



Photo: NOAA

# MISSION: ICONIC REEFS

## CARYSFORT REEF

At Carysfort Reef, shallow corals proliferate, making for perfect snorkeling conditions, while, massive star corals create a labyrinth of ridges, gullies, and tunnels. The largest sanctuary preservation area (SPA) within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Carysfort Reef historically supported extensive thickets of ESA-listed elkhorn and staghorn corals and diverse deepwater reef habitats. It's an important site for **Mission: Iconic Reefs** because of its close proximity to the Florida Current and interconnectedness to the wider Caribbean.

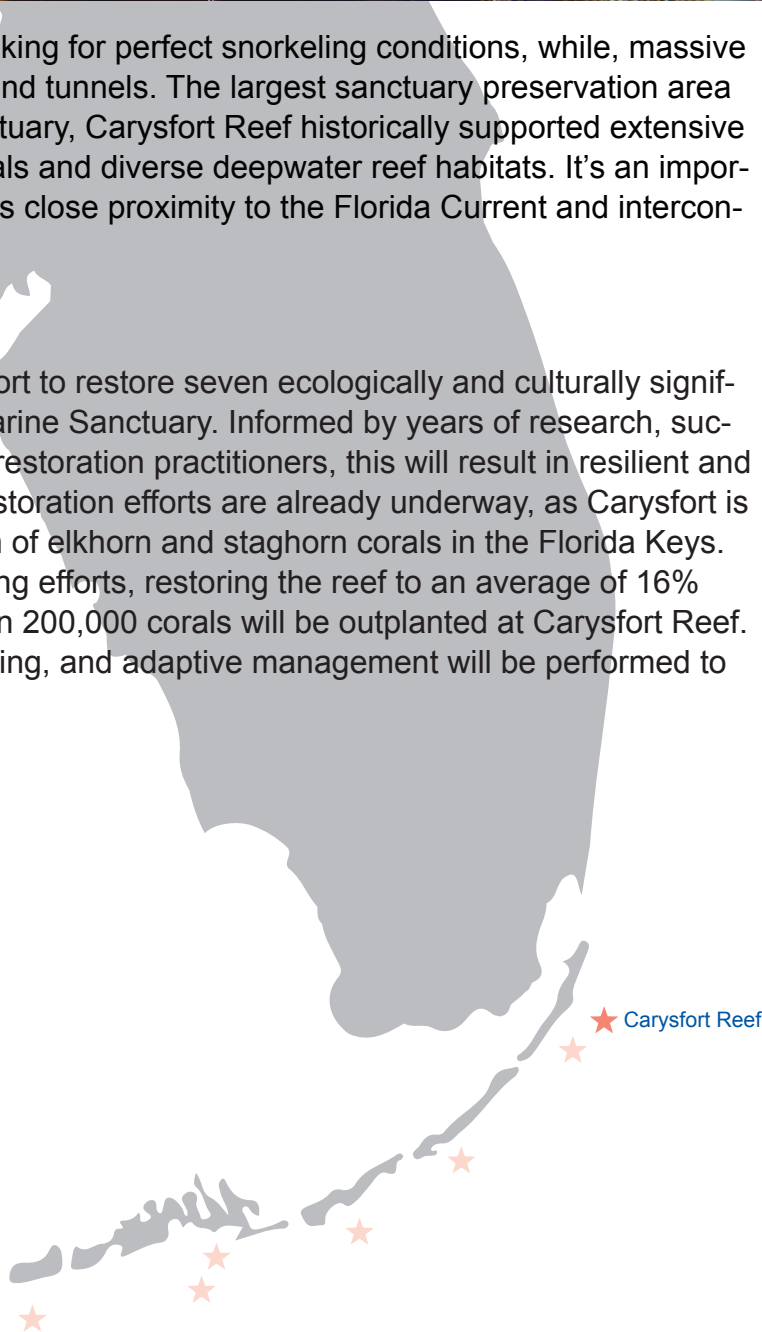
### Restoration Vision

**Mission: Iconic Reefs** is an unprecedented effort to restore seven ecologically and culturally significant coral reefs within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Informed by years of research, successful trials, and expertise from scientists and restoration practitioners, this will result in resilient and regenerative coral reefs in the Florida Keys. Restoration efforts are already underway, as Carysfort is the largest demonstration site for the restoration of elkhorn and staghorn corals in the Florida Keys.

