



# REEF-in-Brief

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

September 2005

1. **Welcome Back to REEF-in-Brief** - Hello all! Welcome to the September edition of REEF-in-Brief. We are back after a month off in August due to Hurricane Katrina. Though we here at REEF in Key Largo escaped relatively unscathed from the storm as it passed nearby, we did close REEF HQ as a safety precaution and we missed our publication date for the August issue as a result. We here at REEF extend our best wishes to our REEF members, partners, and everyone affected by this difficult event along the Gulf Coast of the US.

Also, hurricane-related, please check out our REEF Field Station of the Month (FSOM) Award below. This time around we feature several of our REEF Field Stations located in the Quintana Roo province of Mexico (the Yucatan Peninsula) who were affected by Hurricane Emily in July. They are all up-and-running and waiting to see you!

- Bryan Dias, REEF Director of Outreach and Education.

2. **The 14th Great Annual Fish Count** - We want to thank everyone that participated in this year's GAFC! It was yet another successful installment in the history of this premier marine conservation citizen science event. We'd also like to thank all of our wonderful and dedicated local partners who organized dozens of local events, engaged new and veteran REEF members, and generated a lot of surveys for our Fish Survey Project!

Nearly 1,000 volunteers participated in 77 events throughout REEF's survey regions. We are still tabulating the number of individual surveys generated, but it should be near 2,000! We had many locations host events for the first time as well as having some of our great stalwart local partners step up to the plate once again this year. The award for the single largest one-day event goes to the folks at the New England Aquarium and Stellwagen Banks NMS. Their event had over 100 participants and they generated some 137 surveys. This is the fourth year in a row that they have achieved this distinction. Also, once again, Project S.E.A.-Link in Hawaii was responsible for hosting the most GAFC events - a whopping 16!

We look forward to continuing this great tradition with the 15th GAFC next year - more on that coming soon. Check back at [www.fishcount.org](http://www.fishcount.org) for updates!

3. **REEF Field Station of the Month** - We are breaking with our norm of normally selecting only one of our outstanding Field Stations as the monthly recipient for REEF FSOM. Many of our Field Stations in the Quintana Roo area (Yucatan) of Mexico were affected by the impacts of Hurricane Emily in July. This part of Mexico has always been one of REEF's most active areas, thanks to our great Field Stations in there. Most of them reported experiencing some damage - the effects were worse for

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The 14th [Great Annual Fish Count](#) (GAFC) was another smashing success. We hope you get involved next year in marine conservation's premier citizen science event!



**Aqua Safari**



some than others. However, after the clean-up, they are all back up and running and ready to see you!

We would like to recognize, in no particular order, [Hotel Vista Del Mar](#) and [Aqua Safari](#) of Cozumel and [The Akumal Dive Shop](#) and [Akumal Dive Adventures](#) of Akumal. We are also including [Centro Ecologico Akumal](#), our REEF Non-Profit/Academic Field Station (NAFS) in the region, that suffered some significant damage to their facility as well as having some temporarily displaced employees. Lastly, we'd also like to acknowledge our friends and terrific partners at the Cozumel Marine Park.

Any of these folks would be happy to see you down there and are ready to take you diving, show you the great underwater world of the "Riviera Maya" and educate you on the precious marine environment they are lucky to have. Diving conditions are good and they are all set to take you out! Pay them a visit when you can!

4. **CEDAM International Lloyd Bridges Scholarship** - REEF would very much like to thank CEDAM International for making their prestigious Lloyd Bridges Scholarship available to two members of our Educators Advisory Committee (EAC). Ryan Richter, an educator from Texas, and Paul Detwiler, from the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education in California, were chosen by CEDAM as the award recipients.

Ryan and Paul will have the opportunity to participate in REEF's Field Survey to the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) aboard the fantastic live-aboard Don Jose. They will have the chance to learn about the fishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific and a lot more about REEF's principle program - the Fish Survey Project. They will then take their experience and enthusiasm back to the audiences they educate - making for ideal REEF educational ambassadors.

Again, thanks to CEDAM International for this generous award and congratulations to Ryan and Paul for being selected!

5. **Featured Product of the Month** - "Sensational Seas - Rare Sights from the Sea" DVD. Are you starting to think about Christmas presents? Need a great gift for the diver in your life? We've got a great idea for you - "Sensational Seas!"

The DVD features some 60-minutes of rare images of the sea and its creatures as seen through the eyes of 25 divers. The contributors range from talented amateurs to Howard and Michele Hall of IMAX and PBS fame. The production gets off to a rollicking start when Scuba Zoo Images and Elvis team up for a rocking rendition of spontaneous underwater fun. Narrators Stan Waterman and Cat Holloway escort you through an undersea realm where birds can swim for half a mile underwater and squid make love by the thousands!

They take you from the tender courtship dance of dolphins in the Caribbean, to the no-holds-barred turf wars of three-inch blennies in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez), to white sharks in Guadeloupe Island, to a sailfish being attacked in Thailand and an eel hunting a parrotfish in Bonaire. Fun, lively, eye-popping entertainment that will make you grab your scuba gear and head for the sea. The images used in Sensational Seas were contributed by filmmakers around the world for the benefit of REEF. All proceeds go to the organization.



REEF's Field Station of the Month Award is being given to several of our Field Stations in the Quintana Roo area of Mexico - they were all affected by Hurricane Emily but are now ready to go and would love to see you all there!



[CEDAM International](#) has awarded its Lloyd Bridges Scholarship to two members of REEF's Educators Advisory Committee.



Visit [REEF's online store](#) to get your copy of this fantastic, or should we say "sensational," DVD. All proceeds benefit REEF!



See You Next Month!

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