



MISSION: ICONIC REEFS

EASTERN DRY ROCKS

Photo: NOAA

Eastern Dry Rocks, a sanctuary preservation area (SPA), contains both shallow spur-and-groove reefs, where ridges of coral reefs separate sandy channels, and deeper reef habitats. Historically, Eastern Dry Rocks supported thickets of elkhorn coral and high abundances of large star corals. This is an important site for ongoing elkhorn and staghorn coral restoration.

Restoration Vision

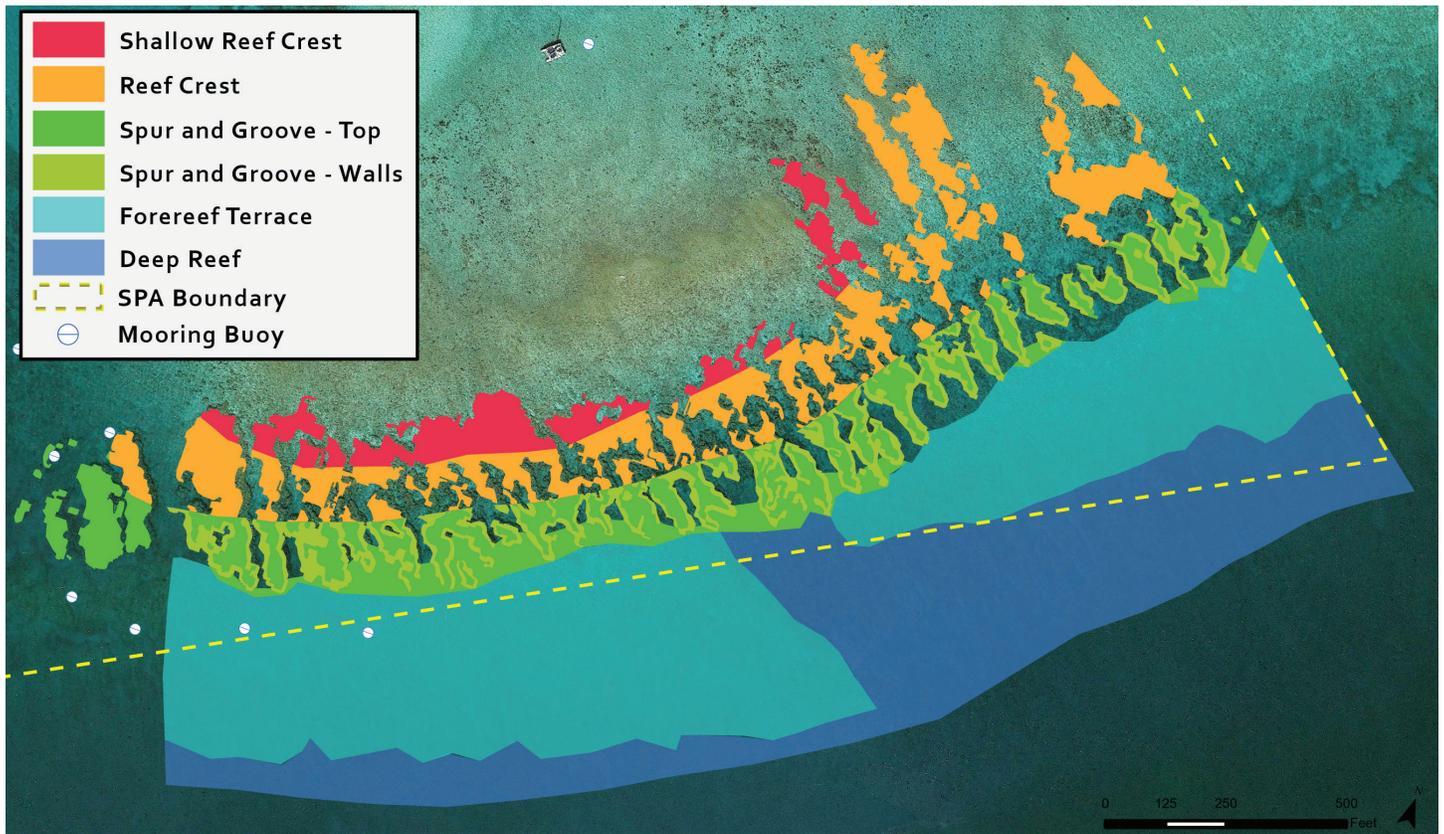
Mission: Iconic Reefs is an unprecedented effort to restore seven ecologically and culturally significant coral reefs within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Informed by years of research, successful trials, and expertise from scientists and restoration practitioners, this will result in resilient and regenerative coral reefs in the Florida Keys. At Eastern Dry Rocks, **Mission: Iconic Reefs** will work to reestablish elkhorn and staghorn thickets along the reef crest. Restoration will also bring star and brain coral colonies back to the spur-and-groove reef tops. Over 66,000 coral colonies will help restore coral cover to an average of 15% across six habitat zones. Regular site maintenance, performance monitoring, and adaptive management will be performed to ensure success.



Photo: NOAA



★ Eastern Dry Rocks



The map (above) of Eastern Dry Rocks 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 Eastern Dry Rocks by Reef Zone and Phase.

The graph (bottom right) depicts the number of corals to be outplanted to Eastern Dry Rocks 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. This site will also receive outplants of pillar coral.

| Zone | Area to be restored (m ²) | Phase 1 Corals to be planted | Phase 2 Corals to be planted | Total coral cover (%) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shallow Reef Crest | 1,423 | 344 | 279 | 5.00 |
| Reef Crest | 11,136 | 11,757 | 12,434 | 34.50 |
| Spur and Groove - Top | 10,794 | 12,279 | 10,981 | 20.25 |
| Spur and Groove - Sides | 3,249 | 1,712 | 4,645 | 6.50 |
| Forereef Terrace | 5,886 | 3,002 | 4,117 | 14.50 |
| Deep Reef | 3,850 | 1,573 | 3,462 | 8.50 |
| TOTAL | 36,337 | 30,667 | 35,917 | |

