

THE BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

Understanding the value of the world's coral reefs is important at a time when this natural resource is threatened by climate change, pollution, overfishing, and more. A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calculated the ecosystem service values and economic impacts of coral reefs.



VALUING CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

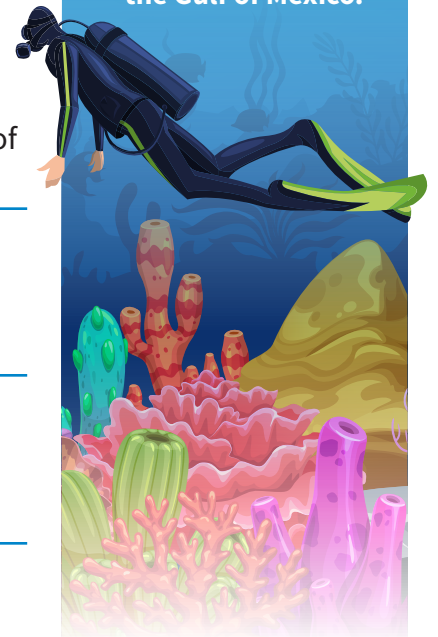
\$578 MILLION:
the value of the recreational diving and snorkeling industry in the state of Florida each year

\$27 MILLION:
the value of recreational fishing to nonresidents of Florida annually

\$43 MILLION:
the value of recreational fishing to Florida residents annually

\$31 MILLION:
the value of commercial fishing annually

FUN FACT:
Florida has the only nearshore coral reef system in the continental United States, extending approximately 360 miles from Martin County on the Atlantic coast of Florida, through the Florida Keys, and to the Dry Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico.



Taking Care of Business

\$1 billion annually for reef-adjacent tourism activities (e.g., hotel bookings)

\$364 million annually from on-reef activities (e.g., snorkeling and more)

3,800 jobs and **\$456 million** annually from recreational fishing along coral reefs

8,700 jobs and **\$1.1 billion** annually from associated diving and snorkeling



Offering Protection from Storm Surge

Coral reefs protect people, buildings, and infrastructure from damage:

- **\$43 million** per year in coastal protection for the Florida Keys
- **\$431 million** per year in coastal protection for the Florida Peninsula

Coral reefs also protect economic activity along the coast:

- **\$57 million** per year for the Florida Keys
- **\$368 million** per year for the Florida Peninsula



Cultural and Social Benefits

For Florida communities, the value of coral reefs extends far beyond what can be measured or monetized.

- **Cultural ties. 77 percent** of South Florida residents believe that coral reefs are important to their family's cultural beliefs and practices.
- **Learning and education.** Citizen science conservation efforts contribute to increased knowledge about coral reef ecology and restoration.
- **A sense of place.** In one small fishing community in the Florida Keys, for instance, **73 percent** of residents said they would not move away despite the risks of sea level rise because of strong social ties and the feeling of community.



To learn more about coral reef goods and services, visit coris.noaa.gov/activities/coral_esv_project