



SEAFAN BleachWatch Observer Training

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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Training Overview

What is Coral Bleaching?

Coral Disease Outbreak

SEAFAN & the BleachWatch Early Warning Program

Your Contribution

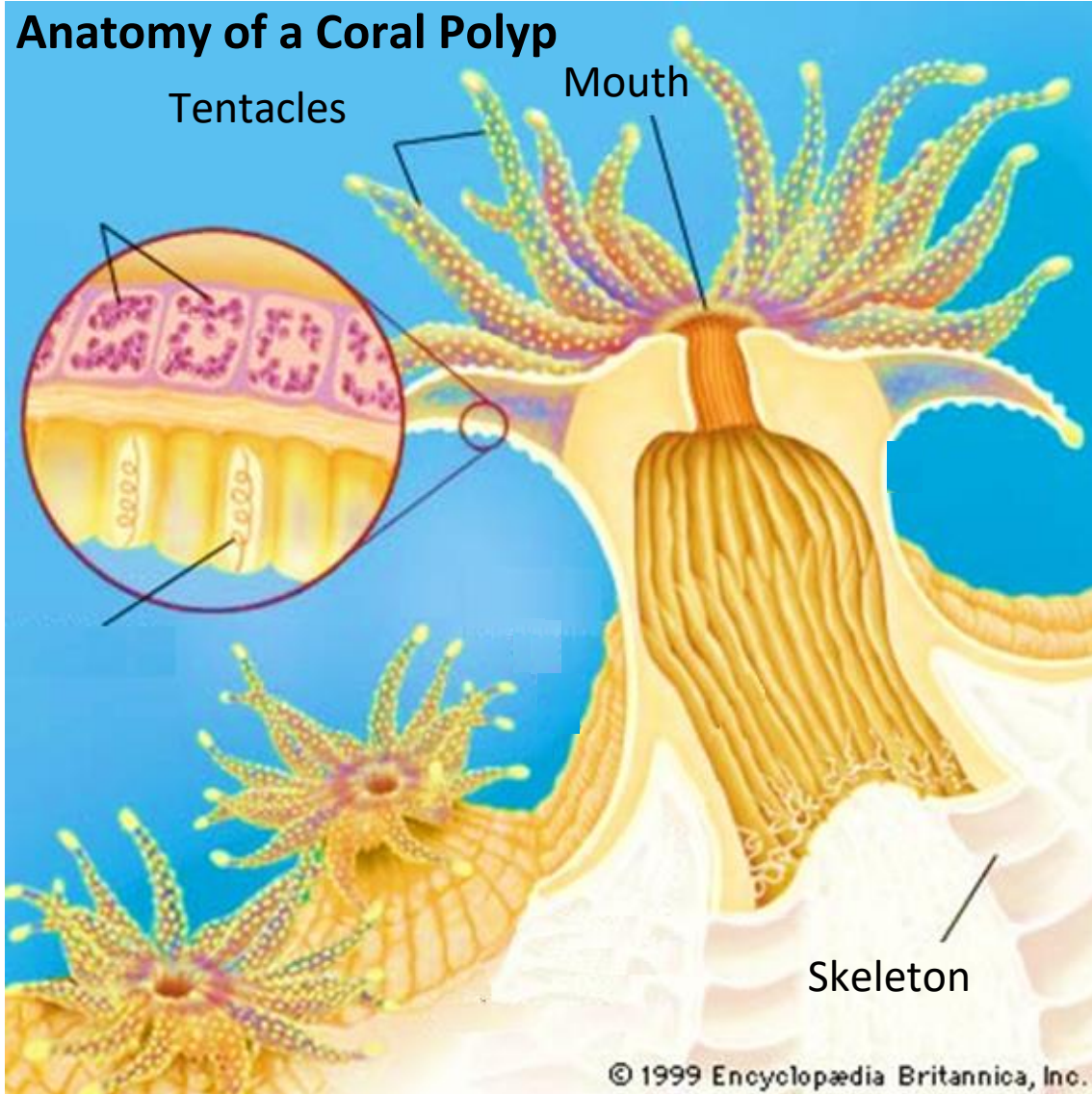


Coral Anatomy 101





Coral Anatomy 101



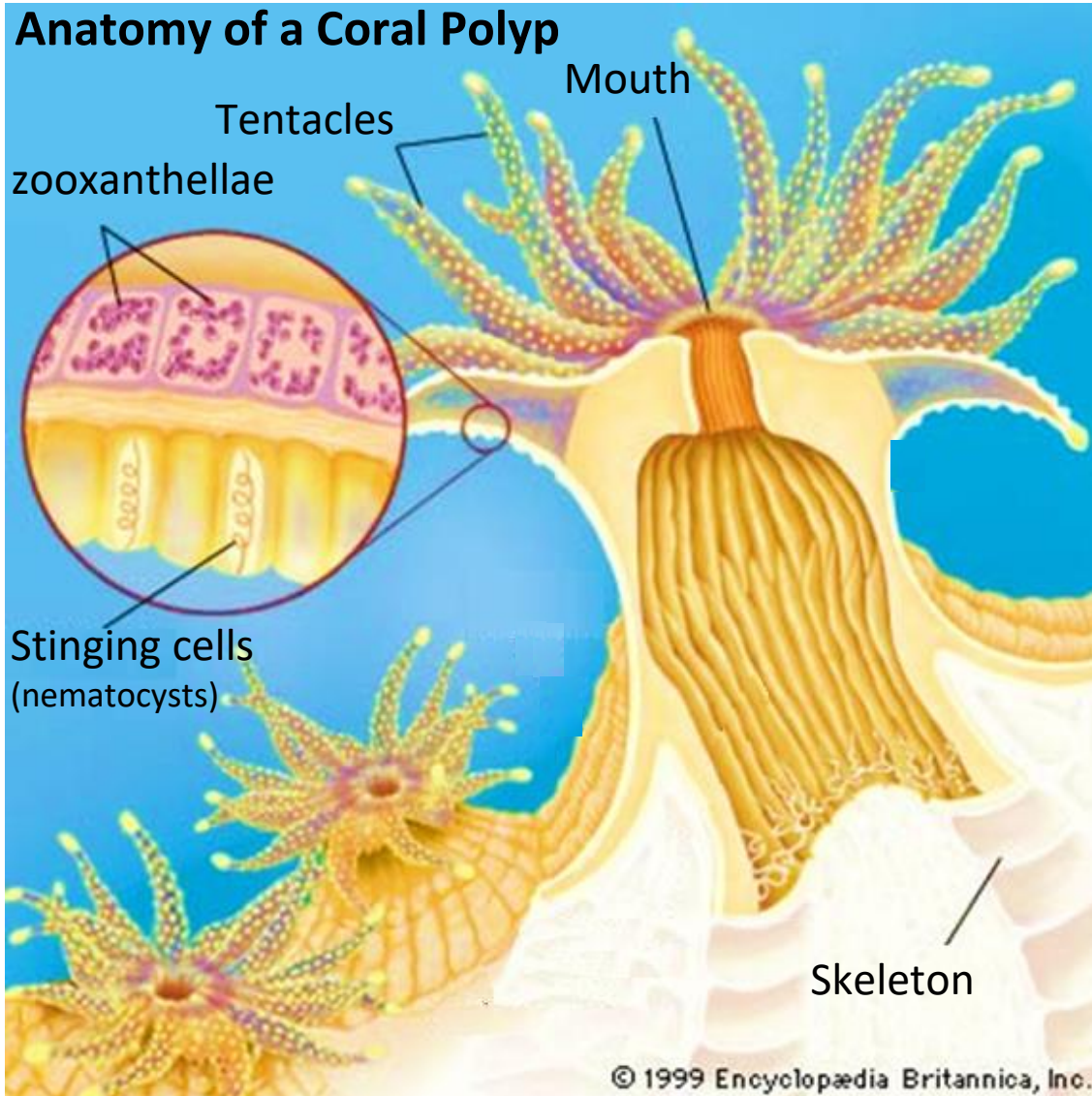


Variations Of Growth Forms





Coral Feeding

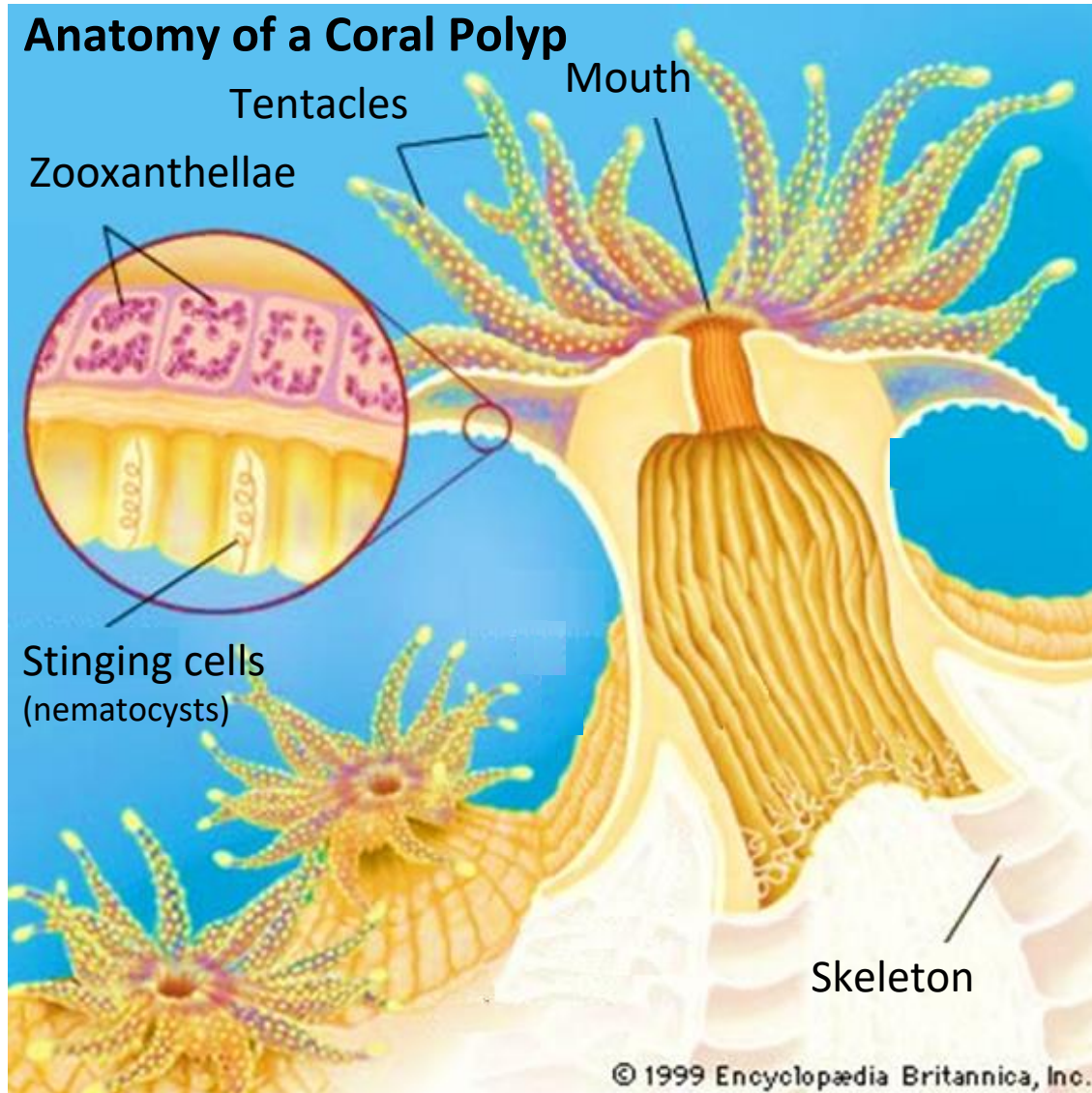


2 methods:

1. Filter feeding (nematocysts)
2. Symbiotic relationship (zooxanthellae)



Coral Anatomy 101



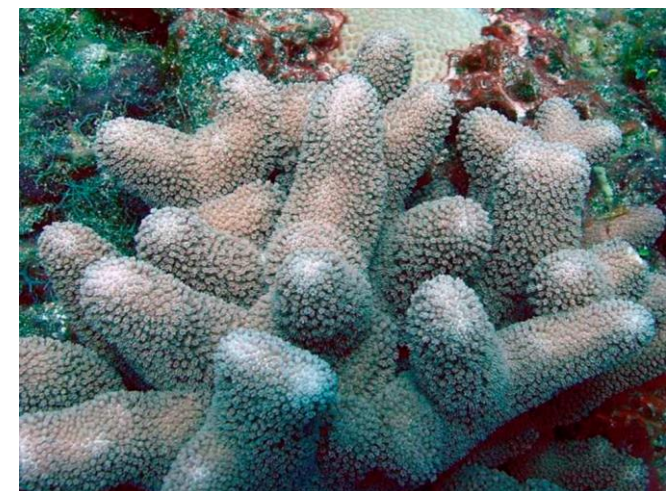
Zooxanthellae provides:

- 90 – 95% of nutrients
- Normal “healthy” coloration of corals





Variations of Colors





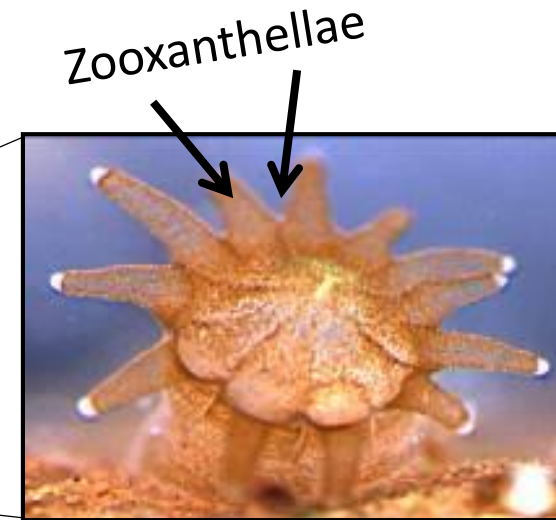
Zooxanthellae



Photo: osf.co.uk



What is Coral Bleaching?

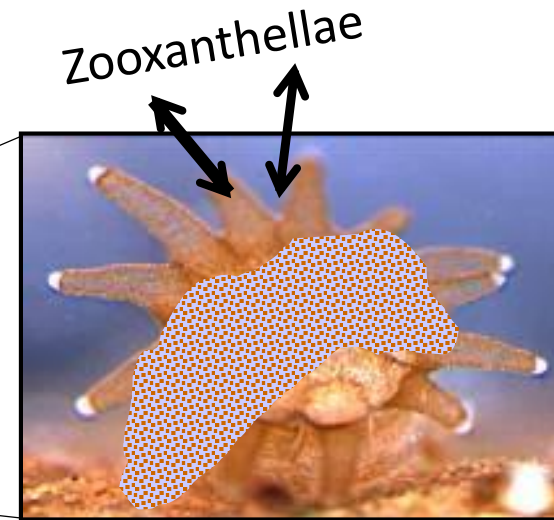


↑
Stress

Healthy Coral

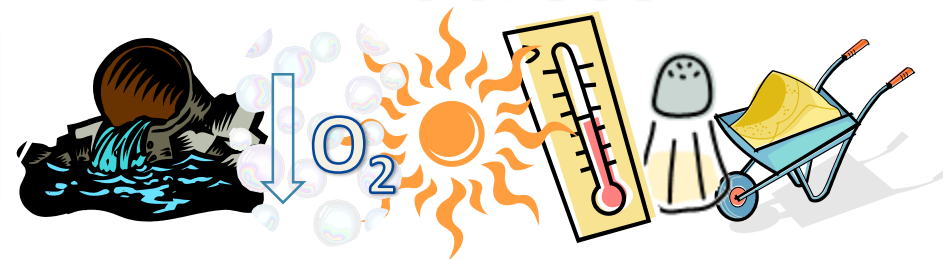


Coral Bleaching



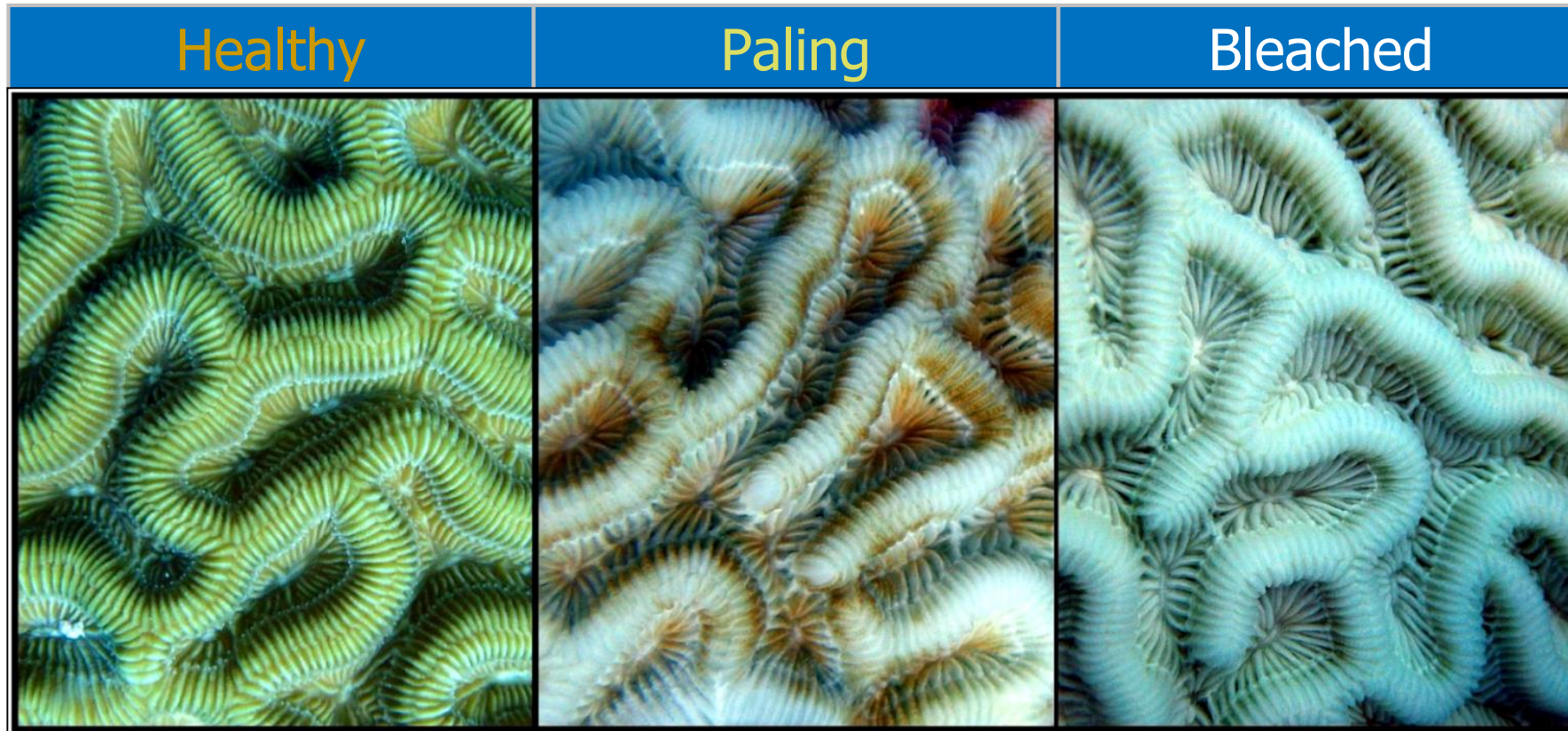
Stress

Bleached Coral





Coral Bleaching



Brain Coral



Is a bleached coral a dead coral?

