

Nicholas MacKnight

Postdoctoral Associate

Field of Study

Marine & Atmospheric Sciences



What impact do you want your research to have?

Assemble analyses that provide enough well-found clarity that the knowledge can be converted into a deliverable tool for applicable coral restoration and conservation.

What inspired you to pursue your area of research?

I found it odd that I was thinking of coral reefs often even though I was raised in Pennsylvania. I figured I should pursue those interests.

What is most exciting about your research?

Bringing statistical creativity to the field. So, while the conclusions are meaningful to coral researchers, the methods are more broadly applicable and replicable.

What makes your research unique?

Consistency in the conclusions. I don't like caveats and seek methods to formally address them. This allows for more well-founded conclusions.

What are your plans after finishing your postdoc at the University?

Continue to challenge the questions around "what makes a coral resistant to disease/heat stress, etc." until the results are clear enough where you can hold a coral fragment in your hand that captures those resistant traits. This requires conclusions that are so consistent, clear, and financially conscious that investment is a no-brainer.

