



MISSION: ICONIC REEFS

SOMBRERO REEF

Photo: Coral Restoration Foundation

Sombrero Reef is a spur-and-groove reef system: ridges of coral reefs separated by sandy channels. Here, divers and snorkelers can see threatened star corals listed under the Endangered Species Act, as well as brain corals and barrel sponges. The reef also contains the historic Sombrero Light, built in 1858. Mooring buoys in this sanctuary preservation area (SPA) help prevent anchor damage.

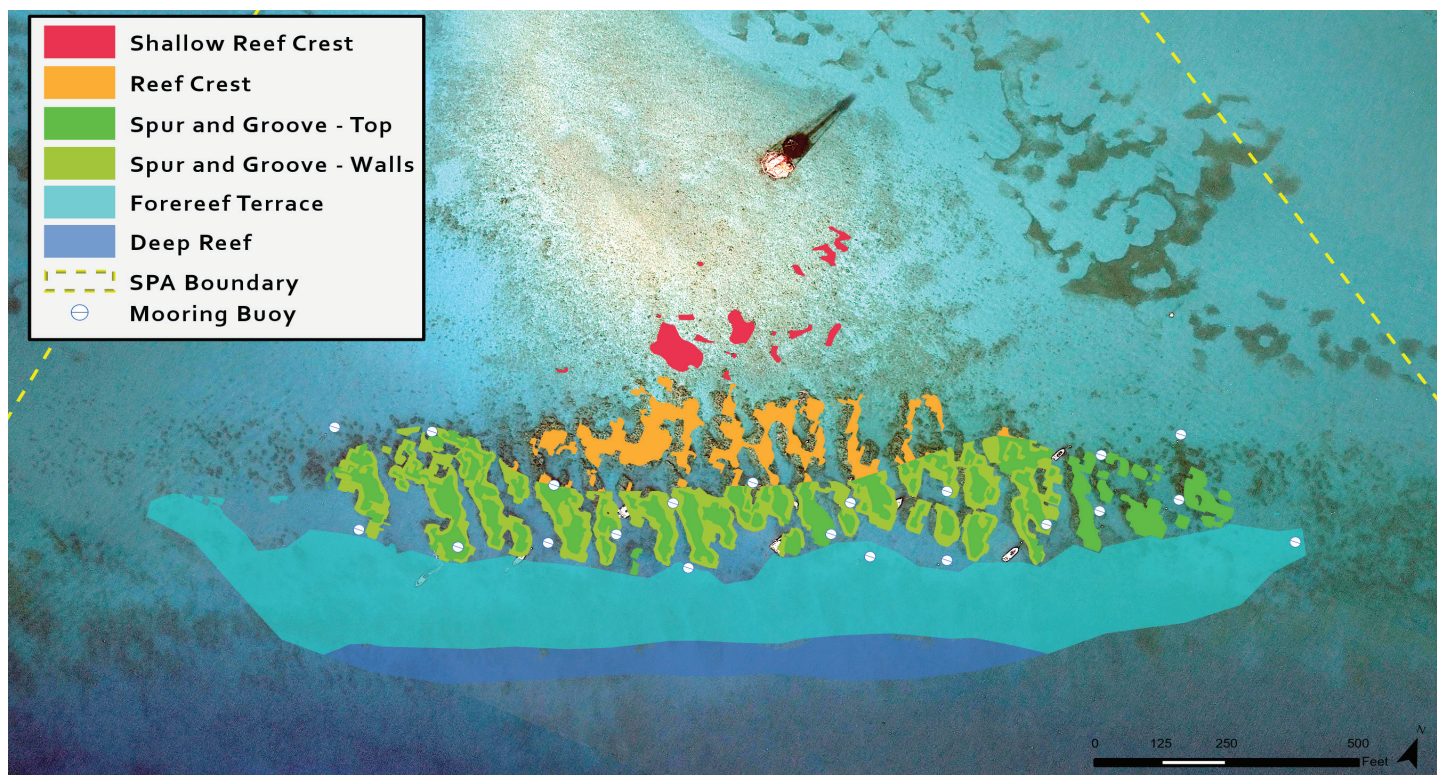
Restoration Vision

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 coral cover to an average of 16% across six habitat zones at Sombrero Reef, one of the most extensive spur-and-groove and deep fore reefs in the middle Keys. Star corals will be restored in the highest proportion, followed by elkhorn and brain corals. More than 25,000 corals will be outplanted at Sombrero Reef. Regular site maintenance, performance monitoring, and adaptive management will be performed to ensure success.



Photo: Ken Nedimyer





The map of Sombrero 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 Sombrero Reef by Reef Zone and Phase.

The graph (bottom right) depicts the number of corals to be outplanted to Sombrero Reef by species and phase. There is an emphasis on outplanting elkhorn, staghorn, and star corals at this site.

Zone	Area to be restored (m2)	Phase 1 Corals to be planted	Phase 2 Corals to be planted	Total coral cover (%)
Shallow Reef Crest	230	56	54	11.00
Reef Crest	2,536	3,476	2,185	34.50
Spur and Groove - Top	4,586	5,217	4,666	20.25
Spur and Groove - Sides	2,680	1,412	3,832	6.50
Forereef	2,765	1,410	1,934	14.50
Deep Reef	2,765	271	597	8.50
TOTAL	15,563	11,842	13,267	