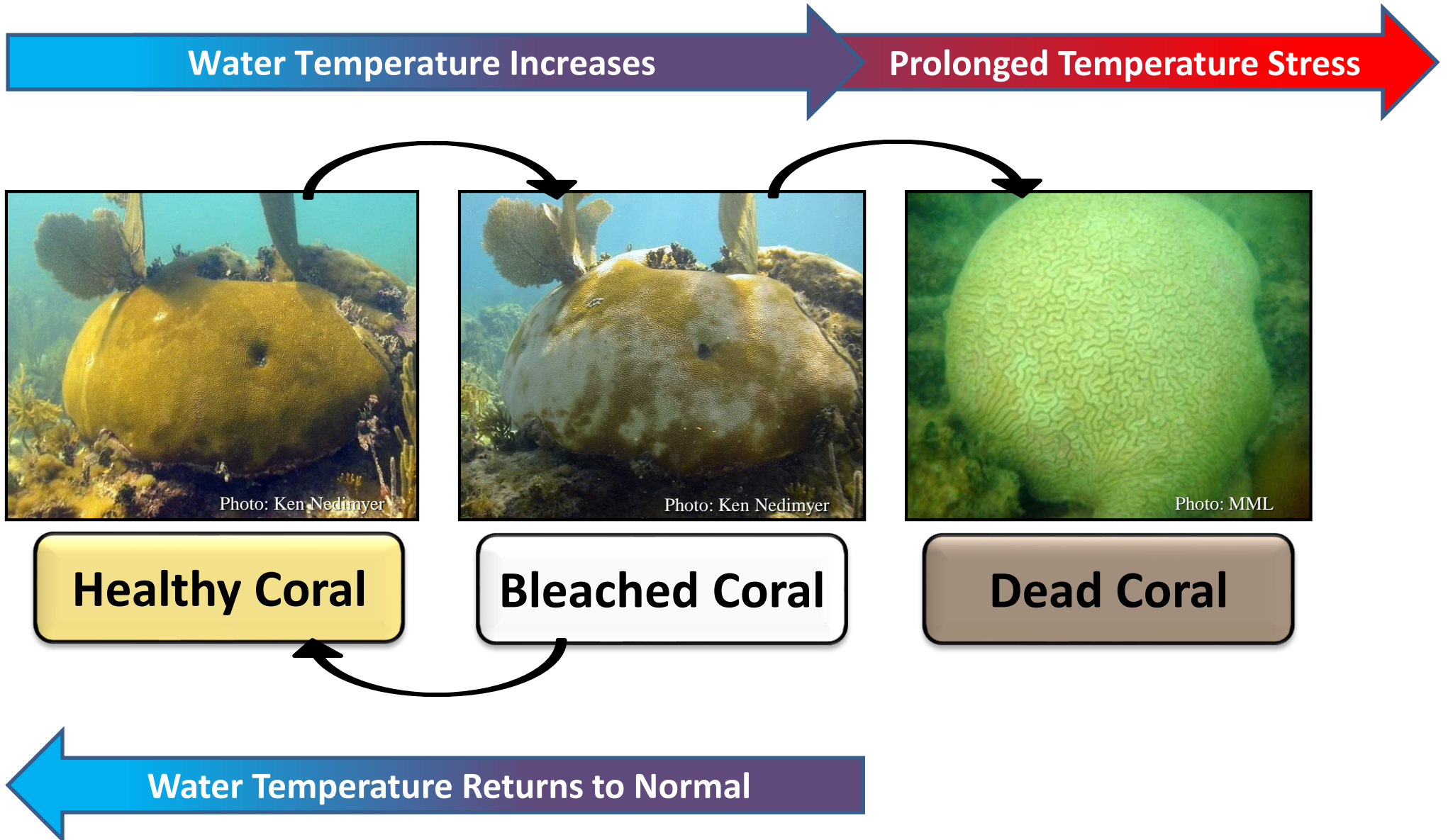


Bleached Coral

No!



Coral Bleaching





Coral Bleaching



Healthy Coral



Bleached Coral



Dead Coral

Is the coral resilient?



Coral Bleaching

Long-term effects:



Reproduction



Coral growth

Loss of habitat

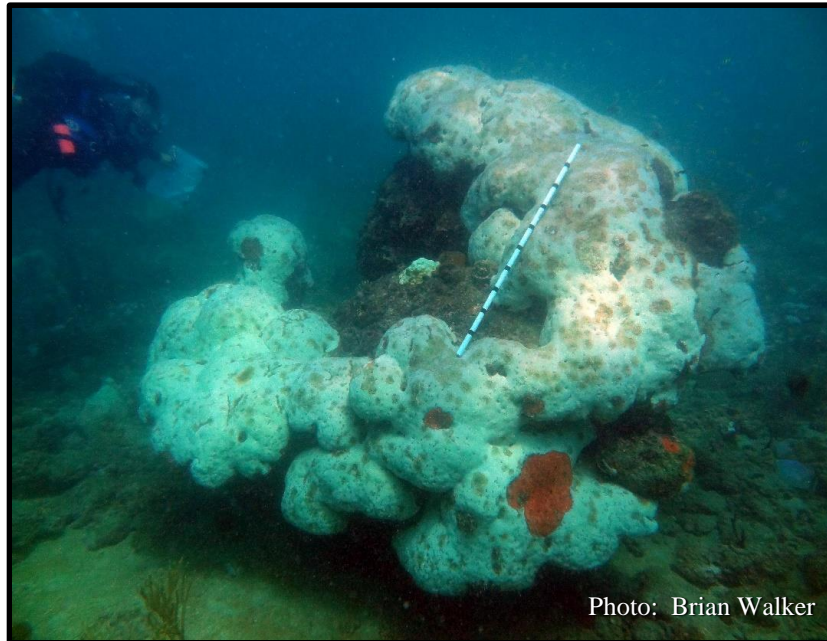


Photo: Brian Walker

Susceptible to
disease

Susceptible to
predation

Susceptible to
death

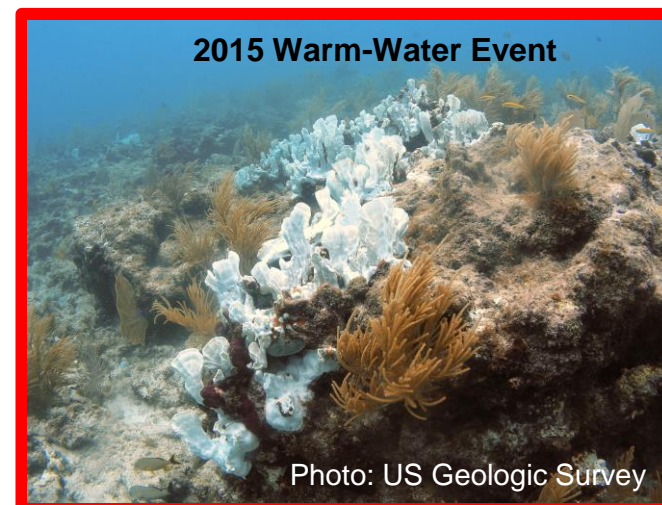
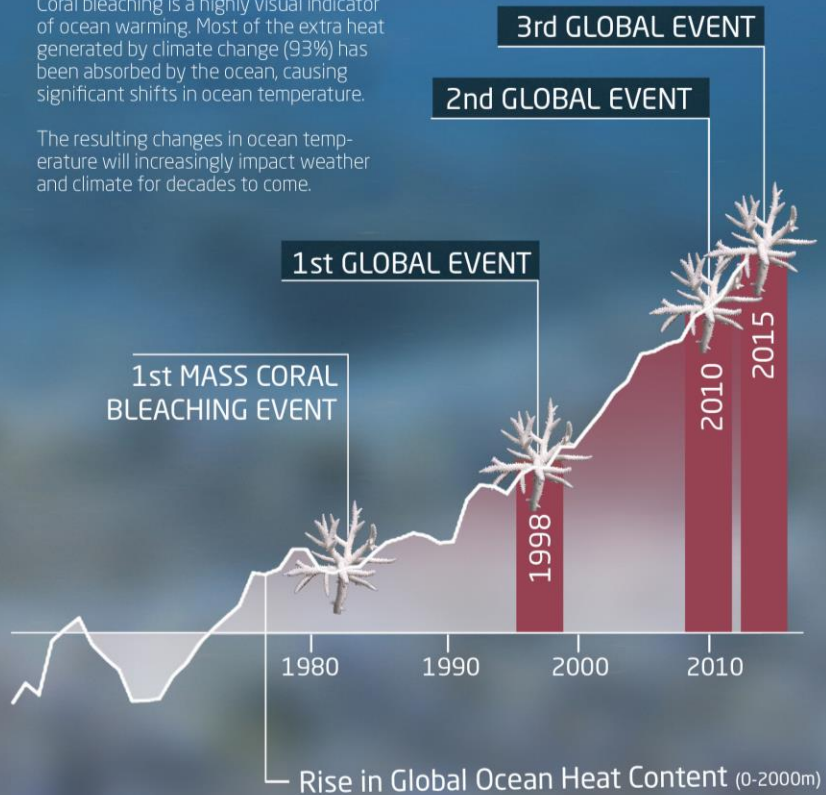


Severe Bleaching Events

Why should we care?

Coral bleaching is a highly visual indicator of ocean warming. Most of the extra heat generated by climate change (93%) has been absorbed by the ocean, causing significant shifts in ocean temperature.

The resulting changes in ocean temperature will increasingly impact weather and climate for decades to come.

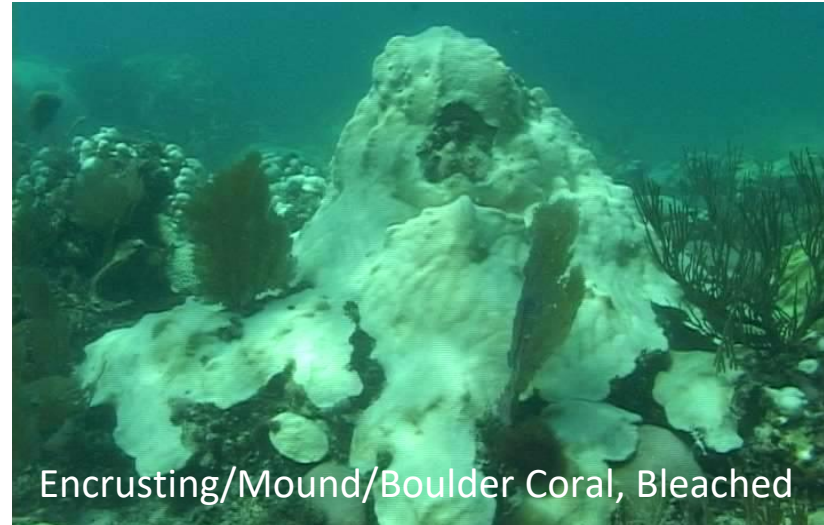




Coral Bleaching Across Spatial Scales



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral, Bleached



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral, Bleached



Photo: Mote Marine Laboratory

Brain Coral, Paling



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral,
Partial bleaching



Coral Bleaching

Mound/Boulder Coral, Bleached

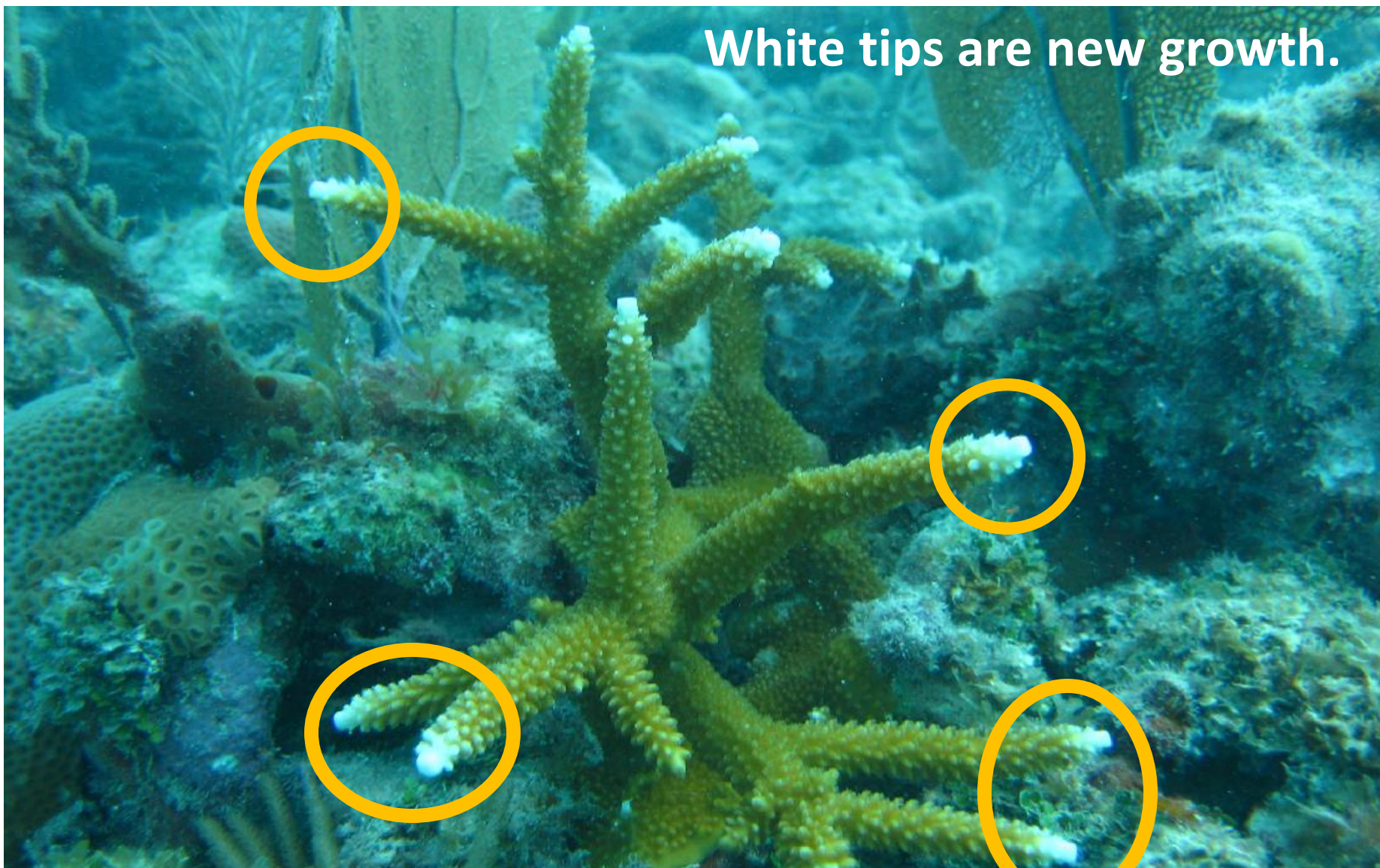


Brain Coral





NOT Bleaching!



White tips are new growth.



Fish Bites/Predation





Training Overview

What is Coral Bleaching?

Coral Disease

SEAFAN & the BleachWatch Early Warning Program

Your Contribution



Coral Disease

What causes coral disease?

