

## GUAM YEAR OF THE REEF NEWSLETTER

We are excited to release the final edition of the Guam Year of the Reef 2018 Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed the monthly themes, recaps on island-wide coral reef efforts, and information about upcoming events from our partners.

In 2019, we will transition the newsletter to a quarterly edition of Guam Coral Reef Initiative (GCRI) programs and information. We will also transition the GYOR Facebook to the GCRI Facebook. Please do send us information about your organization, agency, and programs so we can be sure to include it.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to all of our partners and community members that helped make GYOR2018 a success. Guam was a very active and prominent member of International Year of the Reef. Now more than ever, Guam's reefs need our help. We look forward to continuing our work together to protect Guam's coral reefs for the future. Please stay plugged in by liking us on FB

@GuamYearoftheReef2018 and  
visiting our website  
[www.guamcoralreefs.com](http://www.guamcoralreefs.com).

### #GYOR 2018



# December: Our reefs, our future

[Updated December 18, 2018]

Guam Year of the Reef 2018 (GYOR) launched February 2, 2018, with a proclamation signing by Guam's Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio. GYOR is a localized effort of the International Year of the Reef, a global event that occurs every ten years. Guam previously celebrated Year of the Reef in 1998 and 2008.

Local natural resource managers, scientists, community leaders and members, students, and a total of 22 partners came together over the course of the year to celebrate Guam's reefs at 30 GYOR events. Outreach materials, an official logo, and a coral pledge in four languages were developed to unite the various efforts. Public-private partnerships with the hotel industry were formed to feature GYOR at the Pacific Hotel and Restaurant Expo. GYOR expanded World Oceans Day into a week-long event in partnership with Outrigger Guam Beach Resort.

Ultimately, the intention of GYOR is to get the local community involved in coral conservation and management so we can work together to protect our reefs for the future. *Eyes of the Reef Marianas*, *Coral Reef Monitoring*, and *Safe and Sustainable Marine Tourism* trainings were periodically conducted to increase the knowledge and capacity of community members to identify reef disturbances, monitor coral reefs, and understand human impacts.

On October 26, GYOR received the distinguished Governor's Award of Excellence, the **"Project/Program of the Year MagPro Award"**.

The year culminated in a coral reef exhibit, B(reef)ly Ours, at the Guam Museum. The exhibit features the history and cultural value of Guam's reefs to the island and illuminates the many threats facing them. Finally, Guam's coral community came together on December 6 to celebrate GYOR and think about what's next for Guam's coral reefs.

As GYOR 2018 is coming to an end, we need your help in continuing the momentum. Our reefs need us now more than ever...after all, **"our reefs, our future"**.

### CORAL PLEDGE

*I pledge to protect Guam's natural environment. I pledge that I will not feed fish or other marine life, harass sea creatures, or litter. I will not touch, break, or stand on corals. I promise to encourage others to respect Guam's coral reefs. In honor of the CHamoru people, I pledge to care for this island and its coral reefs for future generations.*

# Guam Year of the Reef 2018



## International Year of the Reef

The International Year of the Reef occurs every 10 years. The Guam Year of the Reef 2018 was the third localized effort of this global event. Guam's stakeholders came together to uplift Guam's unique coral reef resources in conversations throughout the year at community events, in the media, and across organizations.

## Highlights



MagPro Governor's Award of Excellence



B(reef)ly Ours Museum Exhibit



Monthly themes + newsletters



Coral pledge in four languages

## Outcomes



**30**

Community Events



**22**

Partners



**1,400**

Coral Pledges



**300**

Facebook Followers



**40,000**

residents' water bills featuring logo

## What's next?



Even though Guam Year of the Reef is coming to a close, what can we do to continue to celebrate Guam's reefs, educate our community of their value, and work together to protect them for future generations? The Guam Coral Reef Initiative will continue efforts to provide updates on the latest data, reports, community events, and programs affecting our island's coral reefs. Join us on Facebook at [@GuamCoralReefInitiative](#) and [www.guamcoralreefs.com](http://www.guamcoralreefs.com).

## GYOR 2018 END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION!

On December 6, 2018 nearly 100 guests came together at Splash Café and Bar at Underwater World to celebrate the end of Guam Year of the Reef. Coral reef researchers, managers, government agencies, students, and community members were among the many smiling faces. Guests enjoyed behind the scenes tours of Underwater World's coral propagation lab and access to the Marianas Trench Exhibit. Guests also competed in coral trivia for special prizes, and raffle prizes were awarded to those wearing their GYOR shirt or hat to the event.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to valued community members Eddie Tyson and Julie Nefczyk who filled out their GYOR passports, attended trainings, and actively engaged with GYOR content on social media. We also honored Marybelle Quinata, Outrigger Guam Beach Resort, and the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association for their support throughout the year amplifying GYOR efforts. Congratulations all!

A vision board asked guests 1) what was your favorite thing about GYOR, and 2) although GYOR is ending, what should we do in 2019 to continue celebrating Guam's reefs? Comments on favorite GYOR characteristics included 'builds awareness in a fun way', 'great energy', 'increased knowledge about reefs', and 'great outreach materials'. Ideas for continuing GYOR-related efforts in 2019 included 'better protect fisheries', 'training events and reef monitoring', 'talk about reefs on T.V.', 'continue to support UOG Marine Lab', 'take the reef pledge', and 'have more family outreach events'. Thanks everyone for your input!

We greatly appreciate the event sponsors who made the event possible and generously donated prizes: Calvo Enterprises Inc., Calvo's Insurance, Coast 360, Micronesian Conservation Coalition, MDA, Fish Eye Marine Park, SeaGrant, Underwater World, SeaGrill, and GCMP. Thanks also to our hosts at Splash Café and Bar and Underwater World, it was great to celebrate GYOR with so many critters who call Guam's reefs home.

Finally, a big thank you to all of our partners and community members who came out and participated! We hope you had as much fun as we did. Make sure to check out the Facebook page for photos from the event, and thanks to Tony and Sonia for the photos!





GYOR partnered with the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation and the International Coral Reef Initiative to develop a special edition GYOR poster. The poster features artwork by 16-year-old Selena Yang from California, the first place high school winner of the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation's 2018 Science Without Borders® Challenge. Her piece is titled "The Last Coral Reef." [right]

Finally, don't forget to check out the **B(reef)ly Ours** coral reef exhibit at the Guam Museum, now extended through the end of January 2019.



## Monthly Themes Recap

<b>February</b>	Celebrate reefs
<b>March</b>	Reefs & CHamoru culture
<b>April</b>	Guam's marine preserves
<b>May</b>	Tourism depends on reefs
<b>June</b>	Restoring reefs and watersheds
<b>July</b>	Ridge to reef
<b>August</b>	Climate change on Guam
<b>September</b>	Reduce, reuse, recycle
<b>October</b>	Plant a tree, save a reef
<b>November</b>	Reef invaders
<b>December</b>	Our reefs, our future

## GYOR Transition

In 2019, the @GuamYearoftheReef2018 Facebook page will transition to the official @GuamCoralReefInitiative Facebook page. Please make sure to 'Like' the page so you can follow us and keep up with event photos, updates on the latest local and global research and reports, and information on upcoming GCRI community events.

The monthly themed newsletters will transition to quarterly newsletters. We'd like to feature all of the work and projects of the GCRI partners, so please reach out to us to contribute content. We also seek content from partners for the GCRI website at [www.guamcoralreefs.com](http://www.guamcoralreefs.com). The GYOR logo will also transition to the GCRI logo.

