserves outline the laws and regulations of that preserve. Violators of marine preserve regulations are subject to fines up to \$500, or imprisonment up to 90 days.



Figure 2: Fish Eye Marine Park located within the Piti Bomb Holes Marine Preserve [Photo: MDA Dive Shop 2018]

TUMON BAY PRESERVE

RESTRICTIONS

- 1) Taking aquatic animals is restricted.
- 2) Hook and line from shore, cast net from shore, and cast net along the reef margin are the only fishing methods allowed but are limited to the take of certain species listed in Public Law 24-21.

If you see a violation, please report it to the Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Section by calling 735-0294.

4th Guam Coral Reef Symposium



Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to everyone who joined us for the 4th Guam Coral Reef Symposium on March 27, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. **We had an outstanding turnout with 210 attendees**, including many high school, college, and graduate students. Speakers presented on topics ranging from new innovations in reef mapping technologies to the genetics of Guam's coral reef organisms to managing the impacts of human use and pollution on our reefs. Thanks to our poster presenters as well, who shared updates from the field on Guam's staghorn *Acropora* corals, fish spawning aggregation surveys, fish mating strategies, photo-symbiosis, and coral reef fisheries management.

We appreciate all of the speakers who traveled from near and far to reach Guam, especially our keynote speaker from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dr. Adrian Stier (pictured, above right). Dr. Stier spoke to us about reef recovery and management implications.



Many thanks to our generous funders who made the symposium possible: NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, University of Guam Sea Grant and EPSCoR, the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Calvo Enterprises, Coast 360, Tokio Marine Pacific, and Calvo's Insurance. Thank you also for the support provided by the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Professional and International Programs.

In the News

- KUAM news featured the Bureau of Statistics and Plans' Coral Reef Resilience Coordinator, **Whitney Hoot**, to share information on the 4th Coral Symposium and GYOR2018. [Check out the clip here.](#)
- KUAM news highlighted the Bureau of Statistics and Plans' National Coral Reef Management Fellow **Mallory Morgan** in her efforts to reduce impacts of tourism and recreational use on Guam's coral reefs. [Check out the clip here.](#)
- Guam Daily Post featured the Coral Symposium and information on Guam's coral reefs [here](#).
- Volunteers were invited to [join FOR Guam](#) in the Guam Daily Post.
- Guam Daily Post published an editorial on a [call-to-action for the community](#) to protect coral reefs during #GYOR2018.

**Next month's GYOR theme:
Tourism depends on reefs**

April Events

- *Coral reef monitoring training (4/7)*
- *Keep Guam Beautiful – Beach cleanup at GNWR (4/7)*
- *Science Sunday: Brent Tibbatts from DAWR on Guam's Marine Mammals (4/15)*
- *Kid's Freshwater Fishing Derby (4/8)*

For more information about events:
guamcoralreefs.com/calendar