



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Southeast Region

# Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals

## Recovery Planning Case Study

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# Introduction

What?	Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals Recovery Plan
When?	March 2015
How?	19 Member Team
Where?	Wider-Caribbean
How Bad?	Listed as Threatened in 2006 and Decreasing



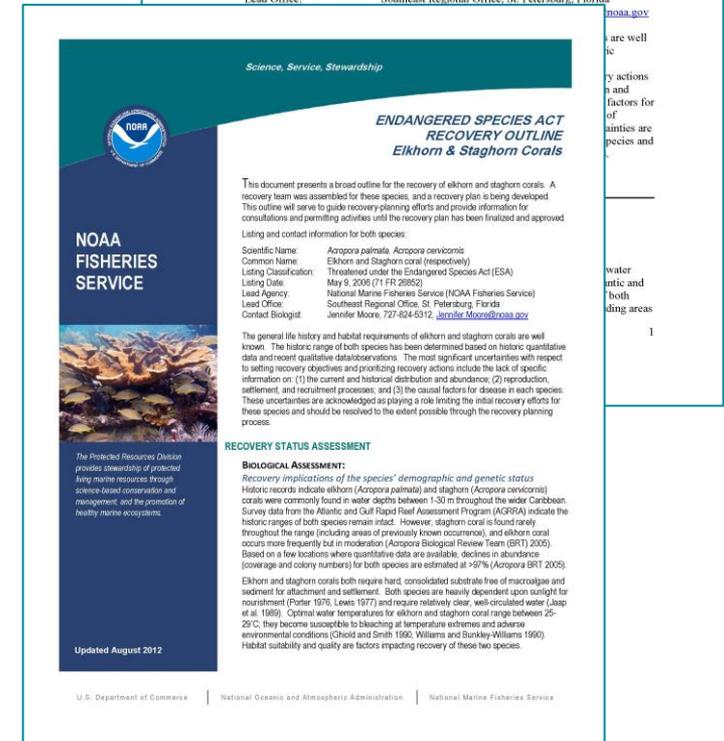
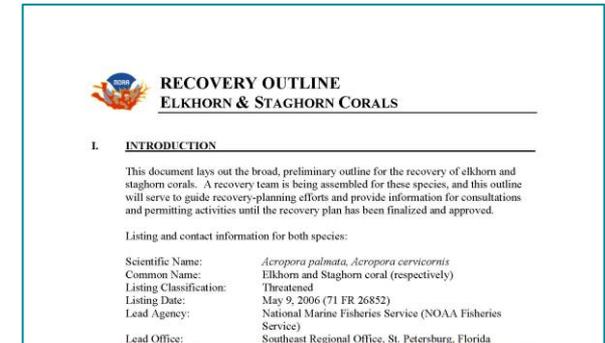
Elkhorn Coral (*Acropora palmata*)



Staghorn Coral (*Acropora cervicornis*)

# Recovery Outline

- Released August 2006
  - Focused on basic research and monitoring needs
- Revised December 2012
  - Added focus on threat reduction and population enhancement



# Planning Approach

- Two species plan
- First corals ever listed
- Sibling species
- Similar life histories
- Almost identical ranges
- Same threats
- Slightly different habitat occupation and population dynamics

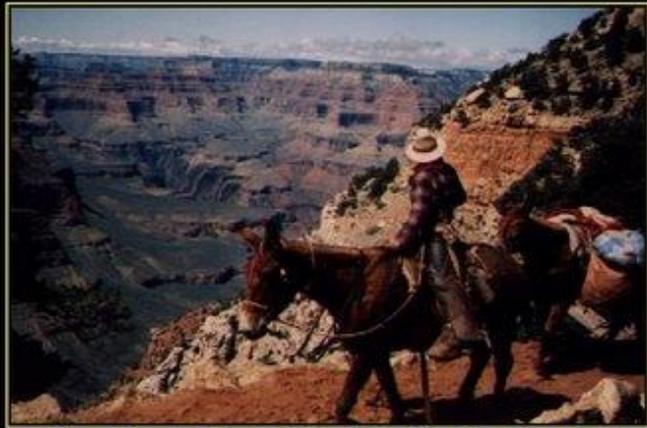


# Recovery Team

- 19 members
- Experts in biology and ecology, threats
- Regional managers
- Stakeholders
- NGOs
- 2 NOAA Fisheries Liaisons to Team



# Recovery Planning Engagement



**CONSENSUS**

A mule is a horse designed by committee.



# Recovery Planning Priority and Timing

