

# Officials want \$100M for reef restoration in Florida Keys

December 10 2019

---



In this June 8, 2015 file photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, volunteers with the Coral Restoration Foundation swim to a coral reef planting site with staghorn coral clippings in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Key Largo, Fla. On Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, sanctuary officials announced plans to raise \$100 million to spearhead a multi-decade restoration program for seven iconic reef sites off the Florida Keys. (Bob Care/Florida Keys News Bureau via AP)

Federal officials have announced plans to raise \$100 million to fund projects to restore seven significant coral reef sites in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

"Mission: Iconic Reefs" calls for restoring nearly 70 acres (28 hectares) of the Florida Reef Tract, one of the largest strategies ever proposed for coral restoration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday.

NOAA officials said the organization will work with partners to secure public and private funds.

"We have identified some iconic reefs here in the Keys that we want to help restore," sanctuary superintendent Sarah Fangman said. "These reefs have been suffering from a number of threats for years as have reefs around the world."

NOAA officials have received inquiries from government leaders wanting to know what can be done to save the reefs, Fangman said.

Since the 1970s, [tropical cyclones](#), heat-induced [coral bleaching](#), cold snaps and disease events have reduced coral coverage in the Keys. Outbreaks of stony coral tissue loss disease, first noticed off Miami in 2014, have spread as far as Cozumel, the Caribbean region, and have baffled marine biologists. The disease has not affected branching species such as elkhorn and staghorn coral.

Restoration efforts involving growing and transplanting corals have proven successful in the Keys, motivating plans for the large-scale restoration effort within the sanctuary.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Officials want \$100M for reef restoration in Florida Keys (2019, December 10)  
retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-12-100m-reef-florida-keys.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.