

Photo: Coral Restoration Foundation

Horseshoe Reef is a cluster of small, isolated reefs called patch reefs, aggregated in a distinctive horseshoe shape. The reef is historically known for some of the largest, healthy stands of elkhorn and staghorn coral, now threatened by compounding stressors. The site is used as a long-term research site, and offers two mooring buoys that support recreational fishing and diving.

## Restoration Vision

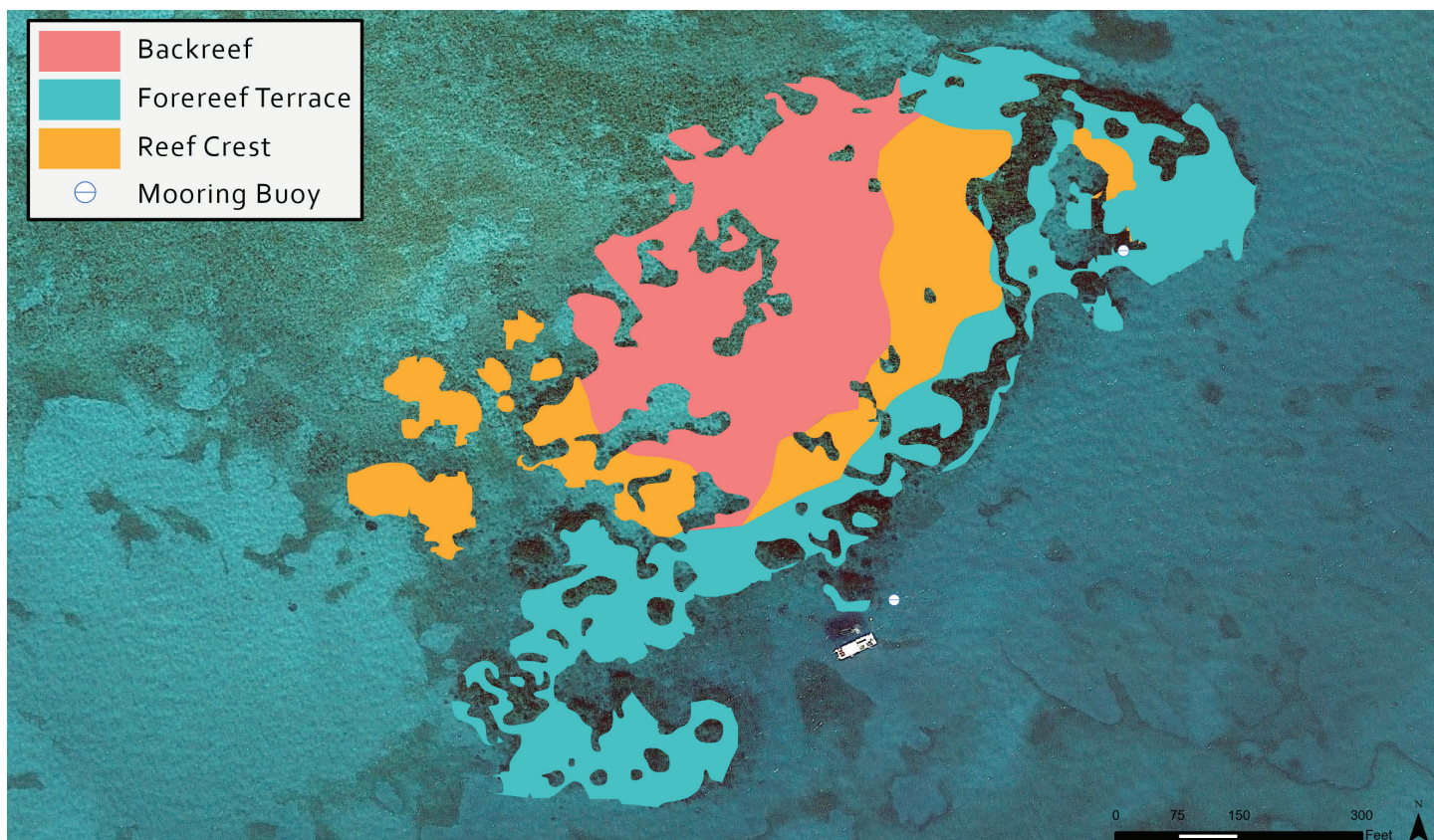
**Mission: Iconic Reefs** is an unprecedented effort to restore seven ecologically and culturally significant coral reefs within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Informed by years of research, successful trials, and expertise from scientists and restoration practitioners, this will result in resilient and regenerative coral reefs in the Florida Keys. **Mission: Iconic Reefs** will restore the reef to an average of 28% across three habitat zones. Initial restoration work will focus on reestablishing the elkhorn and staghorn thickets that the site is famous for, shifting to focus on star and brain corals during Phase 2. More than 75,000 coral will be outplanted at Horseshoe Reef. Regular site maintenance, performance monitoring, and adaptive management will be performed to ensure success.



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The map (above) of Horseshoe Reef depicts the reef habitat zones to be restored through **Mission: Iconic Reefs**. The map also shows the 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 Horseshoe Reef by Reef Zone and Phase.

The graph (bottom right) depicts the number of corals to be outplanted to Horseshoe 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.

Zone	Area to be restored (m2)	Phase 1 Corals to be planted	Phase 2 Corals to be planted	Total coral cover (%)
Reef Crest	4,000	17,295	4,886	43.00
Forereef Terrace	5,257	21,836	10,513	14.50
Back Reef	2,966	17,227	4,157	26.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,223</b>	<b>56,358</b>	<b>19,556</b>	

