



## Network News

SFCN's coral monitoring work in **DRTO** got a brief mention in a NBC News article written for their "National Parks at 100" storyline: <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/national-parks-at-100/alaska-scientists-climate-data-quest-get-rare-view-parks-n631326>

**Jeff** and **Lee** are now certified closed-circuit rebreather (CCR) divers, allowing for longer and deeper dives and thus, more efficient coral monitoring at sites in **DRTO**, **BUIS**, **SARI**, and **VIIS**.

**Judd**, **Pablo**, and **Paul** traveled to Atlanta, GA to attend a Supervisory Skills Workshop and had an opportunity to meet several SERO staff.

The CERP vegetation mapping project for **EVER** was highlighted in an episode of Outside Science (inside parks)! <https://www.facebook.com/NatureNPS/videos/611825808995280/>

**Robert**, **Raul**, and **Lydia** have been conducting colonial nesting bird monitoring in **BISC** and recently found two new Cormorant nesting colonies near Kings Bay and just south of park headquarters.

SFCN staff took advantage of several opportunities to collaborate with other I&M Networks. **Kevin** and **Robert** worked with SECN staff to learn about automatic recording devices (ARD) for amphibian monitoring; **Andy** received training in seagrass monitoring with GULN and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Laguna Madres (**PAIS**); **Brooke** received training in forest monitoring at Fredericksburg, Virginia with the NETN and NCRN. These training opportunities will be useful as SFCN works to complete similar protocols. A big thank you to the networks that hosted us!

The SFCN had to say goodbye to two interns this month. **Lydia** completed her time as a Resource Monitoring Intern and is beginning graduate school at Florida International University. **Jennifer**, our Young Leaders in Climate Change intern, returned to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete her graduate program.



A Flamingo spotted at **Biscayne National Park**. Photo by Pablo Ruiz.

## Found in the Park!

**Judd** came across some American crocodile hatchlings in Florida Bay, **EVER** while volunteering with researchers from University of Florida.



Photo by Judd Patterson.

**Science, Stewardship, Solutions**

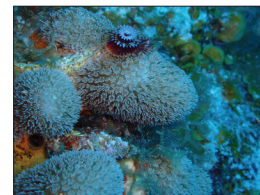
## Field Work Highlights

### Completed in August

- The vegetation mapping team collected Training Point (TP) and Verification Point (VP) data in **EVER**
- The marine team conducted Reef Visual Census (RVC) surveys for fish in **BISC** and coral reef monitoring in **DRTO**
- Brooke**, **Craig P**, **Jennifer**, and **Lydia** collected data for the mangrove-marsh ecotone vital sign in **EVER**

### Upcoming in September

- Colonial nesting bird surveys in **BISC**
- Kevin** will be collecting data at surface elevation table (SET) sites along the **BISC** mangrove coast
- Aquatic invertebrate monitoring in **BICY**
- The marine team will continue RVC surveys in **BISC** and conduct follow up coral monitoring in **DRTO** to estimate the prevalence and temporal dynamics of white plague disease observed in August
- Coral reef monitoring at the Tektite and Yawzi reefs in St. John, **VIIS**



## Employee Spotlight



This month's employee spotlight is on former U.S. Marine, **Pablo Ruiz**, who has been the Vegetation Mapping Project Manager for the SFCN since May 2013. Pablo has gained nearly two decades of experience monitoring vegetation in wetlands, mangroves, and upland forests in South Florida. His expertise is with the development of vegetation mapping and remote sensing, and he was involved in creating the 2008 BISC vegetation map, Loxahatchee Impounded Landscape Assessment (LILA) maps, and fire damage assessment maps following the Mustang Corner Fire (2008) and the Deep Fire (2009).

Pablo is currently leading a team of photo-interpreters to produce the CERP **EVER** vegetation map. Pablo is known for his love of tree islands, and says his favorite is one without mosquitoes. And since that doesn't exist, next on his list are Chekika Island, Gumbo Limbo, and Mosquito Hammock.

## For More Information

SFCN Home Page:

<https://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfcn/Index.cfm>

SFCN Reports & Publications:

<https://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfcn/publications.cfm?tab=0>

About the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program:

<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/index.cfm>