



# REEF-in-Brief

*The e-Newsletter of the  
Reef Environmental Education Foundation*

December 2005

1. **Welcome** - Happy Holidays from everyone here at REEF! We hope that you and yours have a great and safe holiday season. We are looking forward to an exciting 2006 here at REEF and hope you get involved. We've got a great schedule of trips for our Field Survey offerings - see below for more information. We'll also be sponsoring the 15th Great Annual Fish Count - we hope to make this one bigger and better than ever!

Of course, we'll be continuing all the important work we are known for - continuing our monitoring project of the Spiegel Grove, our Grouper Moon Project in Little Cayman, and much, much more. If you have been thinking about getting more involved with REEF, 2006 is your year - visit our website to learn about events and ways you can do some "Diving That Counts!"

Also, as many of you know, we have recently sent out our end of year solicitation. As REEF does not require membership dues, this is our way of asking for, and your way of providing, member support of our programs. If you can, we ask that you give generously to REEF in order to enable us to continue our cost-effective and critical marine conservation work. Please consider making whatever donation you can. If you prefer, you can [Contribute Now via our secure website](#). Thank you! - Bryan Dias, REEF Director of Outreach & Education

2. **REEF's 2006 Field Survey Schedule** - Here's a great opportunity to do some "Diving That Counts." REEF's [2006 Field Survey Schedule](#) has been announced and we have some great trips lined up for this year. If you've never been on a REEF Field Survey, now's your chance! Most trips are week long events located in terrific dive destinations throughout REEF's survey regions. All trips are led by expert REEF staff or volunteers and present you with an opportunity to learn about marine life through daily presentations, conduct surveys, and generally have a great time!

Some of the great locations that we have lined up for 2006 include the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in May, Kauai in August, and Puerto Vallarta in September. We'll also be offering some special trips led by noted marine life author and REEF founder, Paul Humann. Paul will be leading trips to Little Cayman in July and a "REEF Discovery Tour" in Key Largo, Florida in August.

To see our complete schedule, get details, and signup to come along, please visit our 2006 REEF Field Survey page on our website:

<http://www.reef.org/fieldsurv/2006.htm>

3. **REEF Field Station of the Month** - REEF is pleased to announce [Adventure Scuba](#)

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## Contribute Now

**Please consider supporting REEF and the critical work we do by donating generously this holiday season.**



REEF's [2006 Field Survey Schedule](#) is loaded with great destinations! Amongst many other places, we'll be returning to Cozumel again in '06. This year's trip (above) was a great time as usual!

[Company](#), of Chantilly, Virginia, as our REEF Field Station of the Month. Although they do not have any easily accessible coral reefs to survey, they avidly support REEF and educate their customers on how to conduct surveys. Adventure Scuba Company teaches REEF Fish Identification classes and their travel programs give divers first-hand experience surveying on their dive trips to locations as close as North Carolina and as exotic as The Galapagos Islands.

Adventure Scuba has just been recognized as the number one NAUI full-service scuba shop in the US for 2005 and maintain a highly experienced staff of dive instructors from local police divers to retired Navy divers. Adventure Scuba supports local programs as well, including creating and teaching classes for both Boy and Girl Scout programs and getting involved in efforts to preserve the Chesapeake Bay environment through support of oyster and sea grass studies.

More information on Adventure Scuba and their activities can be found at:

<http://www.scubava.com/>



REEF's Field Station of the Month (FSOM) is [Adventure Scuba Company](#) of Chantilly, Virginia.

4. **Advanced Assessment Team Works in Biscayne National Park** - REEF adds 47 species to Biscayne National Park cryptic reef fish inventory (and we are only half-way done!)

In August of 2005, a week-long cryptic reef fish survey (cryptic fishes are those that tend to be more "reclusive" than more "openly" seen species), sponsored by the National Park Service South Florida and Caribbean Inventory and Monitoring Network, was conducted in Biscayne National Park, south of Miami, Florida. This was the second of four planned surveys in the project. Seven Advanced Assessment Team members took part in this round, surveying 42 sites in the park, across 9 different reef habitats.

To date, REEF surveys have added 47 new species to the park fish inventory list and gathered population and distribution information on 236 of the 368 species in the Park's master species list. Interesting finds have included the marbled blenny, spottail goby, black brotula, and spotted dragonet. The remaining two rounds of surveys will take place in the spring and fall of 2006. Stay tuned for more exciting information on this National Park Service partnership.



Members of REEF's Tropical Western Atlantic Advanced Assessment Team pose after a day of fun and hard work surveying the interesting waters of Biscayne National Park in South Florida.

5. **REEF Survey Tutorials Online** - Inspired by one of our terrific volunteers, Liz Foote of Project S.E.A.-Link in Maui, Hawaii, REEF has developed an online tutorial designed to help you with conducting REEF Marine Life Surveys. Liz developed the original concept and put together a terrific resource for Hawaii surveyors. With the help of some of our interns, we took Liz's good idea and adapted it to apply to all of our survey regions.

The tutorial is loaded with tips, ideas, and helpful hints on how to conduct surveys, learn more about the marine life you encounter, and to help you have more fun! We've also created a version for our Spanish speaking friends. Please feel free to use this resource and pass it on to your friends. Here are the links:

REEF Fish Survey Project Tutorial (English) - [http://www.reef.org/education/REEF\\_tutorial\\_eng](http://www.reef.org/education/REEF_tutorial_eng)

Cursillo de Censo de Peces de REEF (Spanish) -



The REEF Fish Survey Project Tutorial (available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#)) is loaded with tips, hints, and ideas for conducting REEF Marine Life Surveys.

[http://www.reef.org/education/REEF\\_tutorial\\_esp](http://www.reef.org/education/REEF_tutorial_esp)

6. **REEF Events** - Here are a couple great events to mark in your '06 calendar:

- **Deep Blue Lodge in Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras** - a REEF Field Station - is offering their annual Utila Whale Shark Research Project from March 25th to April 22nd, 2006. Be a part of one of the most exciting events in the Caribbean. See these gentle giants firsthand in the water and help to build our growing knowledge of them. To learn more, visit their websites at [www.DeepBlueUtila.com](http://www.DeepBlueUtila.com) and [www.UtilaWhaleSharkResearch.com](http://www.UtilaWhaleSharkResearch.com).
- **REEF will have a booth at Fort Lauderdale's premier dive and adventure sport show, Ocean Fest.** This event coincides with Earth Day and will take place over the weekend of April 21st-23rd. REEF staff, interns, and volunteers will be on hand to talk about what we do and we'll have various things available such as t-shirts and marine life guidebooks. We'll also be giving an introduction to REEF Fish Identification. For more information, a complete schedule of seminars, and everything else you need to know, please visit their website at <http://www.oceanfest.com>. We hope to see you there!

See You Next Month!

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<http://www.reef.org/enews/enews.htm>

To learn more about REEF, visit [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org)

