



Coral Restoration: Virtual Reality Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is associated with the [Coral Restoration VR Video](#).



Healthy coral is protected in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: David J. Ruck/NOAA



Bright colored corals live in Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Greg McFall/NOAA



A clam lives in the National Marine Sanctuary American Samoa's reef. Photo: Wendy Cover/NOAA

1. More than 6,000 species of animals and plants call the Florida Keys home, and many are found on coral reefs.
2. Coral colonies are groups of hundreds to thousands of individual coral animals, called polyps, living together.
3. Coral reefs only cover 1% of the oceanfloor, but they support 25% of all ocean life.
4. Coral reefs are home to fishes and other organisms where they find food, reproduce, and raise their young.
5. Coral reefs support humans by providing food, supporting recreation, and protecting coastlines from storms and erosion.
6. Coral reefs that are damaged by human impacts like pollution, overfishing, and misplaced anchors have less ability to recover from natural hazards.
7. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary has been protecting the only living barrier reef in the continental United States since 1990.
8. Mission: Iconic Reefs is a restoration plan for seven iconic reefs in the Florida Keys. It brings together the best scientists, coral restorationists, and citizen scientists to change the Florida Keys' future.