



CORAL BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Coral Concerns

On August 27, 2014 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published its *Final Listing Determinations on Proposal to List 66 Reef-building Coral Species and to Reclassify Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals* (50 CFR Part 223). This resulted in the new listing of five Caribbean coral species (see table below) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> *	Staghorn Coral
<i>Acropora palmata</i> *	Elkhorn Coral
<i>Mycetophyllia ferox</i>	Rough Cactus Coral
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	Pillar Coral
<i>Orbicella annularis</i>	Boulder Star Coral
<i>Orbicella faceolata</i>	Mountain Star Coral
<i>Orbicella franksi</i>	Boulder Star Coral
*Listed as threatened in 2006.	

Benthic habitat surveys conducted by The Summers End Group, LLC (SEG) for its major land and water permit applications included these corals. SEG found *Acropora* spp. and *Orbicella annularis* around Penn Point and Fortsberg. Surveys conducted by the Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) on July 30-31, 2005 in the same areas (described in Appendix B of the draft *Coral Bay Turbidity and Floatable Debris Management Plan*), also found both *Acropora* species and *Orbicella annularis*. CBCC conducted follow up surveys in 2014 and is currently pulling together the photo catalog.