Bacteria

Virus

Fungus





Identifying Coral Disease



Photo: FDEP CRCP

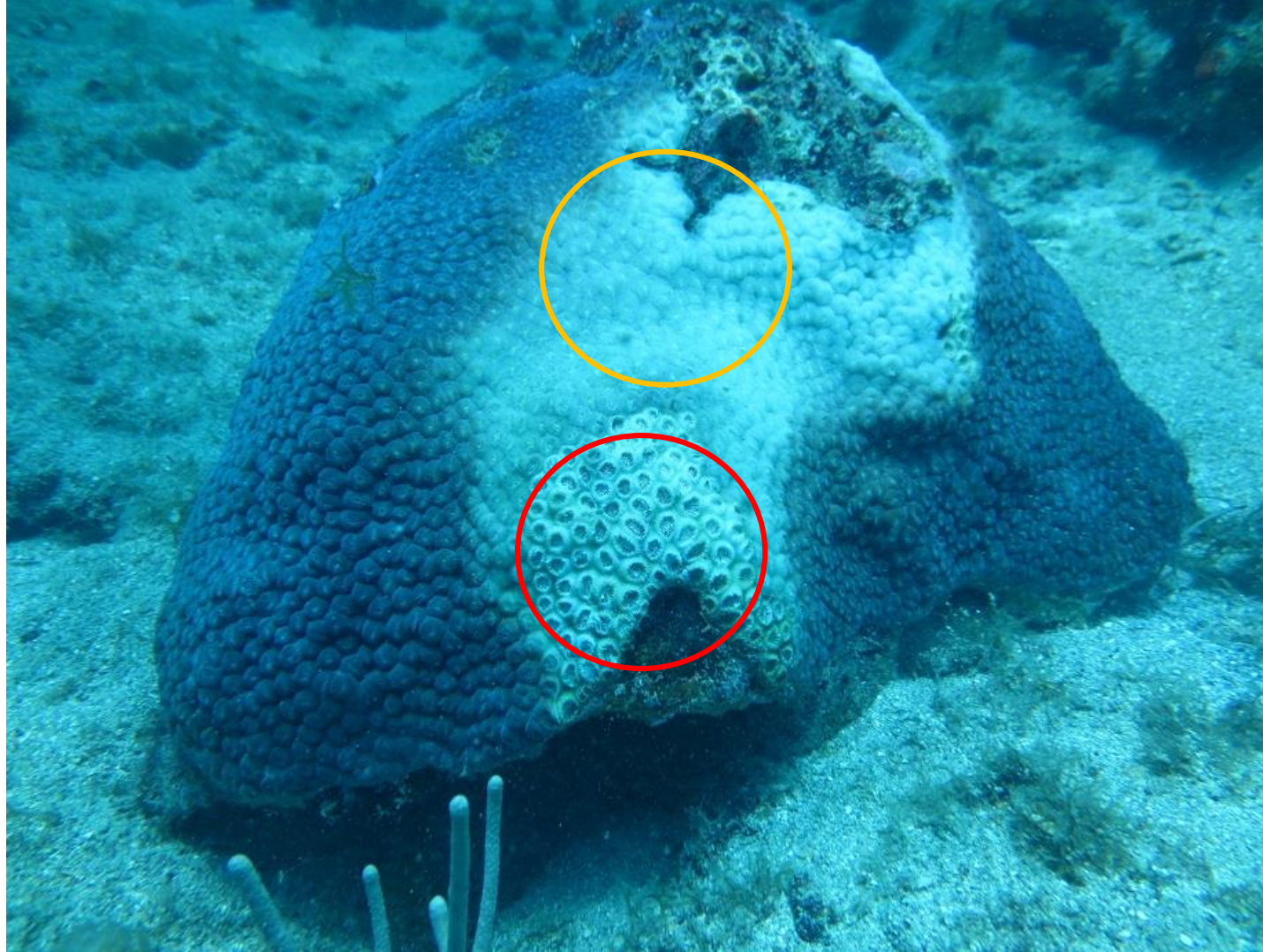


Bleaching vs. Disease





Bleaching vs. Tissue Loss



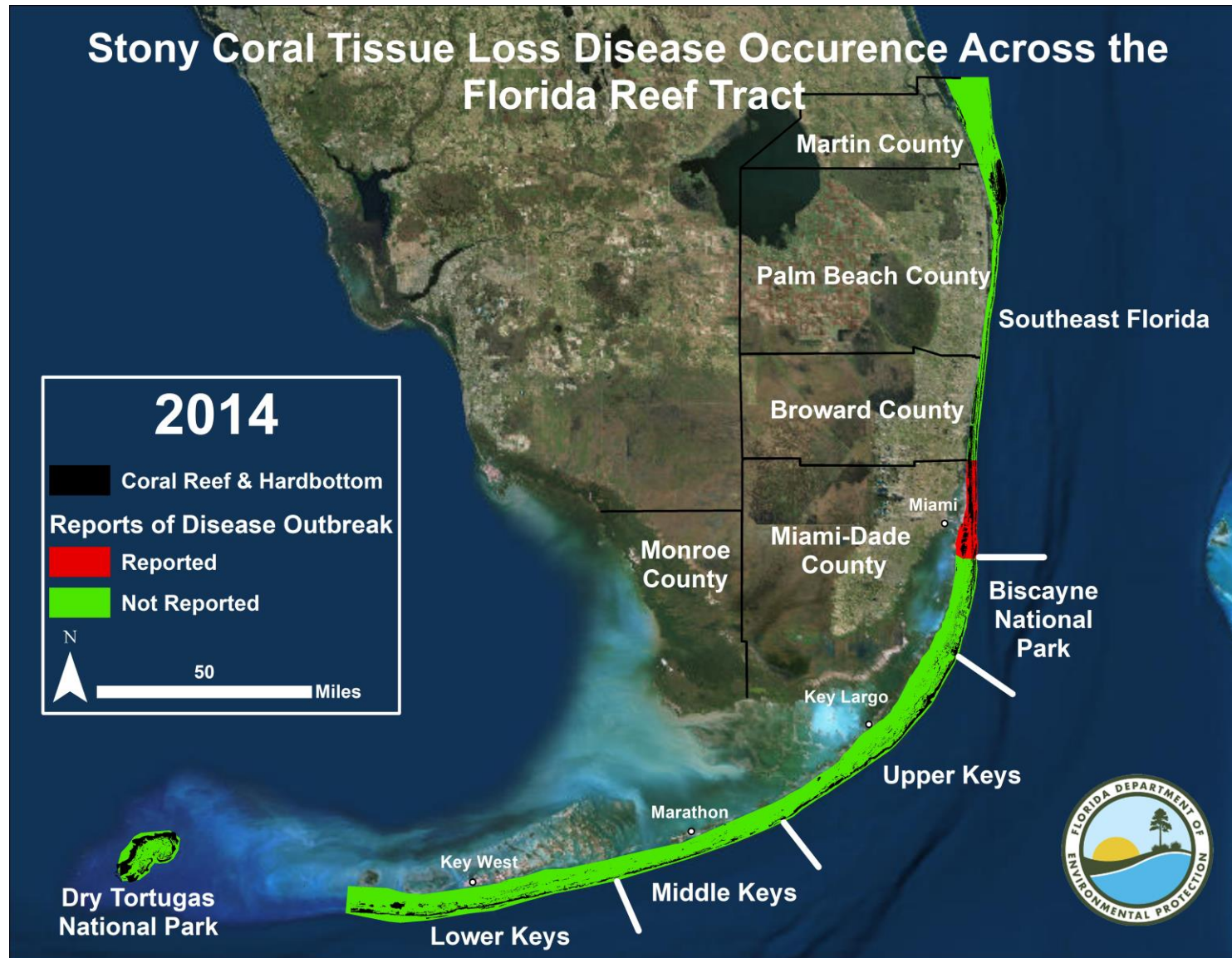


Florida's Coral Disease Outbreak

(2014 – present)

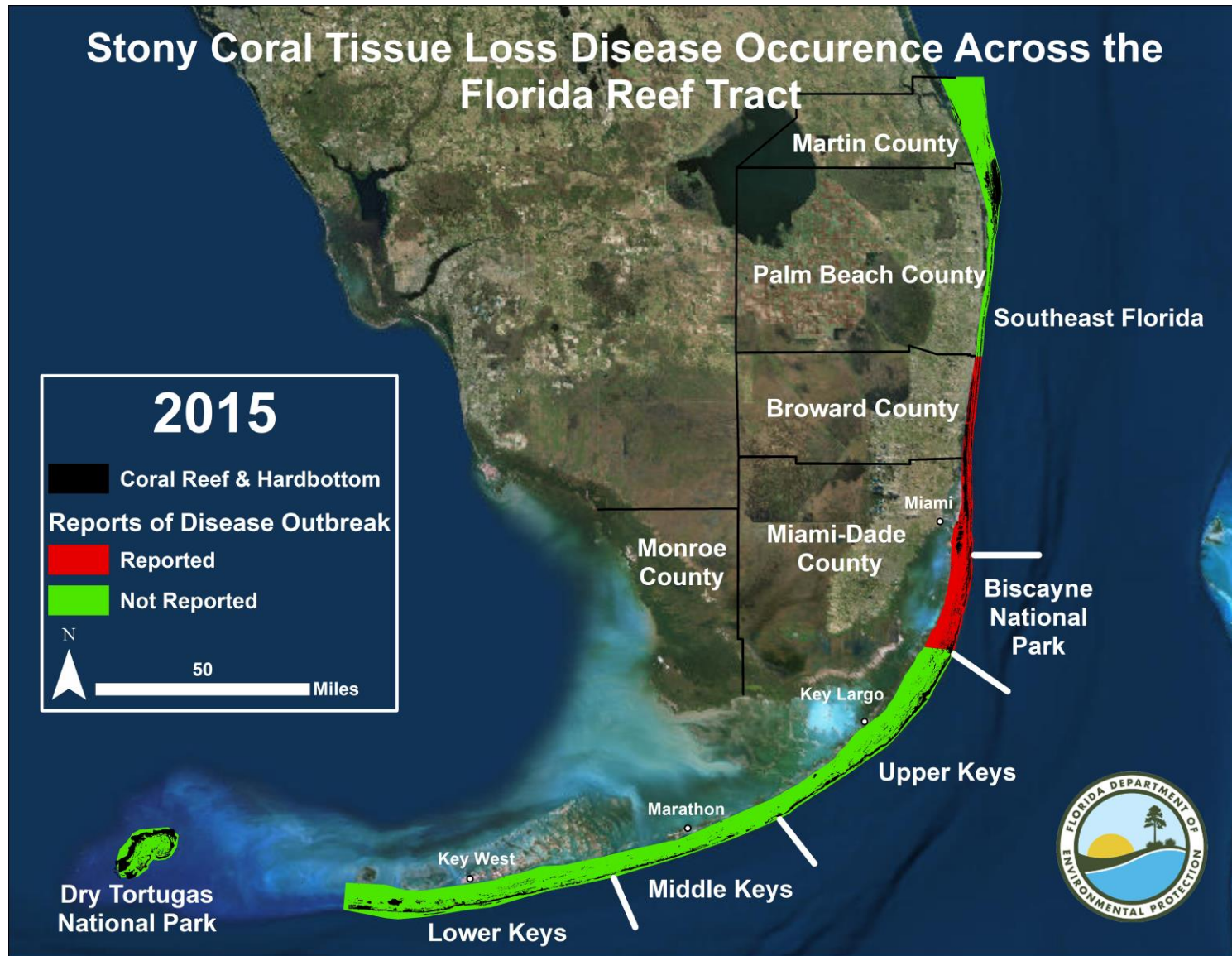


2014



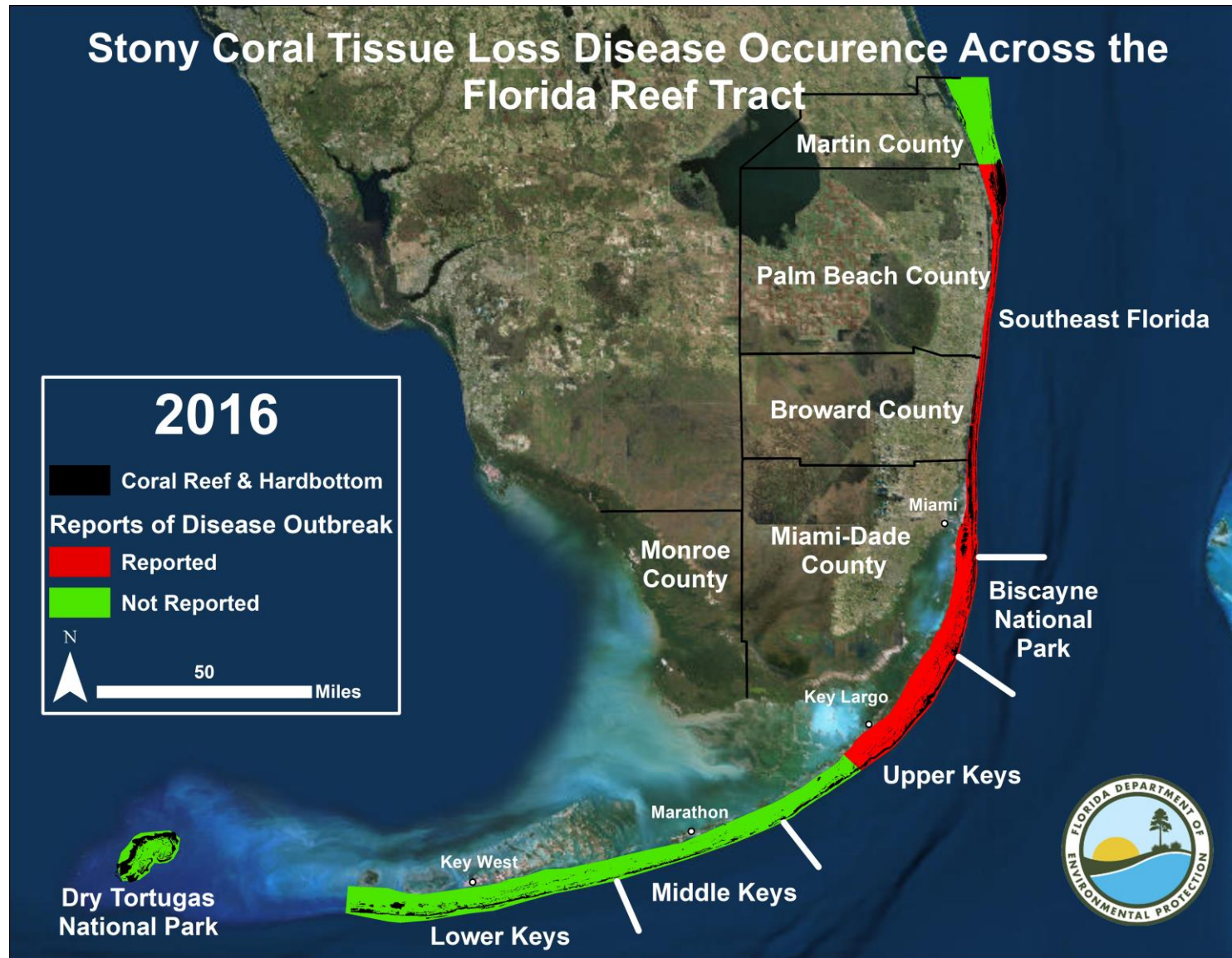


2015



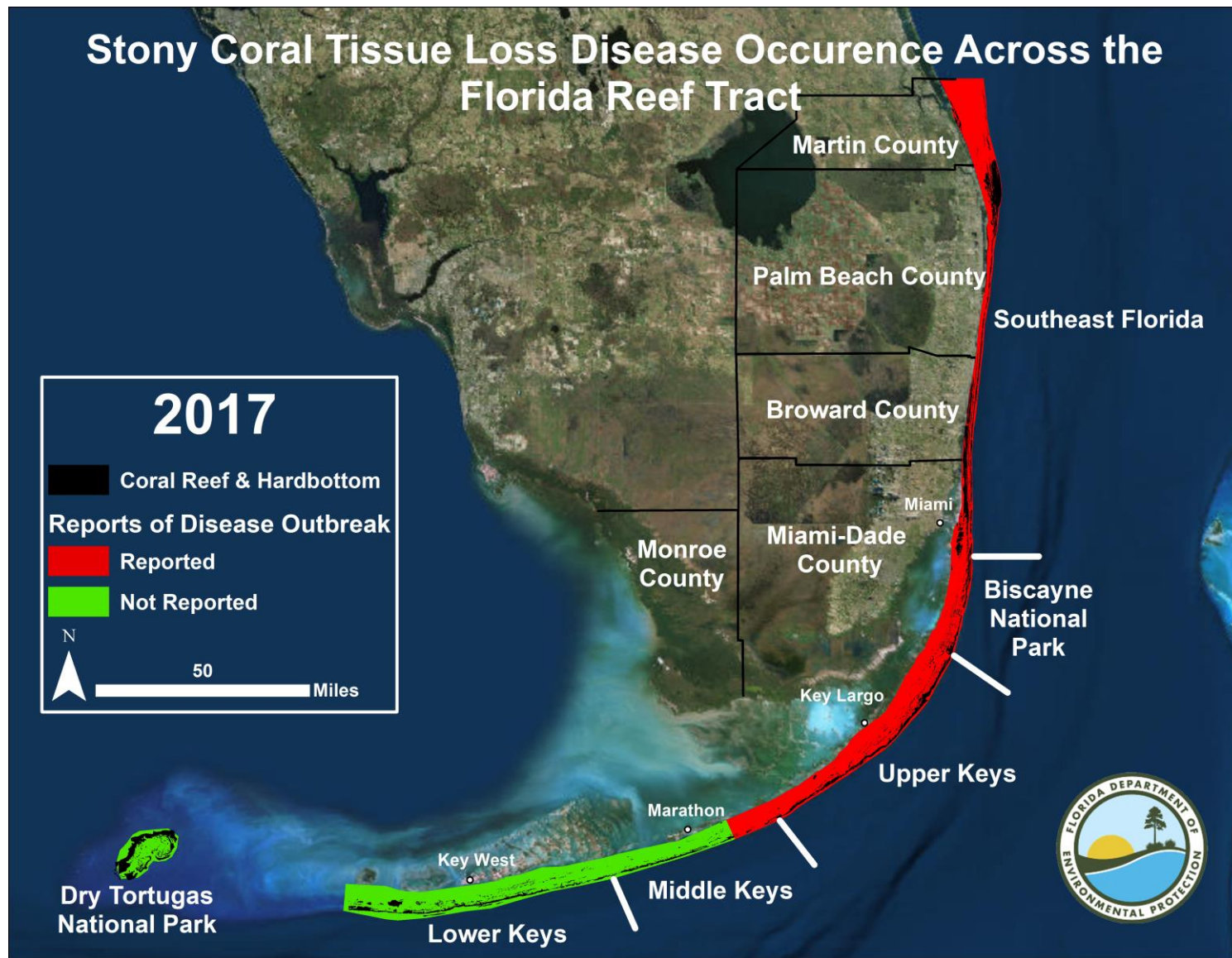


2016



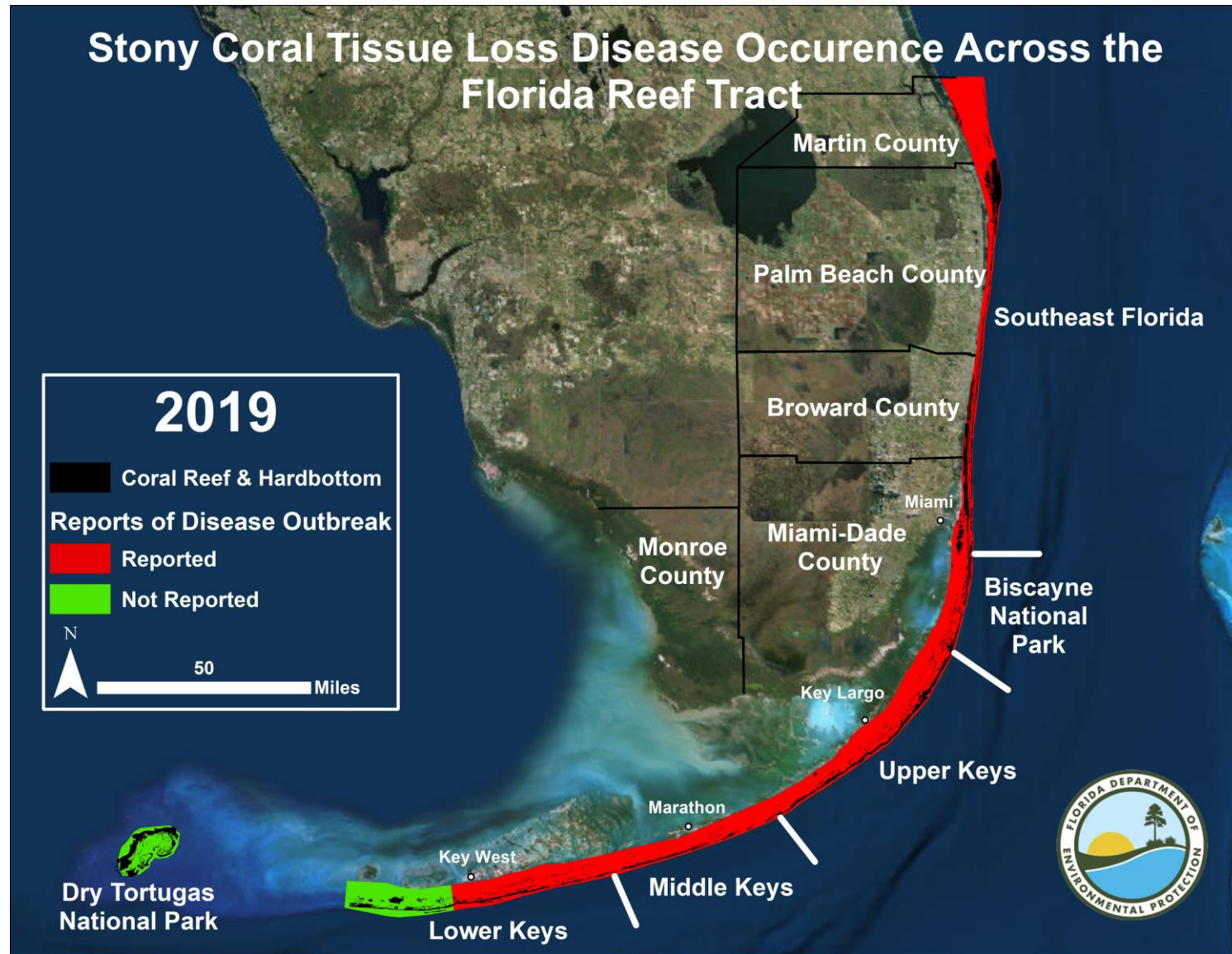


2017





2019





Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)

