Sufficient coral recruitment is essential for recovery of degraded reefs, but interactions with cyanobacteria may interfere with coral recruitment processes. We aimed to determine if coral recruitment is impeded locally by the seasonal presence of cyanobacteria on Midway Atoll (NW Hawaiian Islands). There are two primary sites within the lagoon that are impacted by seasonal blooms of the cyanobacterium Hormothamnion enteromorphioides. These sites were degraded by the dumping of scrap metal in the 1970’s. We investigated coral recruitment patterns using settlement tiles at six sites in the backreef: two in the degraded areas, two in adjacent undisturbed areas, and two in farther, unimpacted sites. Tiles were in place for 13 months through July 2007. Coral recruits on all 60 tile sets will be counted and identified to genus level. Further insights into the role of cyanobacteria in these degraded areas will inform future management decisions.