

**Fire Coral**

*Millepora alcicornis*

- Hydrocoral, not stony coral
- Has stinging polyps
- Is encrusting



**Palythoa**

*Palythoa caribaeorum*

- Zoanthid, not stony coral
- Similar to anemones
- Is encrusting



**Gorgonians**

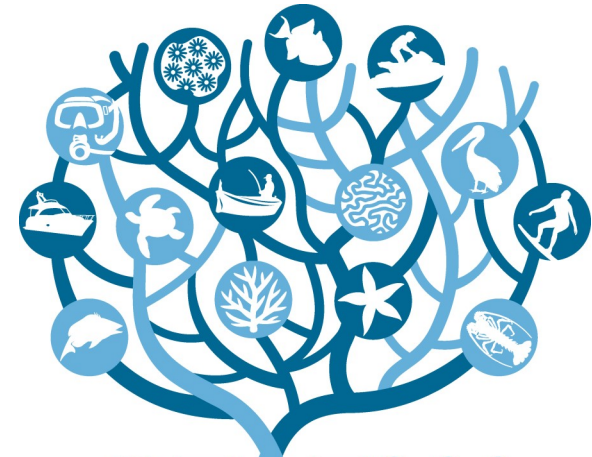
- Octocoral, not stony coral
- Also known as soft corals
- Includes many different types (sea fans, rods, plumes, whips, and encrusting)



Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Coral Reef Conservation Program

**SEAFAN BleachWatch Program**

**Coral Bleaching Identification Guide**



**SEAFAN**

Southeast Florida Action Network

*We're All Connected ~ Keep It Protected*





Photo: MML

*Mycetophyllia ferox*

**Common Name:**  
Knobby Cactus Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Fleshy  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
No Bleaching



Photo: MML

*Eusmilia fastigiana*

**Common Name:**  
Flower Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Flower / Cup  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
No Bleaching



Photo: MML

*Acropora cervicornis*

**Common Name:**  
Staghorn Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Branching  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
No Bleaching



Photo: MML

*Undaria agaricites*

**Common Name:**  
Lettuce Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Leaf / Plate / Sheet  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
No Bleaching



Photo: DEP CRCP

**Black Band Disease**

- Forms a dark ring
- Typically starts at a point on the coral and progresses outward.
- Found on many species.

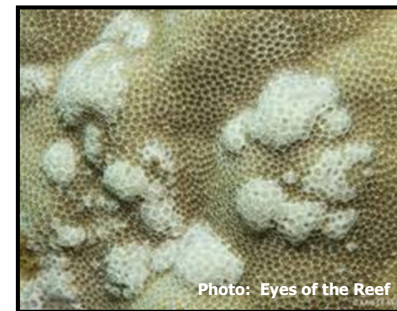


Photo: Eyes of the Reef

**Growth Anomaly**

- Protruding growth with a distinct margin
- Often a different color from the rest of the colony



Photo: MML

**Predation (Fish Bites)**

- Usually found in pairs from beak marks of parrotfish.
- Found on all species.
- Other organisms that feed on coral: damselfish, worms and snails



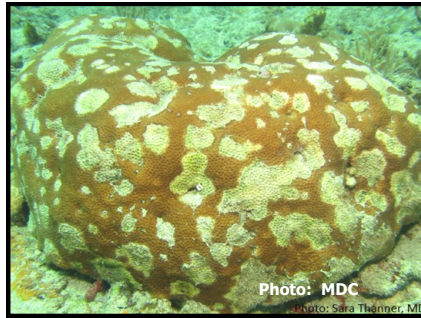


Photo: MDC  
Photo: Sara Thinner, MI

**Tissue Loss  
(White)**

- Tissue sloughs off as disease progresses over colony
- In photo: characterized by a multiple, circular + irregular lesions
- Found on many species



Photo: MML

**Tissue Loss  
(White)**

- Tissue sloughs off as disease progresses across colony
- In photo: characterized by a single, linear lesion



Photo: Nikole Ordway

**Tissue Loss  
(White)**

- Tissue sloughs off as disease progresses over colony
- In photo: characterized by multiple, irregular lesions

**Common Name:**  
Great star coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Mound / Boulder  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Paling



Photo: DEP CRCP

*Montastraea cavernosa*

**Common Name:**  
Mountainous star coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Mound / Boulder  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Paling



Photo: Marie Dugan

*Orbicella faveolata*

**Common Name:**  
Boulder Brain Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Brain  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Paling/Partial Bleaching



Photo: Brian Clark

*Meandrina meandrites*

**Common Name:**  
Lettuce Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Leaf / Plate / Sheet  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Partial Bleaching



Photo: Nikole Ordway

*Undaria agaricites*



**BLEACHED**



*Porites porites*

**Common Name:**  
Finger Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Branching  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Bleached



*Orbicella faveolata*

**Common Name:**  
Mountainous Star Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Mound and Boulder  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Bleached



*Colpophyllia natans*

**Common Name:**  
Boulder Brain Coral  
**Coral Type:**  
Brain  
**Bleaching Severity:**  
Bleached



**TIME AND STRESS**



Photo 1. A healthy coral colony with a brown tint provided by the zooxanthellae.



Photo 2. The entire colony has expelled its zooxanthellae causing a "bleached" white appearance.



Photo 3. The colony was unable to regain its zooxanthellae. Mortality and algae growth have occurred.

**PROGRESSION OF CORAL BLEACHING**

The above photos illustrate a timeline of bleaching for Elkhorn coral, *Acropora palmata*.