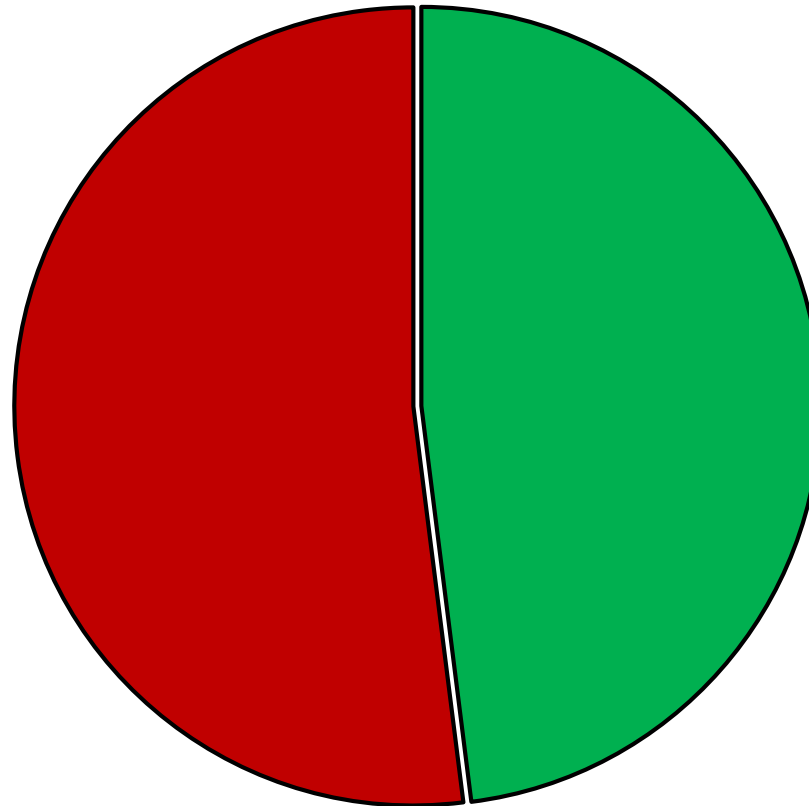




Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)

More than half of Florida's reef-building coral species are affected

Affected



Unaffected



Background Level of Coral Disease

Florida's "Normal"
Prevalence of
Disease:

2-3%





Current Disease Outbreak Level

Very High =

66-100%

(in certain species)





Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)

Progresses Rapidly



Photos: FWC



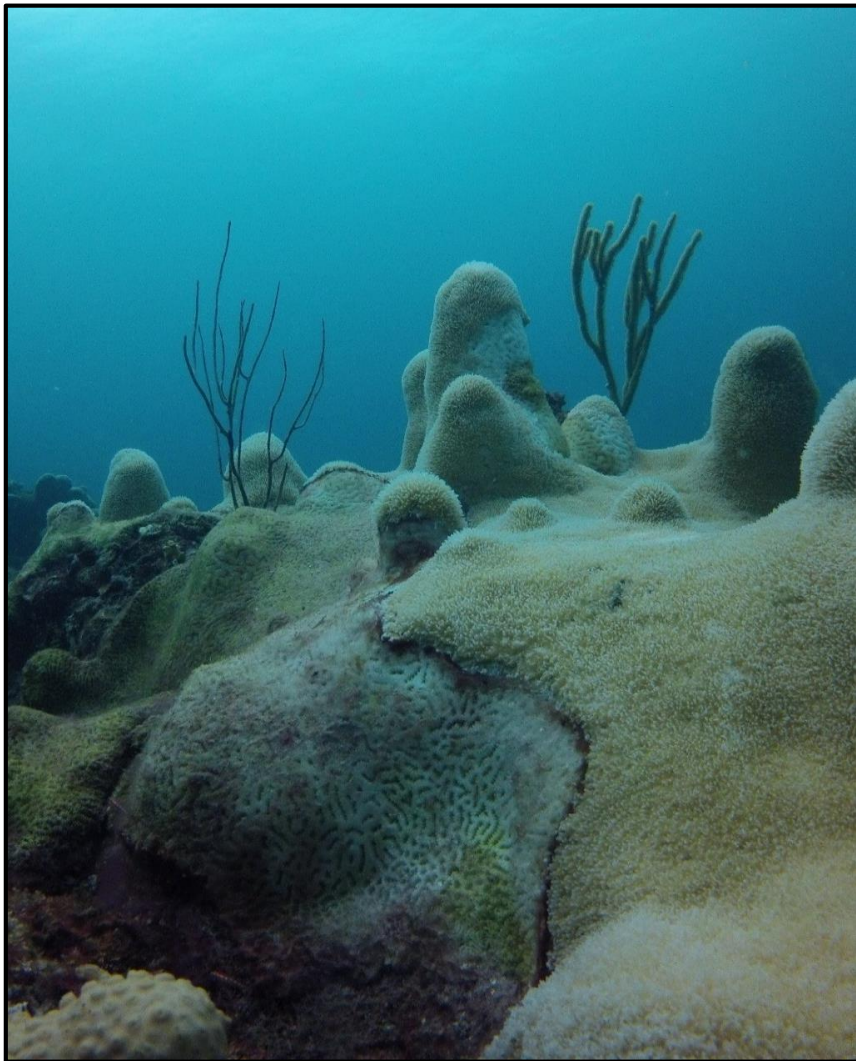
Most Impacted Species



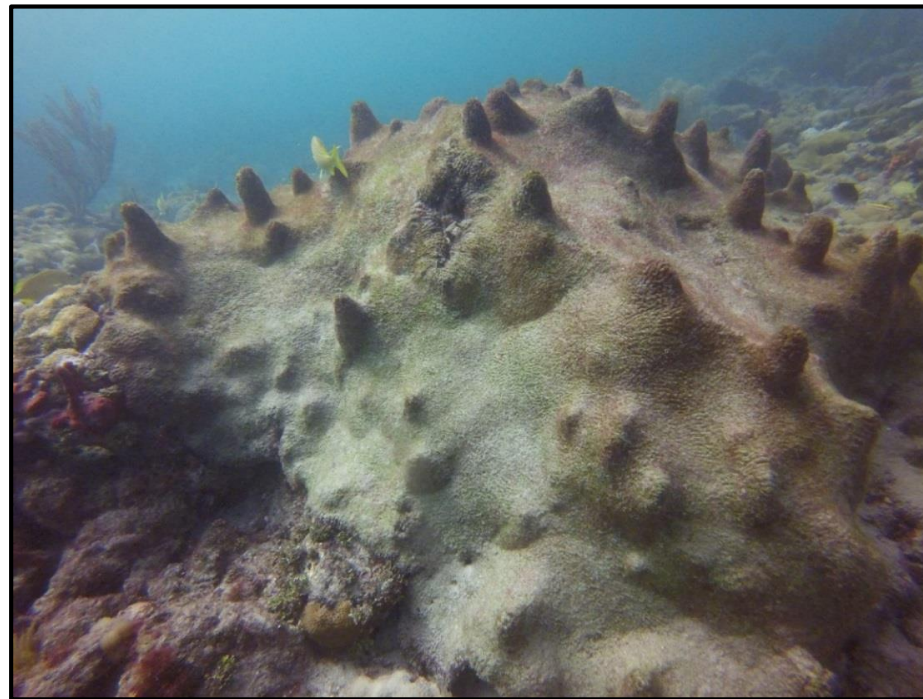
*ESA Threatened



Most Impacted Species

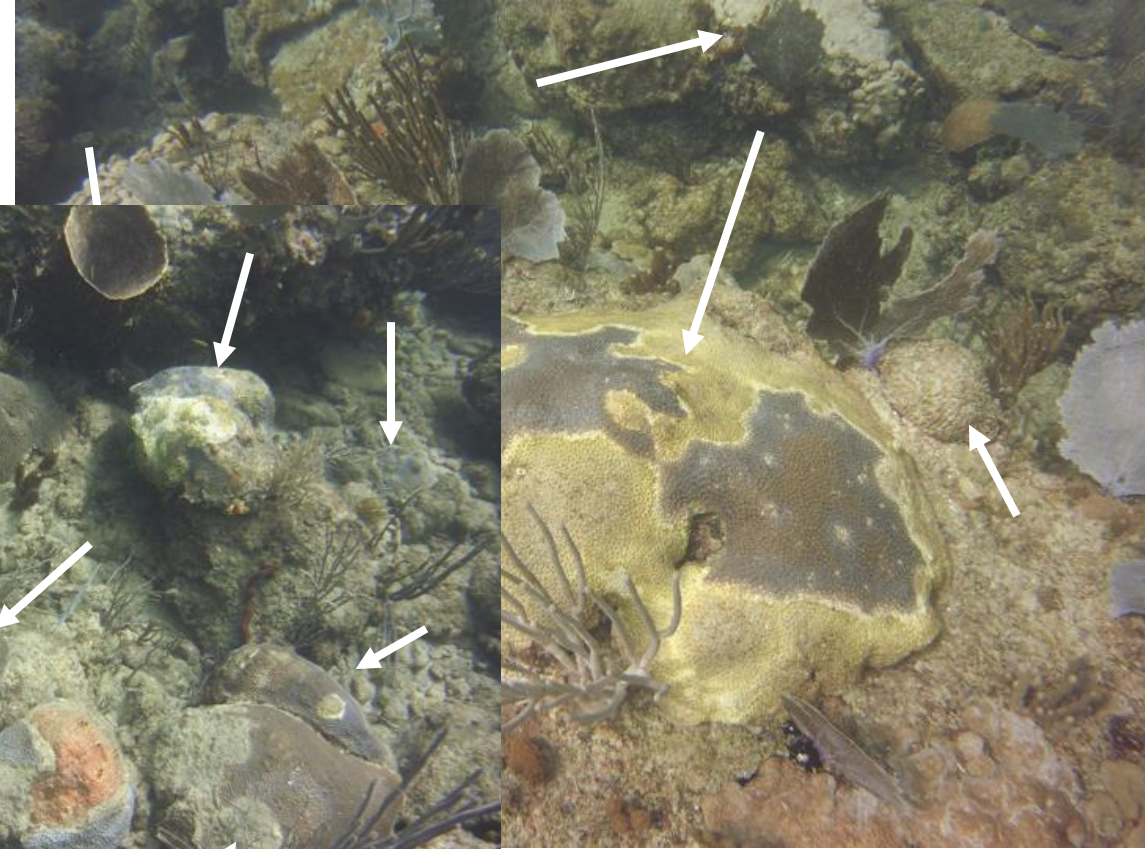
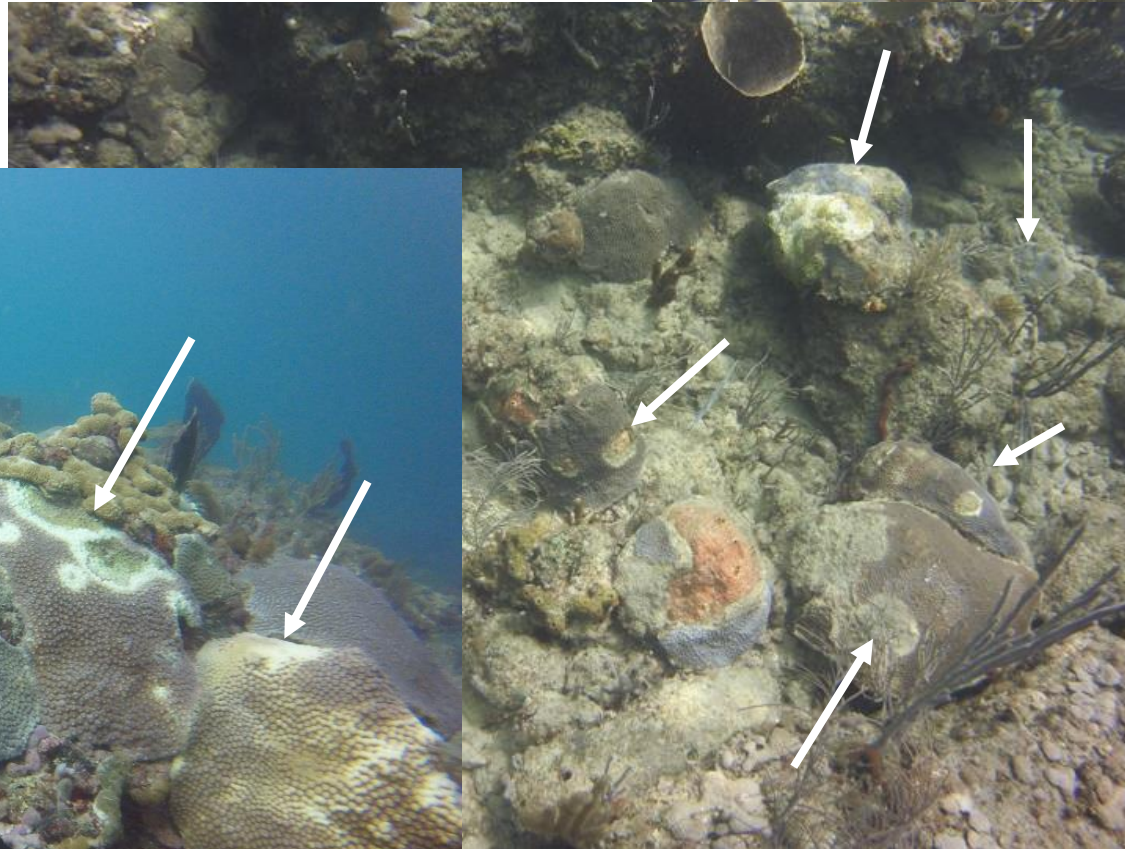
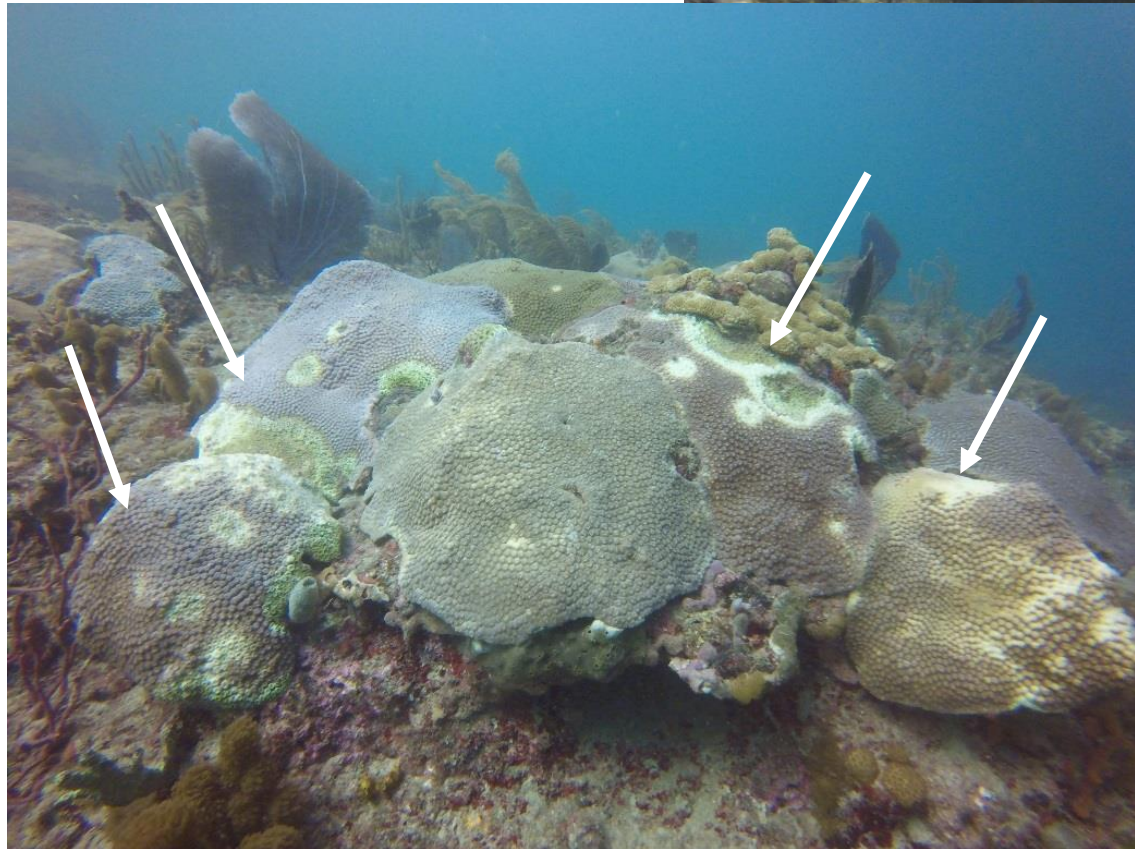


95% loss of known populations





Disease affects multiple colonies at once





Partners in Disease Response





What is Coral Bleaching?

Coral Disease Outbreak

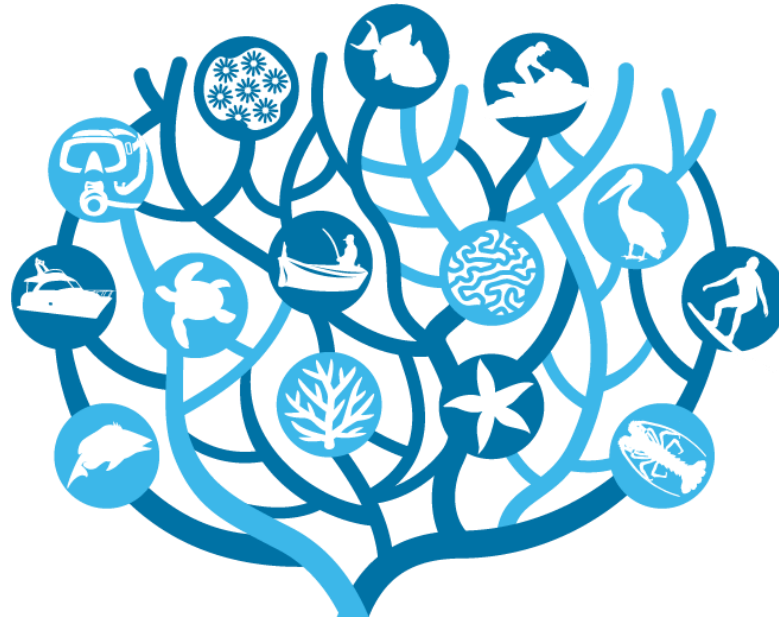
SEAFAN & the BleachWatch Early Warning Program

Your Contribution



SEAFAN

A community-based reporting and response program for marine incidents affecting southeast Florida's coral reef ecosystem.