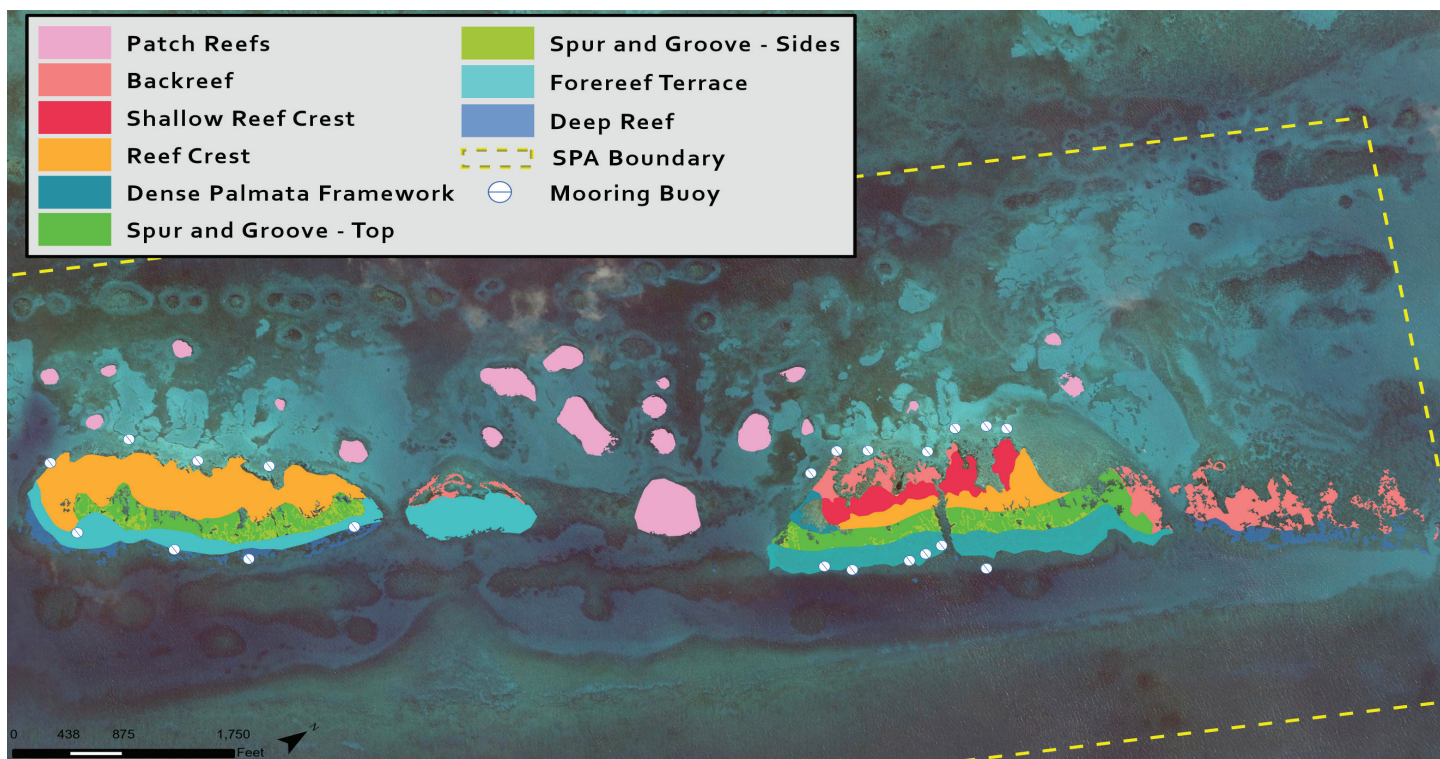
**Mission: Iconic Reefs** will build on these existing efforts, restoring the reef to an average of 16% coral cover across nine habitat zones. More than 200,000 corals will be outplanted at Carysfort Reef. Regular site maintenance, performance monitoring, and adaptive management will be performed to ensure success.



Photo: Coral Restoration Foundation







The map of Carysfort Reef (above) depicts the reef habitat zones to be restored through **Mission: Iconic Reefs**. The map also depicts portions of the SPA boundary and locations of mooring buoys.

The table (top right) depicts the area to be restored, numbers of corals to be outplanted, and target total percent coral cover for Carysfort Reef by Reef Zone and Phase.

The graph (bottom right) depicts the number of corals to be outplanted to Carysfort Reef by species and phase. There is an emphasis on outplanting elkhorn and staghorn corals in Phase 1 with more emphasis on the star, brain, and other corals in Phase 2. Carysfort will also receive outplants of pillar coral.

Zone	Area to be restored (m2)	Phase 1 Corals to be planted	Phase 2 Corals to be planted	Total coral cover (%)
Shallow Reef Crest	5,185	1,255	1,221	11.00
Reef Crest	44,979	54,422	32,264	33.50
Spur and Groove - Top	32,534	34,566	27,835	19.75
Spur and Groove - Sides	6,467	795	3,382	2.00
Forereef Terrace	12,762	6,734	8,754	14.50
Deep Reef	4,258	2,809	1,988	16.50
Back Reef	6,107	4,736	5,851	20.00
Dense Palmata Framework	519	251	0	10.00
Patch Reefs	13,078	6,661	11,732	10.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,890</b>	<b>112,228</b>	<b>93,026</b>	

