Marine Studies
2006
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Semester 2

Projects

Internship- Reef Medic

Water quality testing- Saltwater lake

Coral Restoration- Staghorn coral

Aquarium Maintenance

Mangrove Project-PowerPoint presentation

Coral restoration work

Internship

One of the requirements of marine studies is to have an internship. Stephen and I interned at Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. There we worked in the Reef Medic program. We went out to the reefs and looked for coral bleaching and diseases, we also picked up any trash we found.

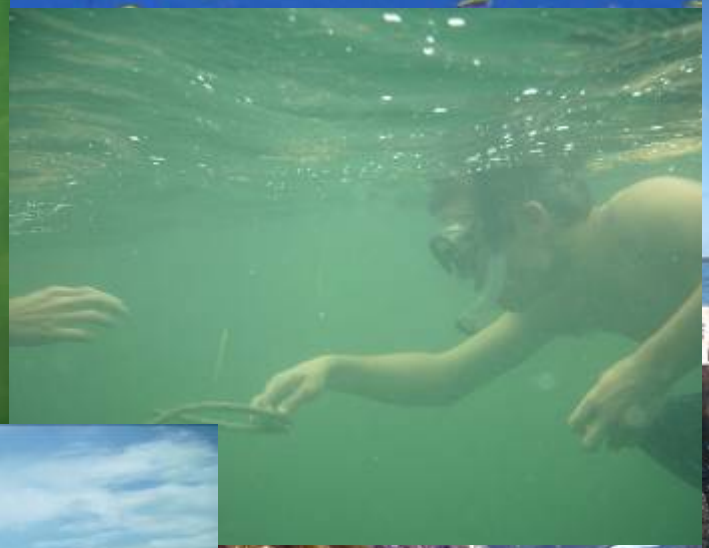
Me carrying a piece of trash.

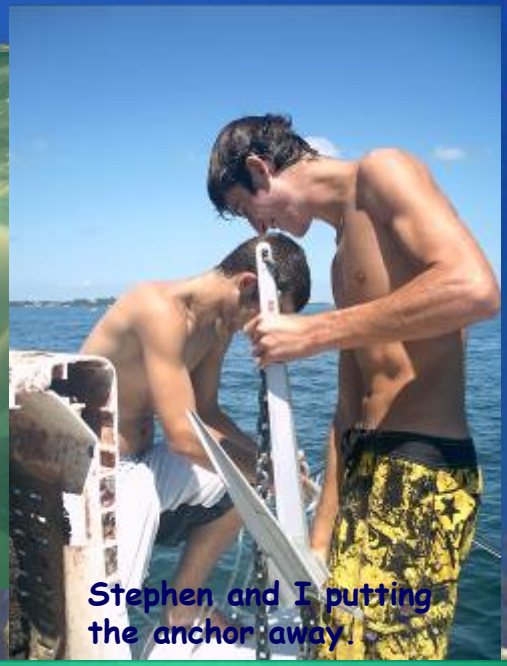
Internship Reflection

It was amazing to see how much trash was on the reefs. One of the days we picked up over 80 pounds of trash. I was also shocked to see how little live coral cover there is on most reefs. We no longer go to our intern because there is not enough calm weather ad the water is too cold now.

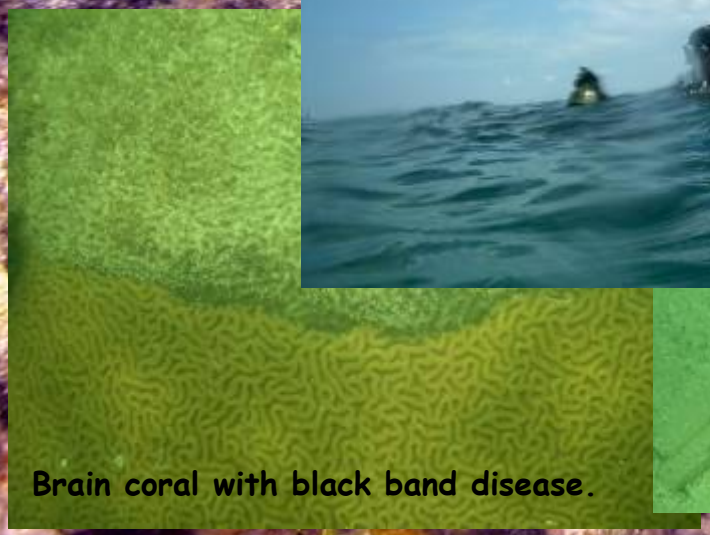
Internship Pictures

Me inspecting a piece of coral.





Stephen and I putting the anchor away.



Brain coral with black band disease.

Lobster trap line on the reef.

Me inspecting something on the bottom.

Water Quality

Another project was water quality testing. For this we picked two similar areas to test. The tests consisted of pH, salinity, nitrate, ammonia, and nitrite.

During the first semester we tested two different saltwater lakes. One of the lakes was open to the bay and the other was not. For the second semester we only tested the lake that was not open to the bay.

Semester 1 Reflection: Doing water quality testing helped me realize how important water quality in the keys is and how the quality of the water here is not very good.

Semester 2 Reflection: After it started to get colder we noticed a few slight changes. The biggest change was the temperature. The deep water temp and the shallow water temp started to even out.

Coral Restoration

During the first semester Ken Nedimyer came into our classroom and taught us about his staghorn coral propagation methods. (The new coral recruits are transplanted on to the reef to help restore the quality of the reefs.) Mr. Nedimyer also showed us how to make the pedestals out of cement.

This semester, after making many cement pedestals we went out to the restoration site and set up the cinder blocks with the pedestals on top of it. On the next trip out to the site we started taking coral cuttings and epoxying them on to the pedestals.

My classmates and I making cement pedestals.

Coral Restoration Reflection

Learning about the staghorn coral and working to help restore it made me realize how man other corals could benefit from our work. It feels good to have done something that may one day help save the coral reefs. It was also nice to see all of our training and hard work put to use.

Some of the completed blocks and pedestals.

Coral cuttings on the pedestals.

Aquarium Maintenace

We were given a choice of fish tanks to maintain. We chose a tank in one of our guidance counselors office and another one at a local elementary school. First we had to test the water in the tank to make sure fish would be able to survive in it. Then we had to go fish collecting and get fish for the tank.

Mycle testing salinity

Stephen putting fish into the tank

Aquarium Reflection

Semester 1 Reflection: I enjoyed seeing how much the elementary kids liked the tank. It was also interesting to see a microcosm of the ocean right in front of you.

Semester 2 Reflection: Most of our fish and crabs survived. We were not able to replenish our stocks due to cold weather. We have been maintaining the water quality and we have not encountered any major problems.