SEAFAN

Southeast Florida Action Network

We're All Connected ~ Keep It Protected



Report Marine Incidents

See a Marine Incident?
Report It! www.SEAFFAN.net

1-866-770-SEFL (7335)

www.SEAFFAN.net



Vessel
Groundings



Anchor
Damage



Fish Kill
& Disease



Marine
Debris



Thermoclines



Coral Disease
& Bleaching



Harmful
Algal Blooms



Discolored
Water



Invasive
Species



Other
Incidents



SEAFAN BleachWatch

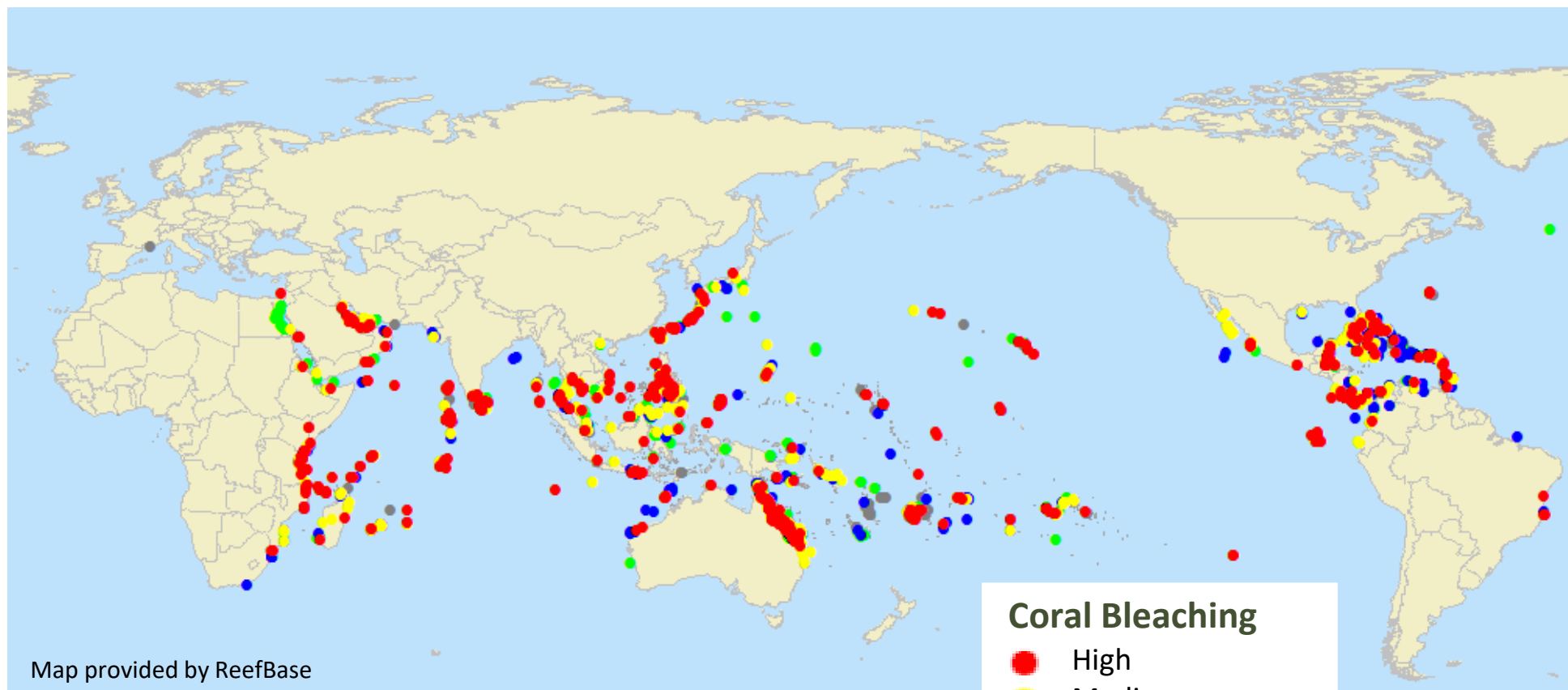
BleachWatch is an early warning system for coral bleaching in southeast Florida.



**Coral Disease
& Bleaching**

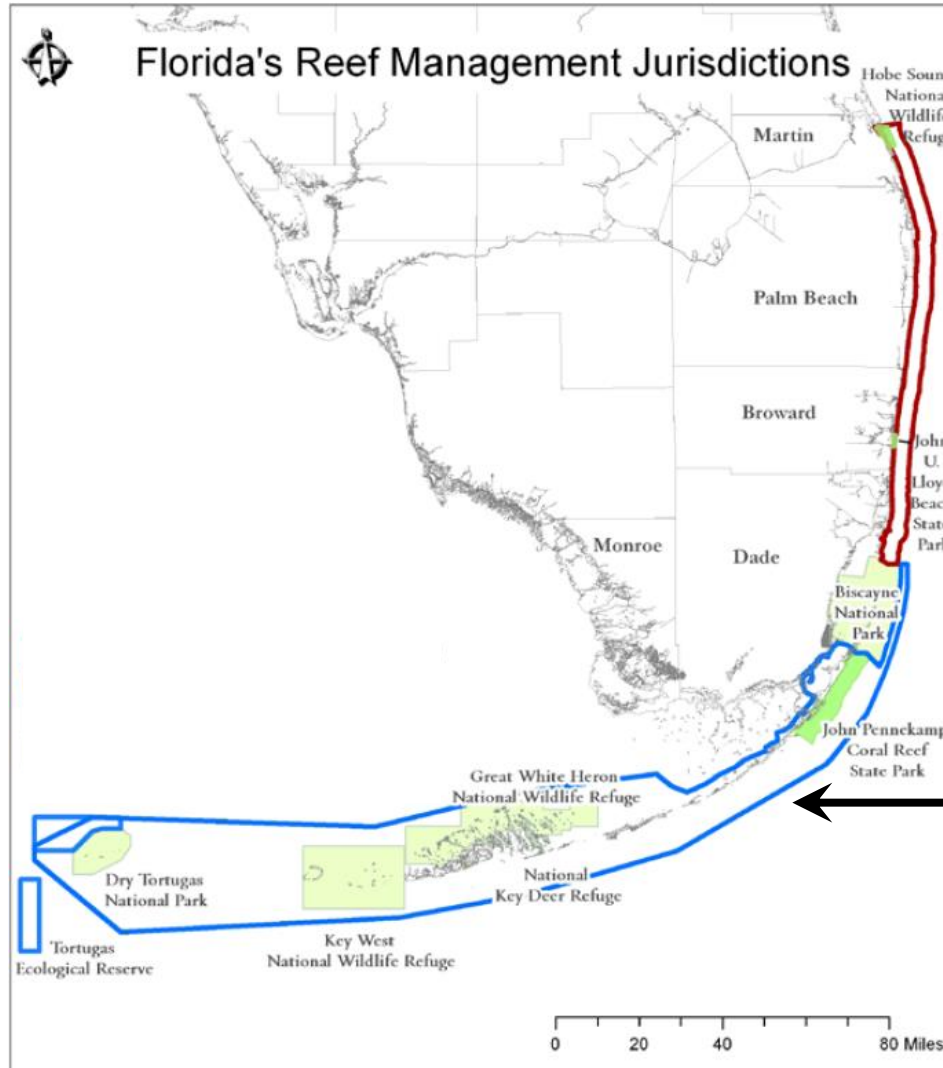


Coral Bleaching, 1980-2010





SEAFAN BleachWatch



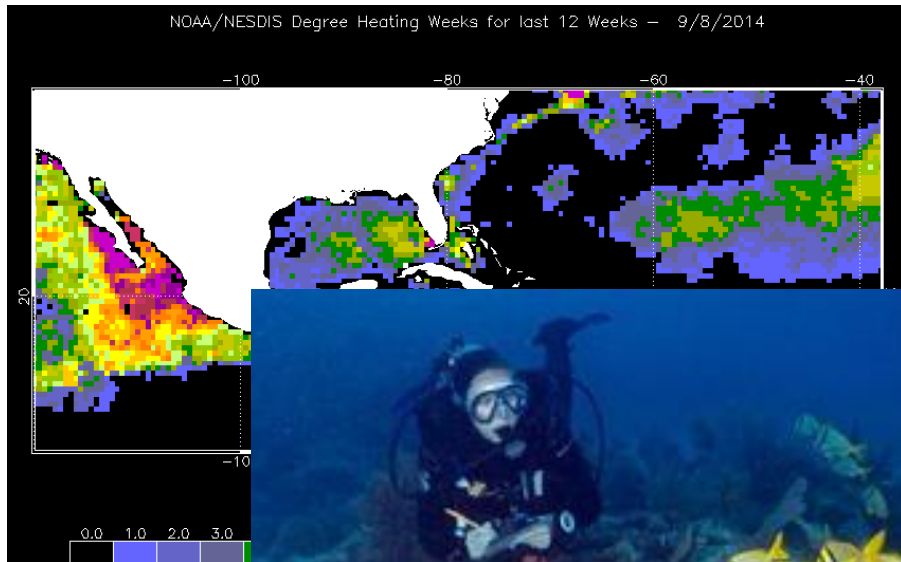
- DEP Coral Reef Conservation Program Area
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Federal Park or Refuge
- State Park

SEAFAN BleachWatch

Florida Keys BleachWatch



BleachWatch Objectives



Monitor climate and sea temperatures = environmental monitoring



Involve citizen scientists



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program
SEAFAN BleachWatch Program



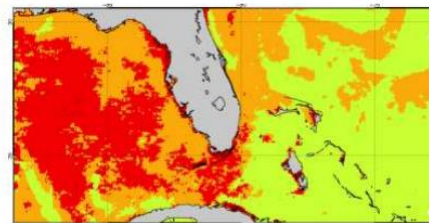
Current Conditions Report #20140902

September 2, 2014

Summary: Based on climate predictions and field observations, the threat for mass coral bleaching in southeast Florida, between Miami-Dade and Martin counties is currently **HIGH**.

Environmental Monitoring

The latest CRW experimental 5 kilometer (km) Daily Coral Bleaching Alert Area (Figure 1) indicates that southeast Florida is presently experiencing a moderate to high level of thermal stress, with an Alert Level 1 or Bleaching Warning present throughout the region. This indicates that bleaching is likely in southeast Florida and additional alerts are possible if current conditions continue or worsen.



Legend: No Stress (Green), Watch (Yellow), Warning (Orange), Alert Level 1 (Red), Alert Level 2 (Dark Red)

Figure 1. NOAA CRW Experimental Daily 5 km Blended Geo-Polar Nighttime Blended Bleaching Alert Area; August 31, 2014
<http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km/index.php>

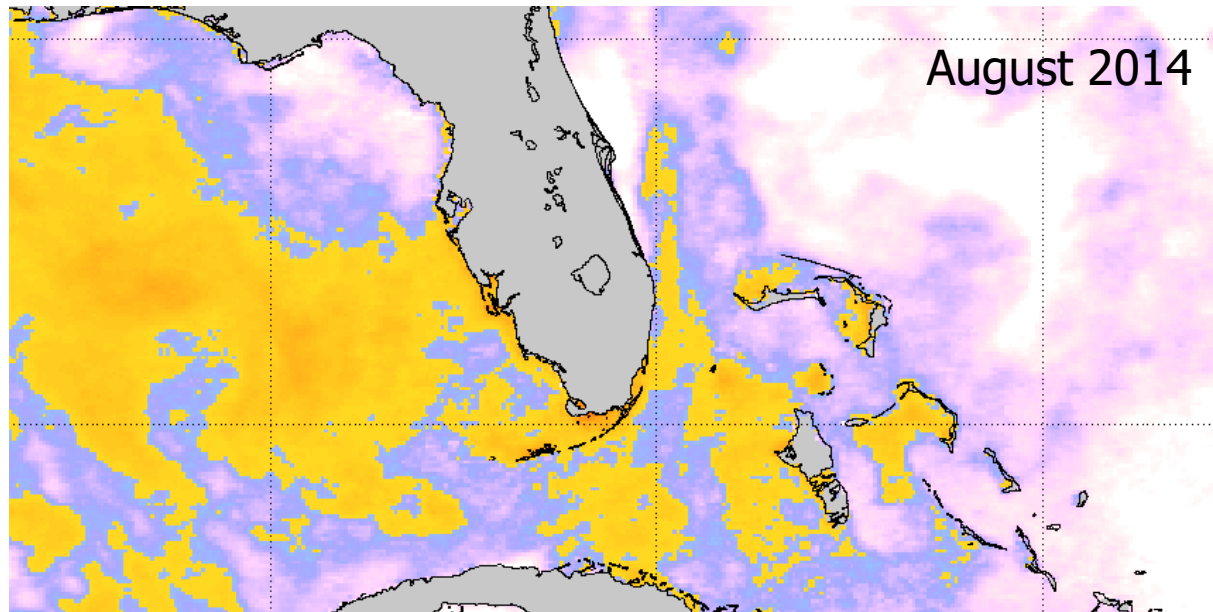
NOAA's Bleaching Hotspot Map compares current SST to the maximum monthly mean, which is the average temperature during the

Issue "Current Conditions" reports

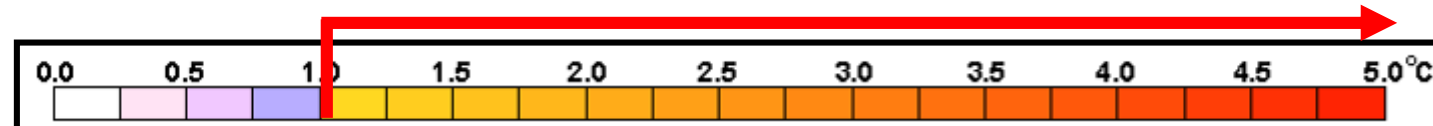


Environmental Monitoring

High Temperatures (Hot Spots)



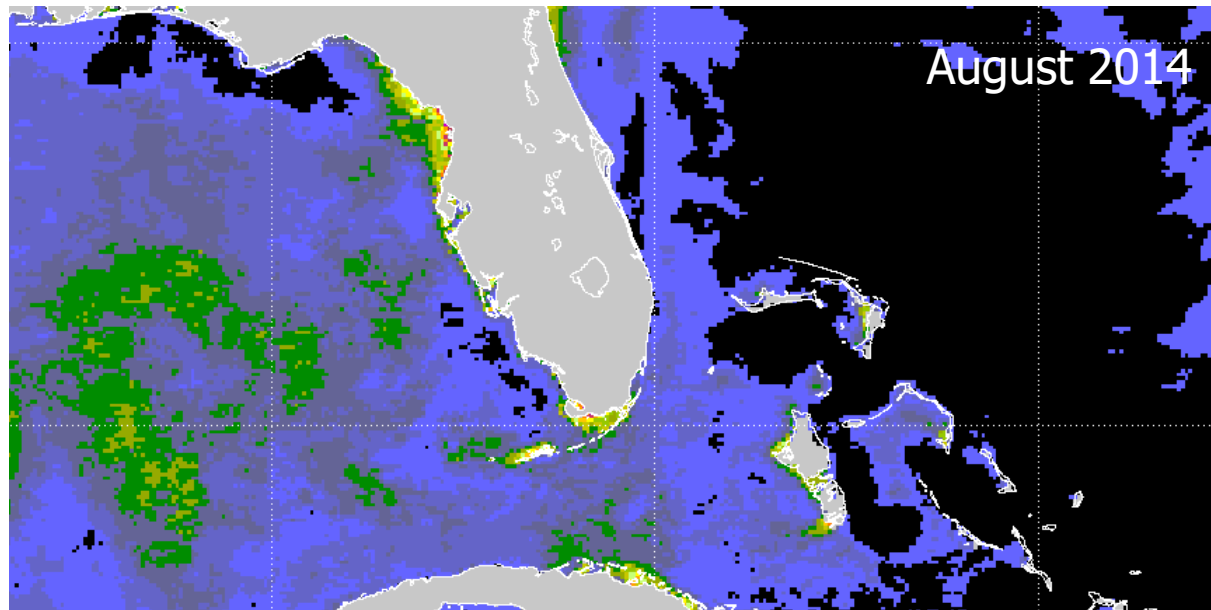
Corals start to become stressed





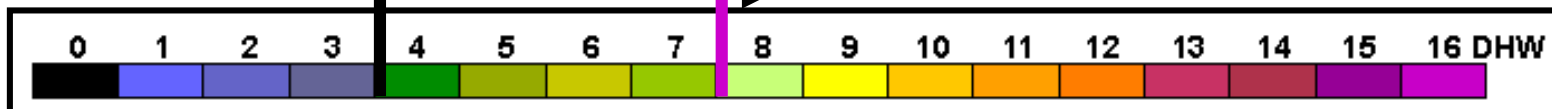
Environmental Monitoring

Extended Time
(Degree Heating Weeks)



Significant coral bleaching likely

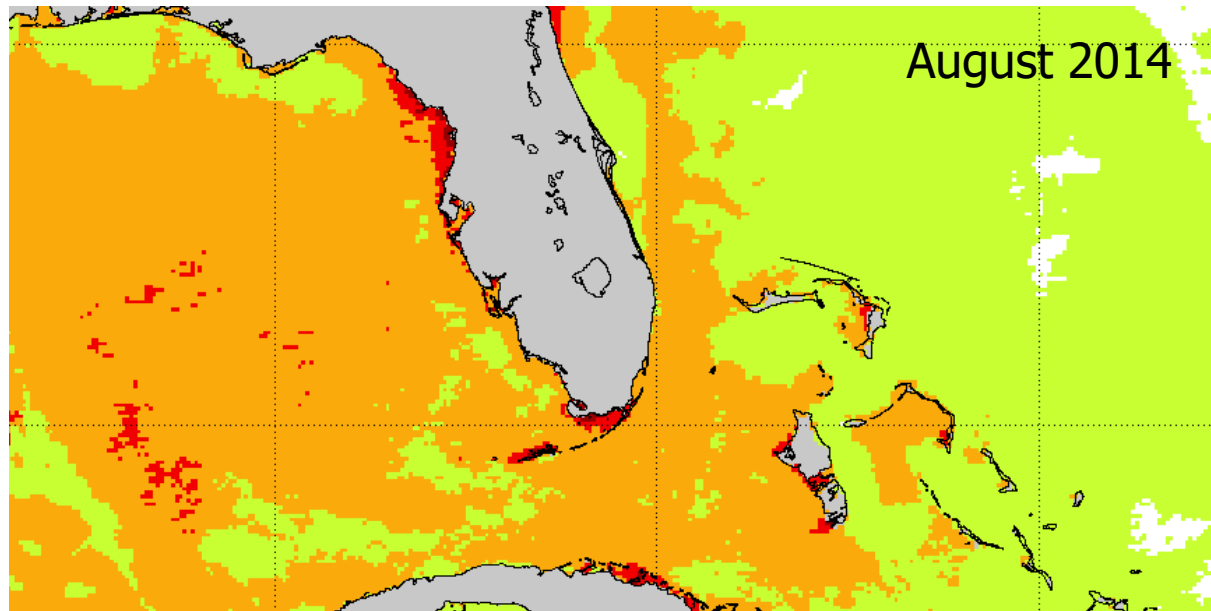
Widespread bleaching and mortality





Environmental Monitoring

High Temperatures + **Extended Time** = **Bleaching Alerts**
(Hot Spots) (Degree Heating Weeks)





Training Overview

What is Coral Bleaching?

