

The protection and restoration of Florida's Coral Reef is essential for:

- **Shoreline protection** – fortifying coastal communities and mitigating flooding, especially during extreme storm events.
- **Tourism** – growing the main economic driver in coastal communities.
- **Fisheries Habitat** – enhancing commercial and recreational fishing opportunities.



In recognition of the ecological and economic importance of Florida's Coral Reef, Governor DeSantis directed the establishment of the Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR₃) Initiative in Executive Order 23-06.

The FCR₃ Initiative aims to develop the **infrastructure**, **technology**, **skilled workforce**, and **logistics** necessary by 2050 to support the long-term recovery of no less than 25% of Florida's Coral Reef.

Through facilitating an unprecedented, evidence-based propagation and outplanting program, Florida's Coral Reef will be repopulated with hardy populations of native corals and other keystone species to re-establish and strengthen natural reproduction, dispersal, and recruitment patterns. Through strategic design and siting of restoration projects, the FCR₃ Initiative will also prioritize enhancing flood protection and strengthening southeast Florida's coastal economy.

Under the reauthorized Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA), as amended, new federal mechanisms are available to support Florida's Coral Reef and the FCR₃ Initiative:

- **State Block Grants and Cooperative Agreements:** ensure locally driven management and restoration priorities that generate effective results for communities near coral reefs.
- **Coral Reef Stewardship Partnerships and Fund:** establish and fund critical public-private partnerships.
- **Ruth Gates Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program:** targeted support for coral reef protection and restoration projects that meet shared local and national objectives.
- **Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship:** Build essential scientific capacity and expertise for reef management and restoration initiatives.

