Current and Recent Science at the Flower Garden Banks NMS
Updated July 16, 2008

ON THE CORAL CAP

CORAL:

1. Coral spawning and reproduction - Peter Vize, University of Calgary
2. Baseline Coral Health Assessment in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary – Kim Ritchie, Mote Marine Laboratory
3. Effects of stoplight parrotfish (*Sparisoma viride*) predation on the survival of star and brain coral populations and relationships with herbivore population abundance and fish pressure – Andy Bruckner, NOAA
4. Coral Symbiosis as indicators of connectivity among reefs in the North Caribbean – Todd Lajeunese and Robin Smith, Florida International University
5. Genetics of *Acropora* at the FGBNMS – Iliana Baums, RSMAS, University of Miami
6. White Plague Coral Disease at the FGBNMS – Bob Jonas, Geoff Cook, and Pat Gillevet, George Mason University
7. Ecology and evolution of reef color diversity and fluorescence – Mikhail Matz, University of Texas/University of Florida
8. Sponge and coral biology – Kevin Strychar, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
9. Mardi Gras Wrasse – Doug Weaver, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
10. Coral recruitment – Sarah Davies, University of Calgary
11. Fossil reef studies – FGBNMS, Bill Precht, ONMS

CRITTERS:

12. Occurrence of Elasmobranchs at the FGBNMS – FGBNMS (continuation of work by Jeff Childs)
13. Manta ray census and individual identification – FGBNMS (continuation of work by Jeff Childs); Rachel Graham, World Conservation Society; Marissa Nuttall, FGBNMS
14. Sponges of the FGBNMS – G.P. Schmahl, FGBNMS
15. Whale sharks: occurrence of individuals using spot patterns – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society
16. Satellite tagging of whale sharks – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society
17. Acoustic tagging of elasmobranchs – Rachel Graham, Wildlife Conservation Society
18. Fish surveys – Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF)
19. Brittlestar reproduction – Peter Vize, University of Calgary
20. Fish cleaning behavior – Mary Wicksten, Texas A&M University
21. Crustaceans of the FGBNMS – Mary Wicksten, Texas A&M University
22. SEAMAP – Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program: Assessment of fish populations on reefs and banks in the Gulf of Mexico – Kevin Rademacher, NMFS Pascagoula
23. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) at the FGBNMS – Craig Burnside, Bainbridge College
24. Genetics of the spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus* – John Hunt, Florida Wildlife and Fisheries Service
25. Fish recruits on the reefs at the FGBNMS – Jay Rooker, FGBNMS
26. Larval ichthyofauna at the FGBNMS – George Guillen, University of Houston
27. Spawning aggregations in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS/NCCOS

ALGAE:

28. Examination of Flower Garden reef for toxic benthic dinoflagellates – Tracy Villareal, University of Texas Marine Science Institute

MONITORING

29. Stetson Bank Long Term Monitoring – FGBNMS
30. East and West Bank Long Term Monitoring – under contract to PBS&J, Geo-Marine, Inc., and Dauphin Island Sea Lab (Aronson, Deslarzes, Kaufman). Contract administered by FGBNMS and MMS.
31. Fish and Benthic Habitat characterization of the FGBNMS – Chris Caldow, NCCOS Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment

BELOW THE CORAL CAP

32. Characterization and assessment of deepwater habitat of the FGBNMS – FGBNMS
33. Characterization and assessment of topographic features of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS
34. Gorgonians and antipatharians of the FGBNMS and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS
35. Deepwater coral reef communities of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico - FGBNMS
36. Taphonomy – Shelf and slope experimental taphonomy initiative – Eric Powell and Karla Hubbard, Oberlin College
37. Genetics of select Antipatharians – Carlos Umana and Juan Sanchez, Universidad de los Andes; Mercer Brugler. University of Louisiana at Lafayette
38. Characterization of Antipatharians – Dennis Opresko, Smithsonian Institute
39. Octocorals of the FGBNMS region – Peter Etnoyer, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

GEOLOGY

40. High resolution multibeam bathymetry of the FGBNMS and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico – FGBNMS; Jim Gardner, USGS/UNH, NOAA
41. Paleoclimatology using cone snails – Ethan Grossman, Texas A&M University
42. Coral paleoclimatology – Niall Slowey and Amy Wagner, Texas A&M University

OCEANOGRAPHY

43. Dead Zone – Steve DiMarco, Texas A&M University

Government Acronyms:

FGBNMS - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
MMS - Minerals Management Service
NCCOS - National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science
NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ONMS - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
USGS - U.S. Geological Survey

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