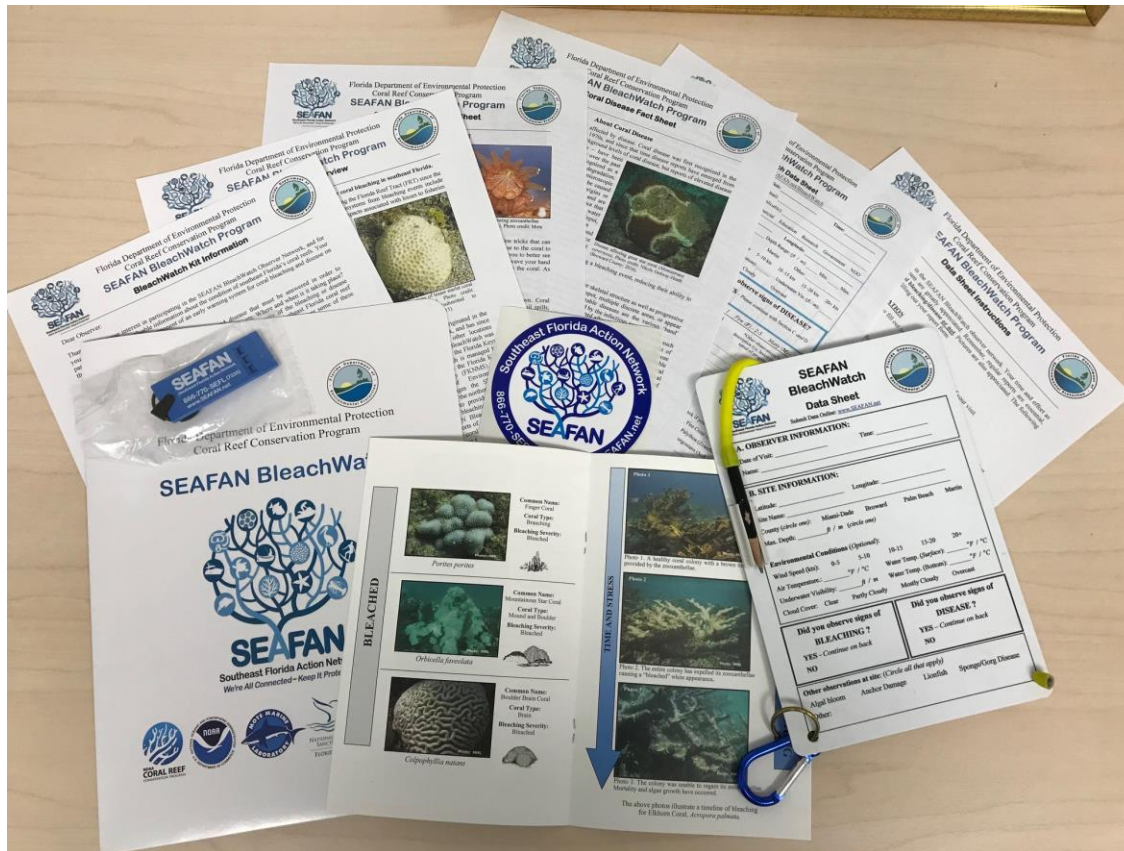
Coral Disease Outbreak

SEAFAN & the BleachWatch Early Warning Program

Your Contribution



BleachWatch Kit



Training Materials

- Program Overview
- Bleaching Fact Sheet
- Disease Fact Sheet
- Data Sheets (x2)
- Data Sheet Instructions
- Waterproof ID Guide
- *Dive Slate*

www.SEAFFAN.net/BleachWatch



Observer Details



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program
SEAFAN BleachWatch Program



BleachWatch Data Sheet

Online Forms: www.SEAFAN.net/BleachWatch

A. OBSERVER INFORMATION: Date of Visit: _____ Time: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Organization (if applicable): _____

Observer Category (*circle*): Resident Visitor Tourism Commercial Education Research Government NGO

*After your first report, you only need to fill out name, date and time.



Site Information

B. SITE INFORMATION: Latitude: N 25 40.450 Longitude: W 80 5.920
Site Name/Location: Emerald Reef Depth Range (*ft / m*): 20 Min. 25 Max.
County (*circle*): Miami-Dade Broward Palm Beach Martin Other: _____
Environmental Conditions (*Optional*): Wind Speed (*circle*): 0-5 kts 5-10 kts 10-15 kts 15-20 kts 20+ kts
Air Temp.: 95 Water Temp. (*Surface*): 84 Water Temp. (*Bottom*): 87 Underwater Vis. (*ft / m*): 30
Cloud cover (*circle*): Clear Partly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Overcast



Did You Observe Signs of Coral Bleaching or Disease?

Did you observe signs of BLEACHING?

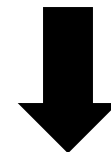
- YES** – Please continue with Section C and D
 NO

Did you observe signs of DISEASE?

- YES** – Please continue with Section D
 NO



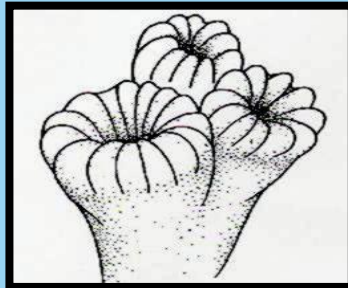
Continue Data Form



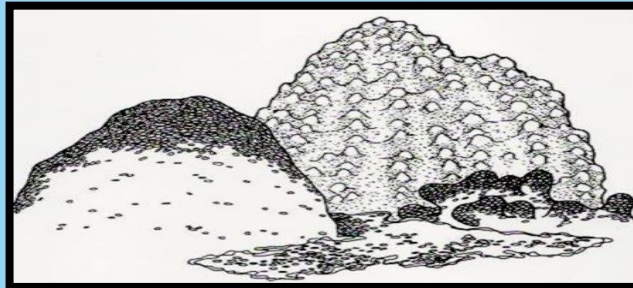
Finished!!



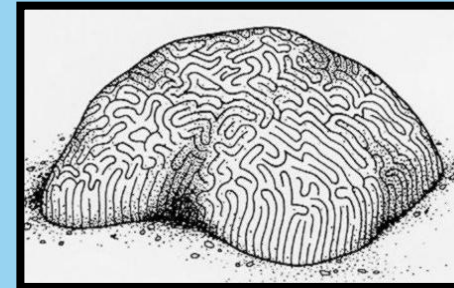
Basic Bleaching Observations



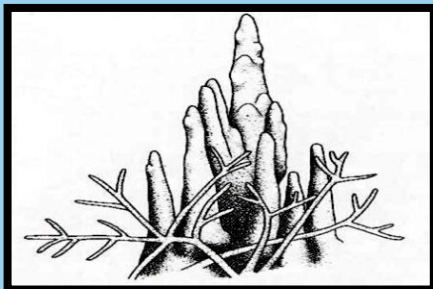
Flowering & Cup



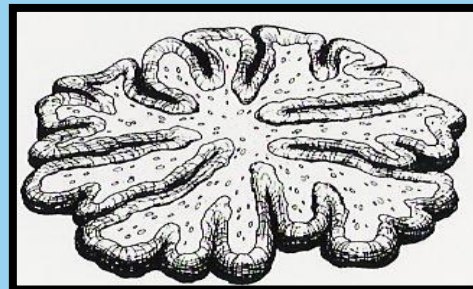
Encrusting, Mound & Boulder



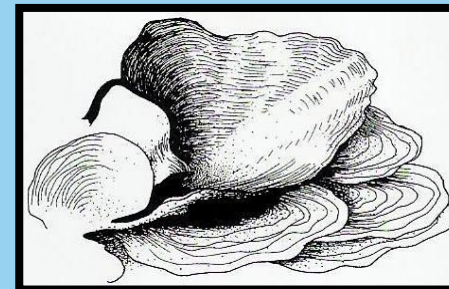
Brain Corals



Branching & Pillar



Fleshy Corals

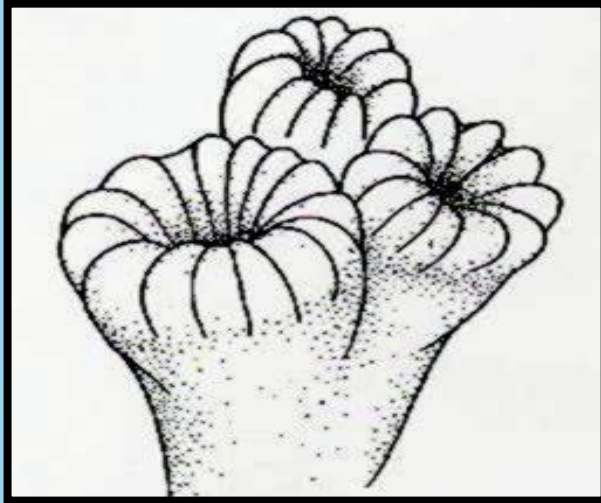


Plate, Leaf & Sheet

Drawings courtesy of Reef Coral Identification
2003 copyright New World Publications



Types of Coral



Flowering & Cup



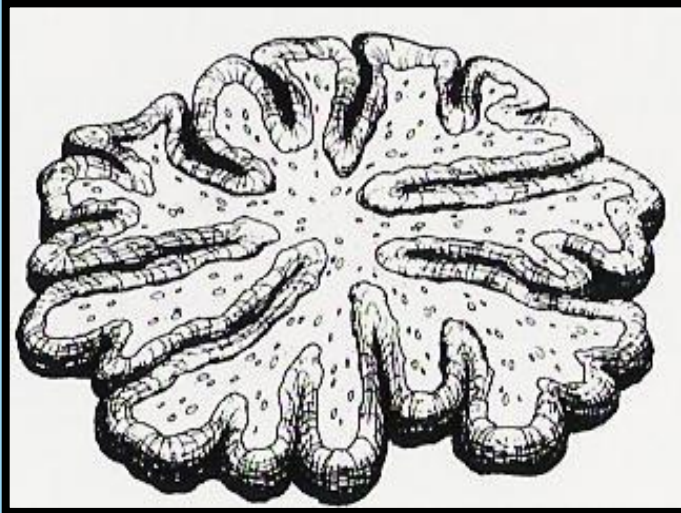
Smooth Flower Coral
Photo: Coral Reef ID



Smooth Flower Coral



Types of Coral



Fleshy Corals



Cactus Coral



Mushroom Coral

EW



Spiny Flower Coral



M. lamarckiana

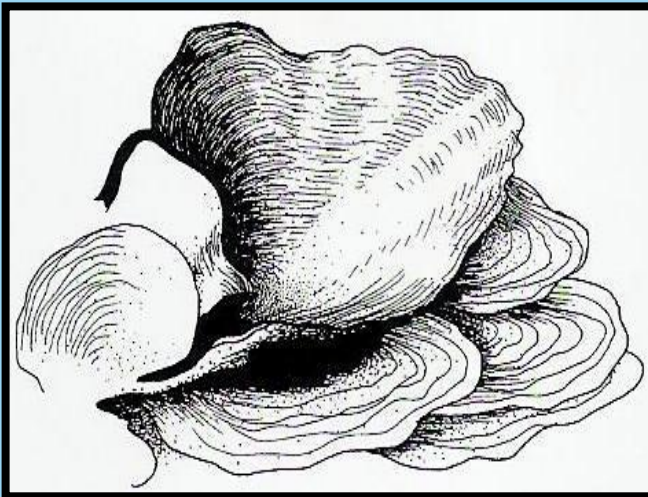
M. ferox

M. aliciae

EW



Types of Coral



Plate, Leaf & Sheet



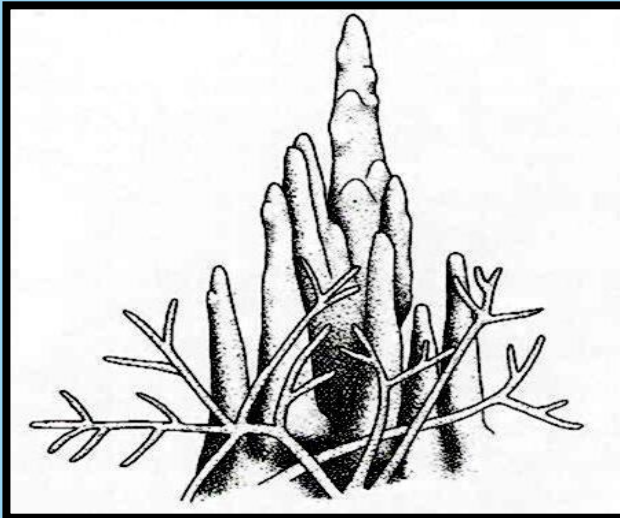
Whitestar Sheet Coral



Lettuce Coral



Types of Coral



Branching & Pillar

Staghorn Coral

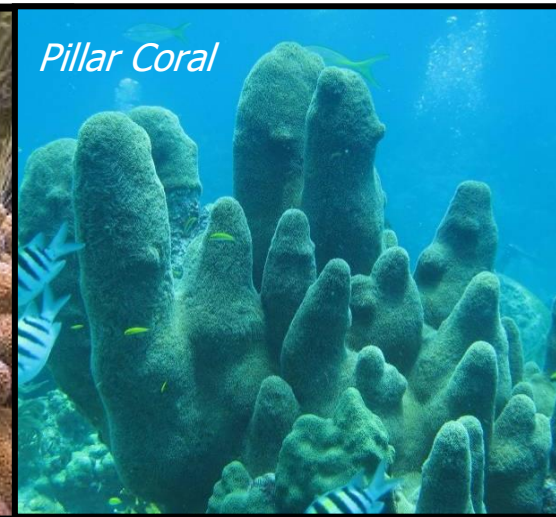


Elkhorn Coral

Finger Coral

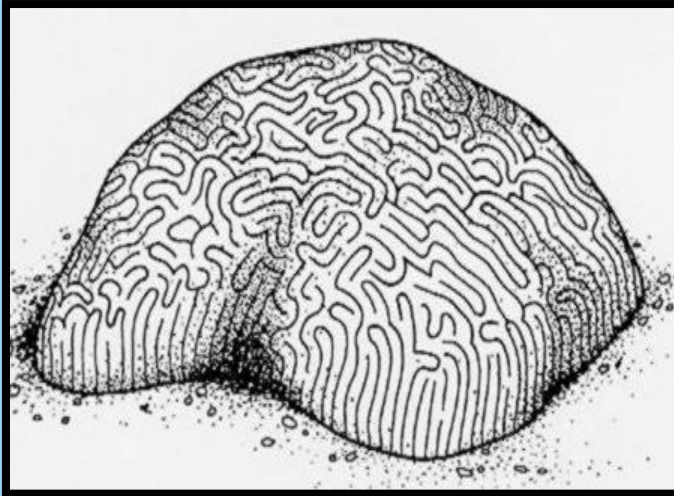


Pillar Coral

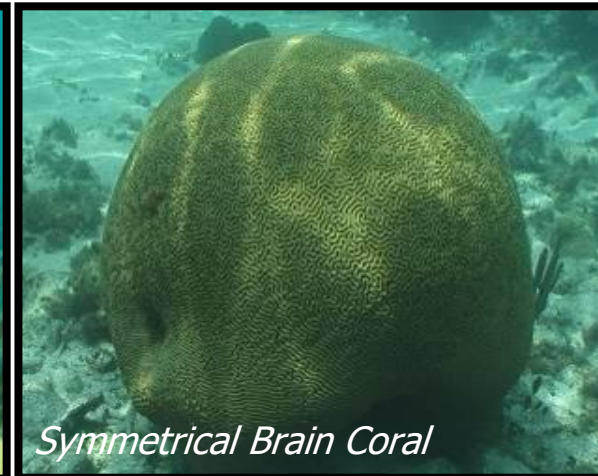
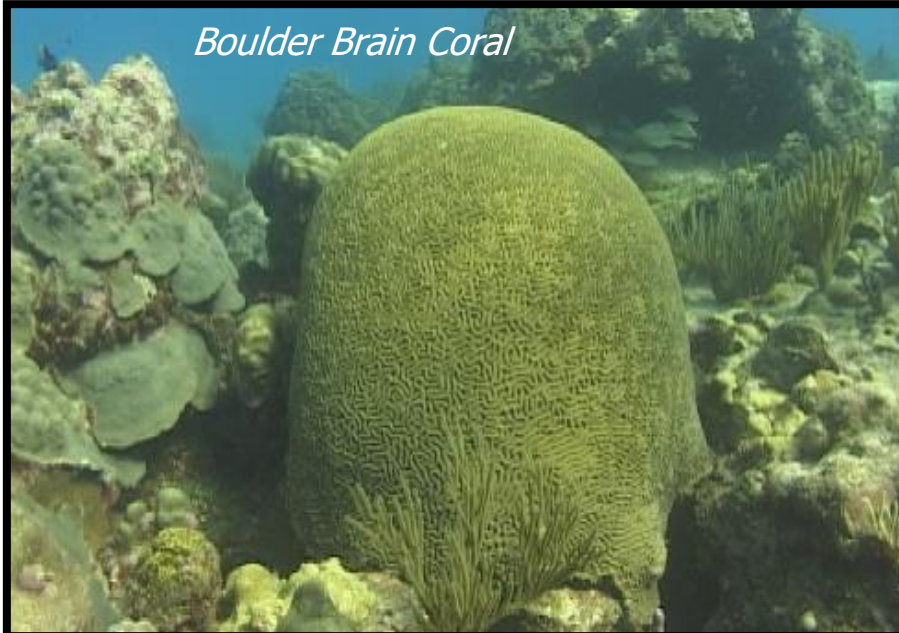




Types of Coral

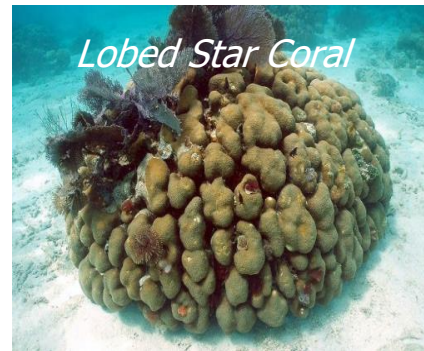
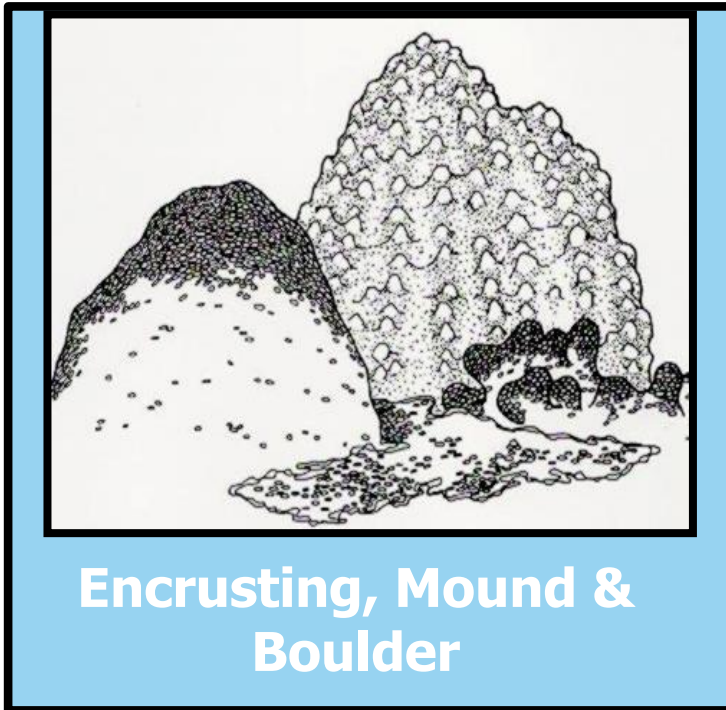


Brain Corals



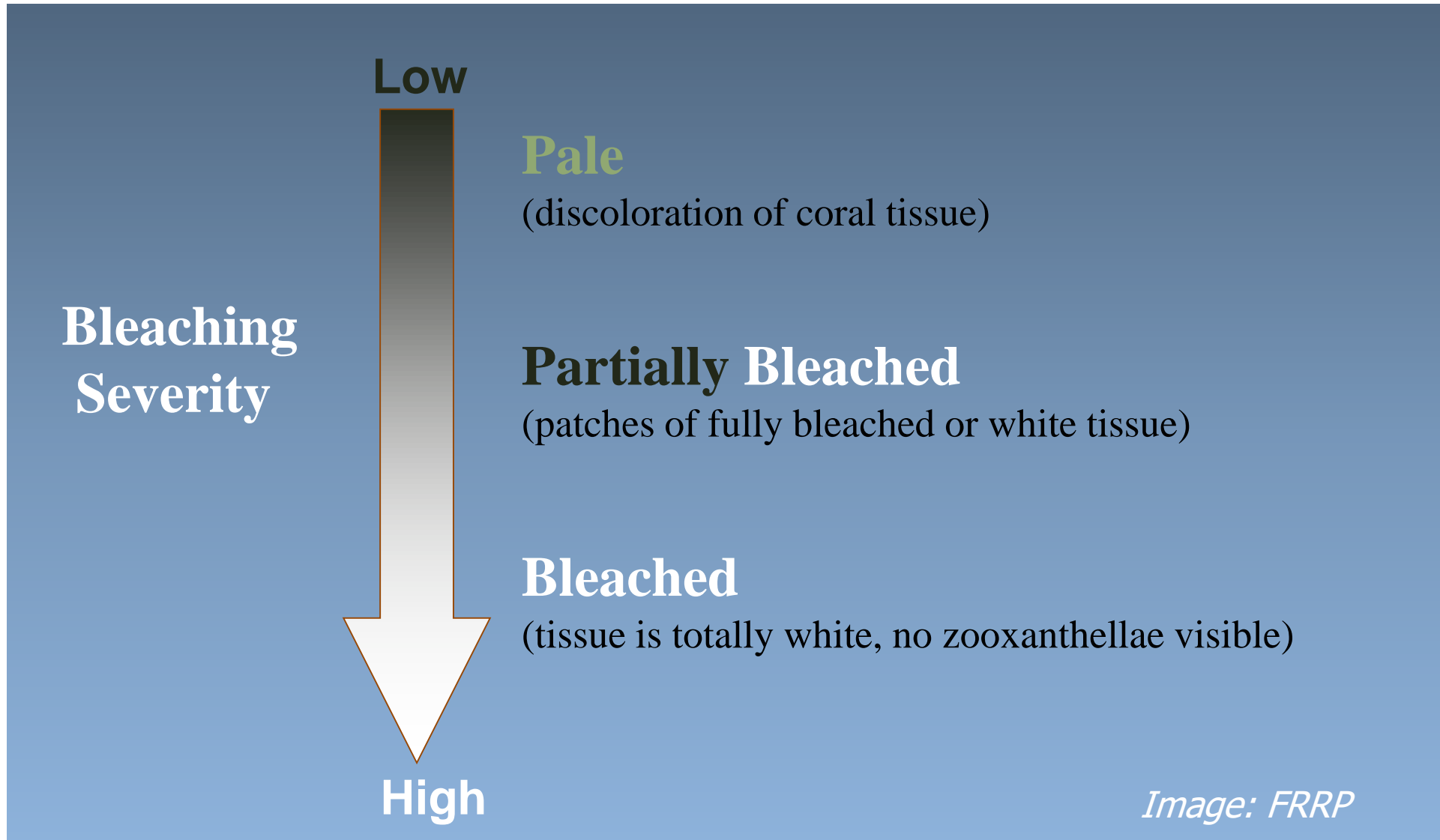


Types of Coral





Severity of Bleaching





Paling



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral



Paling



Close-up

Paling

Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral

Photo: FRRP



Partially Bleaching

Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral



Leaf/Plate/Sheet Coral



Brain Coral

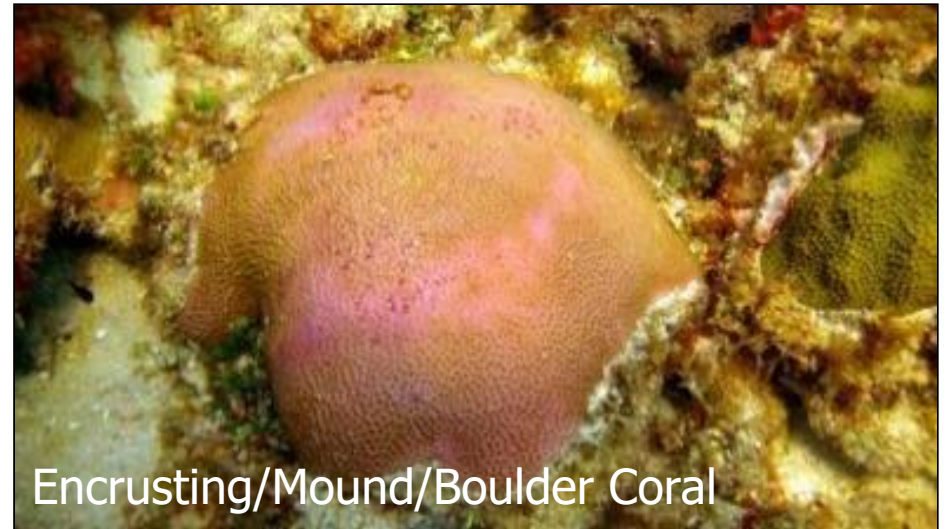




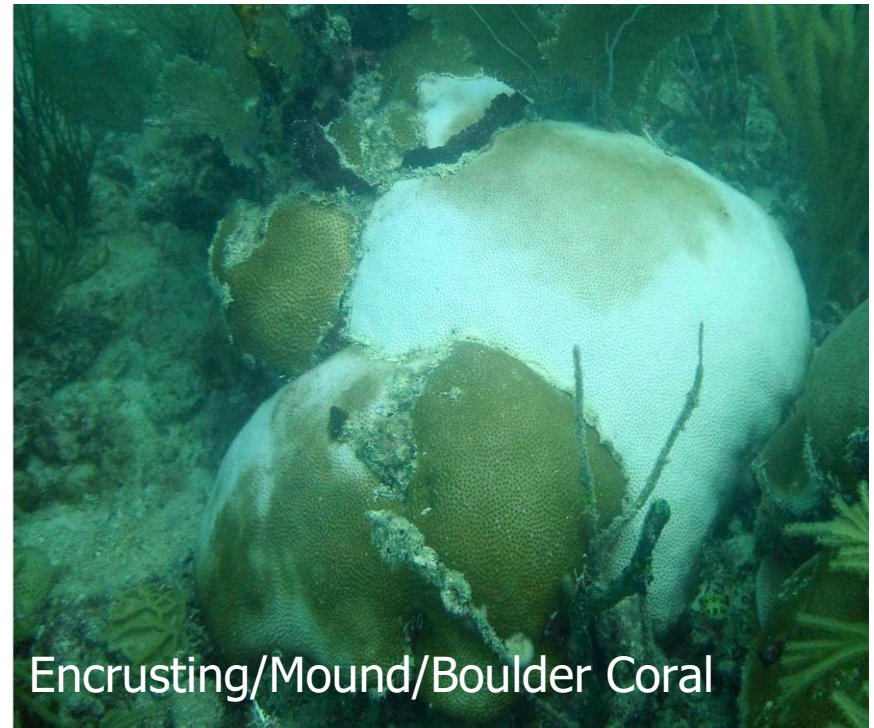
Partially Bleaching



Brain Coral



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral



Encrusting/Mound/Boulder Coral

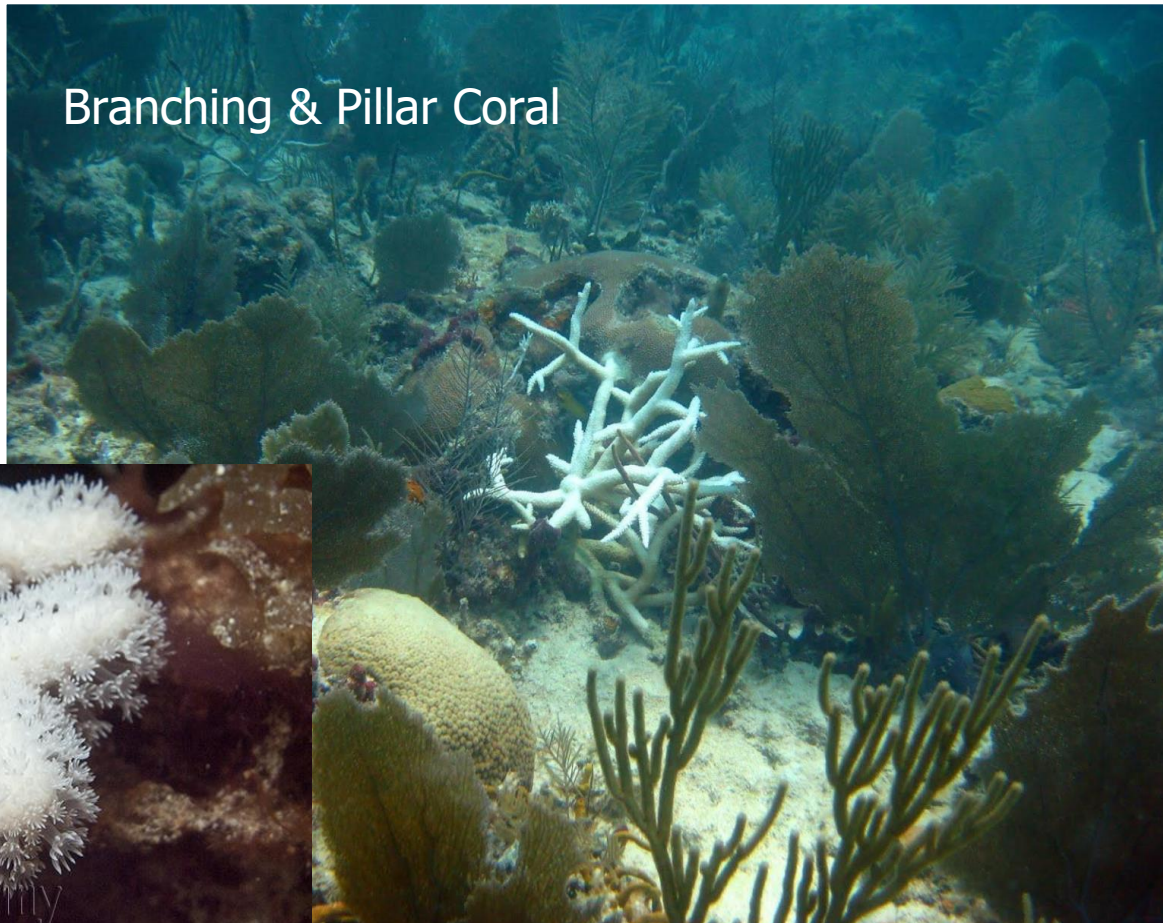


Bleached

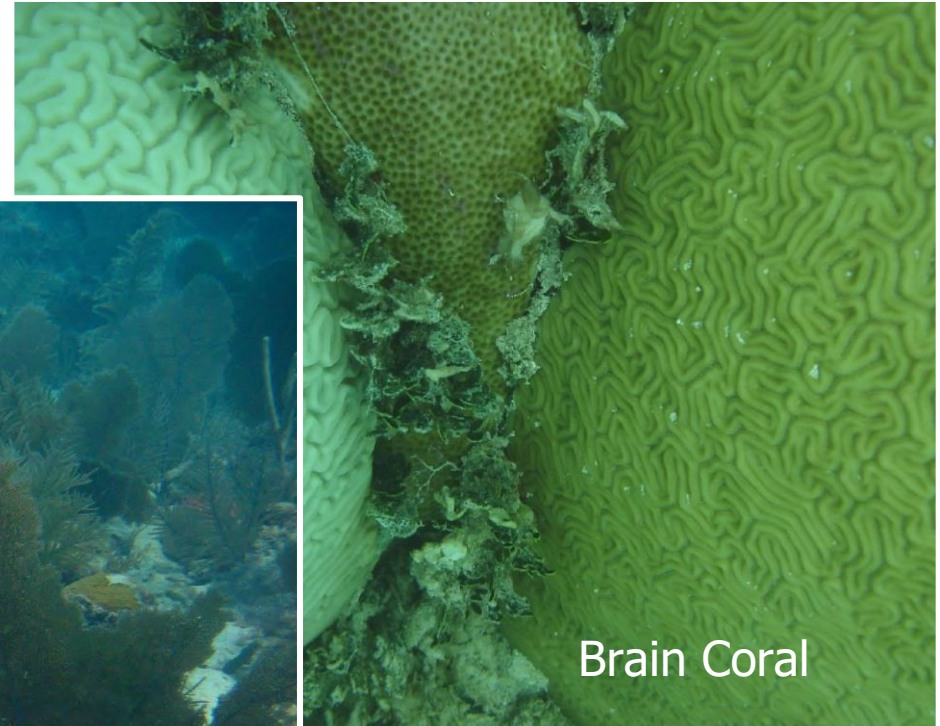




Bleached



Branching & Pillar Coral



Brain Coral



Branching & Pillar Coral

© Scuba Jimmy



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Branching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Branching			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

BRAIN

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Branching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BRANCHING

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Branching			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

FLESHY

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Flowering/Cup</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FLOWERING/CUP

N/A

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Branching			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

LEAF/PLATE/SHEET

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Bleaching

	<u>Bleaching:</u>			
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Branching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaf/Plate/Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOUND/BOULDER

1 colony	→	SINGLE	→	S
2-5 colonies	→	FEW	→	F
5+ colonies	→	MANY	→	M



Types of Disease



Black Band Disease





Types of Disease



Tissue Loss (White)





Types of Disease



Growth Anomaly



Types of Disease



Other



Bleaching and Disease Observations

Disease

BLEACHING AND DISEASE OBSERVATIONS: *Single (S) - 1* *Few (F) - 2-5* *Many (M) - 5+*

	<u>Bleaching:</u>				<u>Disease:</u>				*Other observations/further description (i.e. lesion pattern, color, speed of progression, etc.)
	No Stress	Paling	Partial Bleaching	Bleached	Black Band	Tissue Loss (white)	Growth Anomaly	Other*	
Brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I	Multiple circular lesions, slow
Branching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fleshy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Flowering/Cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Leaf/Plate/Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mound/Boulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	II	<input type="checkbox"/>		Singular, linear progression



Lesion Pattern



Single



Multiple





Lesion Shape



Linear



Circular



Irregular



Speed of Progression



Slow (Thin Margin)



Fast (Thick Margin)





Overall Observations

Overall severity of bleaching

D. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS:

What was the overall severity of bleaching over the entire site? *(Please check one)*

Pale (light color) Partially bleached Fully Bleached Dead with algae

What percent of overall coral cover was **BLEACHED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

What percent of overall coral cover was **DISEASED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

Check if you saw bleaching on:

Fire Coral (Hydrocoral)

Palythoa (Zoanthids)

Gorgonians (Soft Coral)

***Select *one* response**



Dead with Algae



Brain Coral, Dead



Overall Observations

% Live coral bleached

D. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS:

What was the overall severity of bleaching over the entire site? *(Please check one)*

Pale (light color) Partially bleached Fully Bleached Dead with algae

What percent of overall coral cover was **BLEACHED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

What percent of overall coral cover was **DISEASED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

Check if you saw bleaching on:

Fire Coral (Hydrocoral)

Palythoa (Zoanthids)

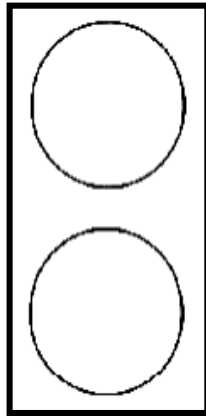
Gorgonians (Soft Coral)


*Select *one* response

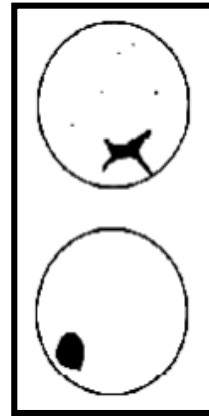


% of Live Coral Bleaching

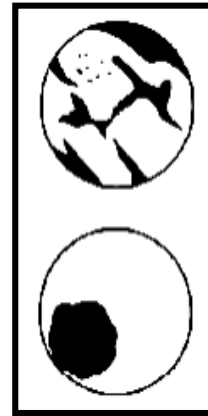
Category (0)
Absent



Category (1)
1-10%



Category (2)
11-30%



Category (3)
31-50%



Category (4)
51-75%



Category (5)
76-100%





Overall Observations

% Live coral diseased

D. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS:

What was the overall severity of bleaching over the entire site? *(Please check one)*

Pale (light color) Partially bleached Fully Bleached Dead with algae

What percent of overall coral cover was **BLEACHED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

What percent of overall coral cover was **DISEASED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

Check if you saw bleaching on:

Fire Coral (Hydrocoral)

Palythoa (Zoanthids)

Gorgonians (Soft Coral)



***Select *one* response**



Overall Observations

Other Bleaching Indicators: Non-Stony Corals

D. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS:

What was the overall severity of bleaching over the entire site? *(Please check one)*

Pale (light color) Partially bleached Fully Bleached Dead with algae

What percent of overall coral cover was **BLEACHED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

What percent of overall coral cover was **DISEASED** at the site? *(Please check one)*

1 – 10% 11 – 30% 31 – 50% 51 – 75% 76 – 100%

Check if you saw bleaching on:

Fire Coral (Hydrocoral)

Palythoa (Zoanthids)

Gorgonians (Soft Coral)

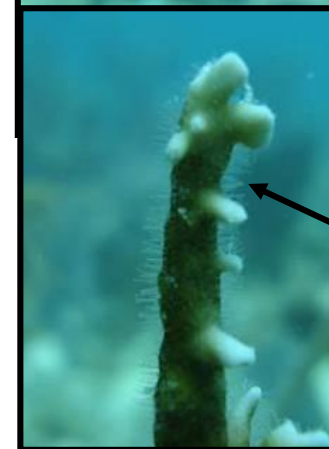
*Multiple responses



Other Bleaching Indicators

Fire Coral, *Millepora sp.*

- Hydrocoral, not a stony coral
- Has stinging polyps
- Encrusting



Stinging
Polyps



Other Bleaching Indicators

Zoanthid, *Palythoa sp.*

- Zoanthid, not a stony coral
- Similar to anemones
- Encrusting



Palythoa

Coral



Other Bleaching Indicators

Zoanthid, *Palythoa sp.*



Palythoa sp., bleached

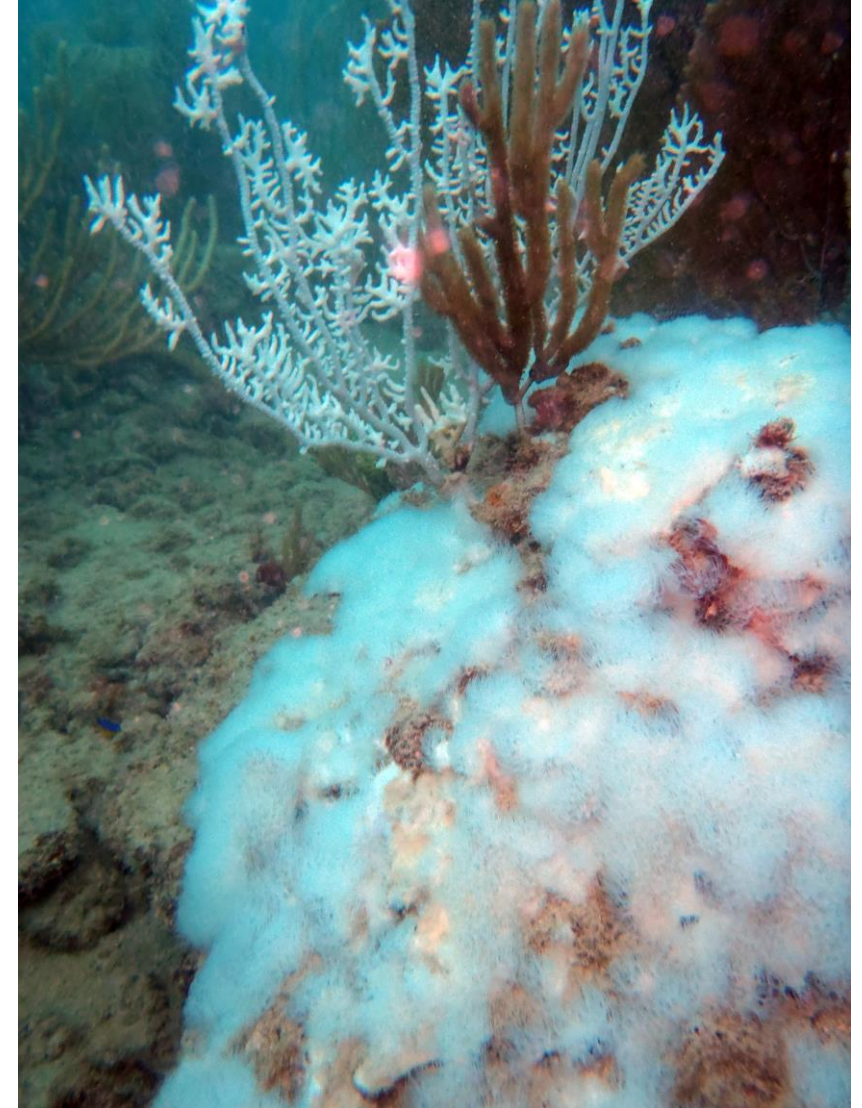
Photo: Kim Porter



Other Bleaching Indicators

Gorgonians (Sea fans, sea rods, etc.)

- Octocoral, not a stony coral
- Branching or encrusting
- Many different species





Other Bleaching Indicators

Gorgonians





Notes

E. NOTES: *(Specific species of coral affected, other observations about the site)*

- Specific species of coral
- Any details describing photos
- Other SEAFAN-related observations?



Send In Your Data

Remember to submit reports, even if there is NO bleaching or disease at your dive site!



- Submit electronically at www.SEAFFAN.net/BleachWatch
- Scan and email data sheets to: Coral@FloridaDEP.gov
- Fold the data sheet, tape it, place a postage stamp, and mail to the address on the back
- Take picture of slate and email to: Coral@FloridaDEP.gov



Send In Your Data- Photos Are Encouraged!

Remember to include representative photos with your report, when possible:

- Sharp and in-focus
- White-balanced
- 1 photo of colony and 1 close-up photo of polyps (not of the entire reef)
- Max. 10 photos per report





Current Conditions Report



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program
SEAFAN BleachWatch Program
Current Conditions Report #20160831



August 31, 2016

Available online:

www.SEAFAN.net/BleachWatch

- Updated according to environmental conditions
- Provide outlook for future bleaching events
- Include NOAA's HotSpot and Degree Heating Week Maps
- Summary of Field Data from Observers
- **PHOTOS!**

Summary: Based on climate predictions and field observations, the threat for mass coral bleaching in southeast Florida between Miami-Dade and Martin counties is **MODERATE** as of August 31, 2016.

Environmental Monitoring

Climate predictions for this current conditions report are based on NOAA's Coral Reef Watch (CRW) satellite imagery products, which summarize sea surface temperature (SST) data and provide an indication as to when conditions are favorable for coral bleaching. The current CRW 5-kilometer (km) Coral Bleaching Alert Area indicates that the southeast Florida region is presently experiencing moderate thermal stress, the entire region is now under a bleaching warning (Figure 1):

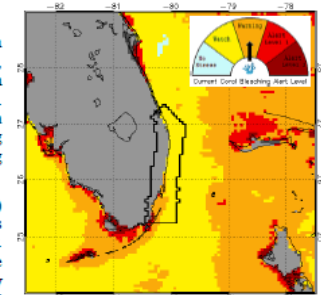


Figure 1. NOAA Coral Reef Watch Bleaching Alert Area for August 29, 2016. <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching/5km/index.php>

• NOAA's experimental 5-km Bleaching Hotspot Map (Figure 2) compares current SST to the maximum monthly mean, which is the average temperature during the warmest month of the year. Corals start to become stressed when SST is 1°C greater than the highest monthly average. As of August 29, SST is still slightly elevated and has reached the 1°C Hotspot bleaching threshold particularly in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

• Coral bleaching risk increases if the temperature stays elevated for an extended period of time. NOAA's experimental 5-km Degree Heating Weeks (DHW) Map (Figure 3) shows the accumulation of temperature stress over the previous 12 weeks, with 1 DHW equal to one week at 1°C greater than the maximum monthly mean. Currently, this map indicates that temperature stress continues to accumulate in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

• Near real-time data from CRW's new 5-km Satellite Regional Virtual Station for southeast Florida indicates that SST in the region is currently above the monthly average, and is continuing to hover around the bleaching threshold (Figure 4).

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program staff will continue to monitor NOAA's Hotspot, DHW and Alert Area maps, as well as Virtual Station data for the remainder of the summer bleaching season.

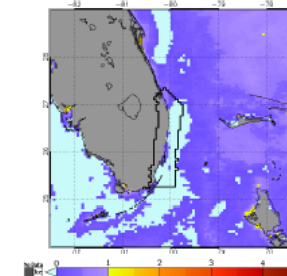
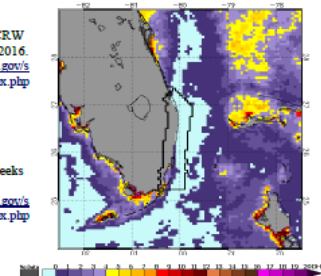


Figure 2 (left). NOAA CRW Hotspots for August 29, 2016. <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching/5km/index.php>

Figure 3 (right). NOAA CRW Degree Heating Weeks for August 29, 2016. <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching/5km/index.php>





Current Conditions Report

Conditions	Frequency of Update
Environmental conditions suggest low risk of mass coral bleaching	Monthly
Climate or sea temperatures are elevated above normal	Every two weeks
Sea temperature stress has accumulated to levels associated with a moderate risk of bleaching	Weekly
Sea temperature stress has accumulated to levels associated with a high risk of bleaching and/or reports of mild bleaching are reported by volunteers	Twice per week
Mass coral bleaching is being widely reported by volunteers	Twice per week



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SEARCH...

SEAFAN - The Southeast Florida Action Network

Home > Divisions > Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection > Coral Reef Conservation Program > SEAFAN - The Southeast Florida Action Network


Coral Reef Conservation Program Quick Links

- Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)
- Awareness and Appreciation Focus Team
- Fishing, Diving, and Other Uses Focus Team
- Land Based Sources of Pollution Focus Team
- Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts Focus Team

Do you need to report a Marine Incident?	Have you taken a BleachWatch Training Class?	Have you seen a tagged coral?
<p>SEAFAN Call the SEAFAN hotline at 866-770-SEAFAN (7335) or report online</p>	<p>SEAFAN BleachWatch If you are a trained and certified BleachWatch observer you can submit a report to SEAFAN BleachWatch to detect and monitor coral bleaching events in southeast Florida.</p>	<p>Divers and snorkelers in the Florida Keys can assist in monitoring the effectiveness of experimental treatments on diseased corals. Submit a report to the Citizen Science Photo Submission Form</p>

SEAFAN - The Southeast Florida Action Network

The Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a citizen reporting and response system designed to improve the protection and management of southeast Florida's offshore coral reefs by enhancing marine debris cleanup efforts, increasing response to vessel groundings and anchor damage, and providing early detection of potentially harmful biological disturbances.





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Coral Reef Conservation Program Quick Links

- Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)
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- Land Based Sources of Pollution Focus Team
- Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction

Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) BleachWatch

An early warning network for coral bleaching in southeast Florida

SEAFAN BleachWatch helps detect and monitor coral bleaching events in southeast Florida and improve scientific understanding by:

- Tracking weather conditions and sea surface temperatures for conditions favorable for coral bleaching.
- Collecting field observations on the condition of the reef from trained observers.
- Summarizing data and producing reports on the current conditions in the region.

[Submit a report!](#)



Online Report Form



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program
SEAFAN BleachWatch Program
BleachWatch Data Sheet



BleachWatch Report Form

A. Observer Information

1. Date of visit *

2. Time

3. Name

4. Phone

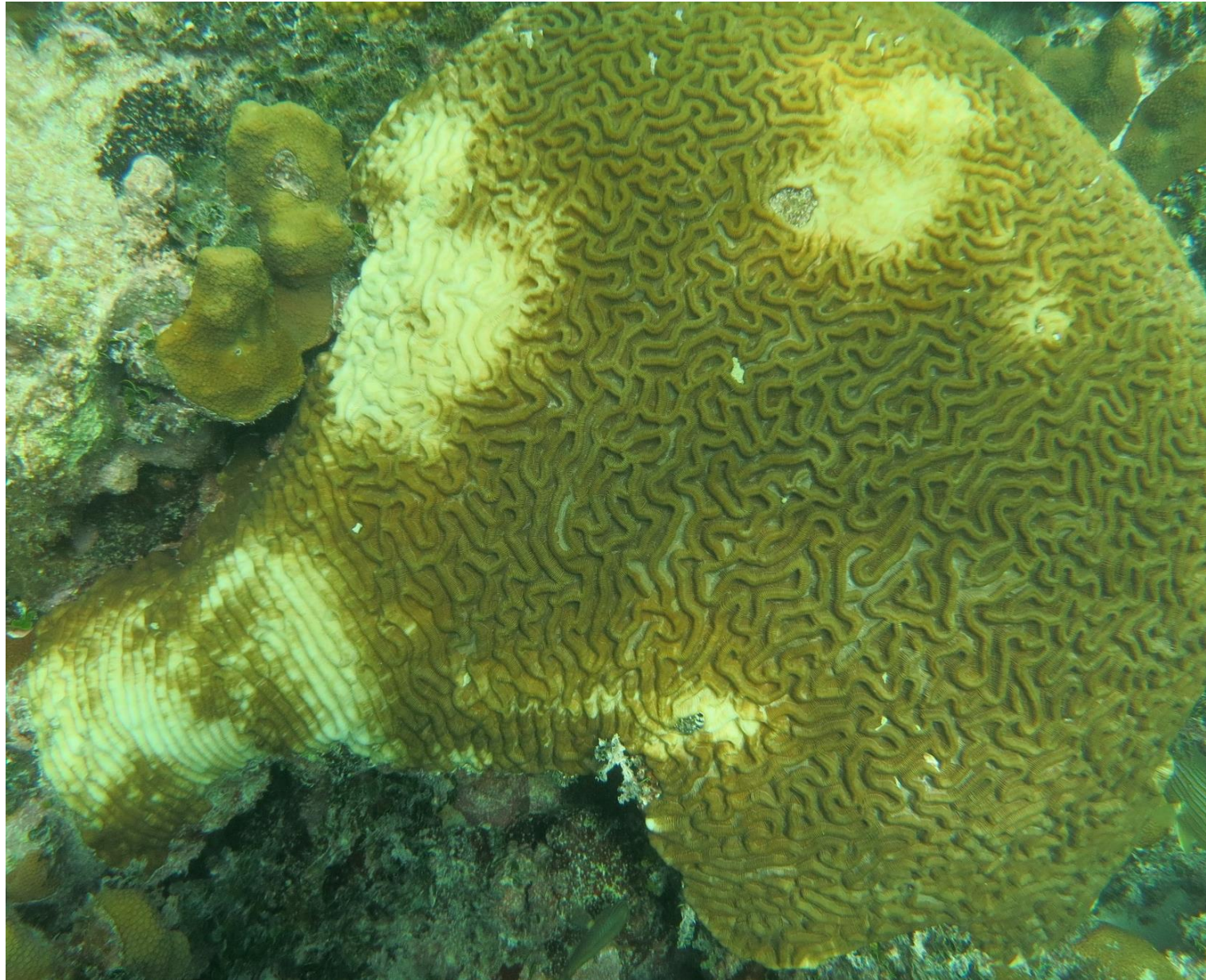


Review #1





Review #2





Review #3





Review #4



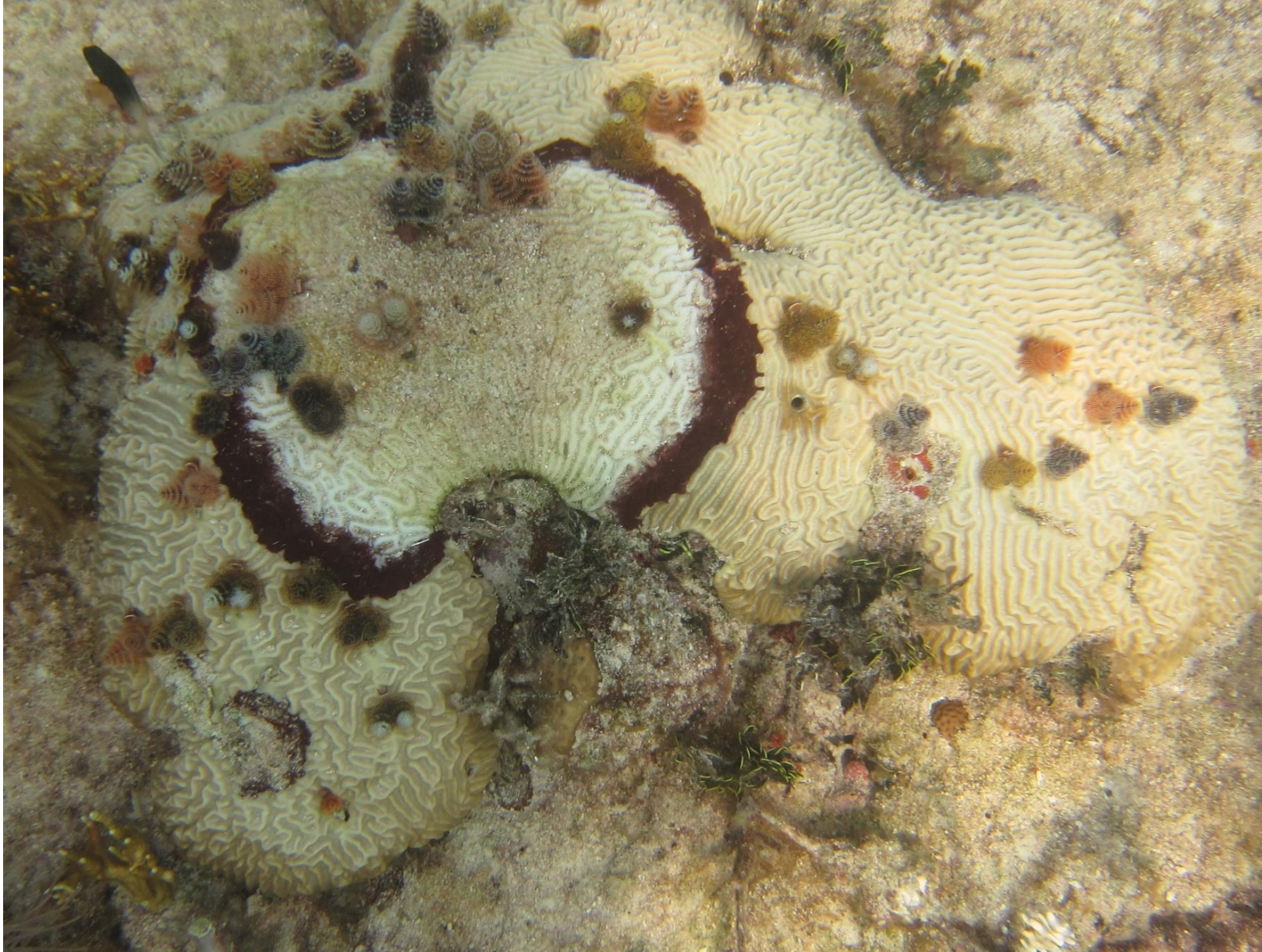


Review #5





Review #6



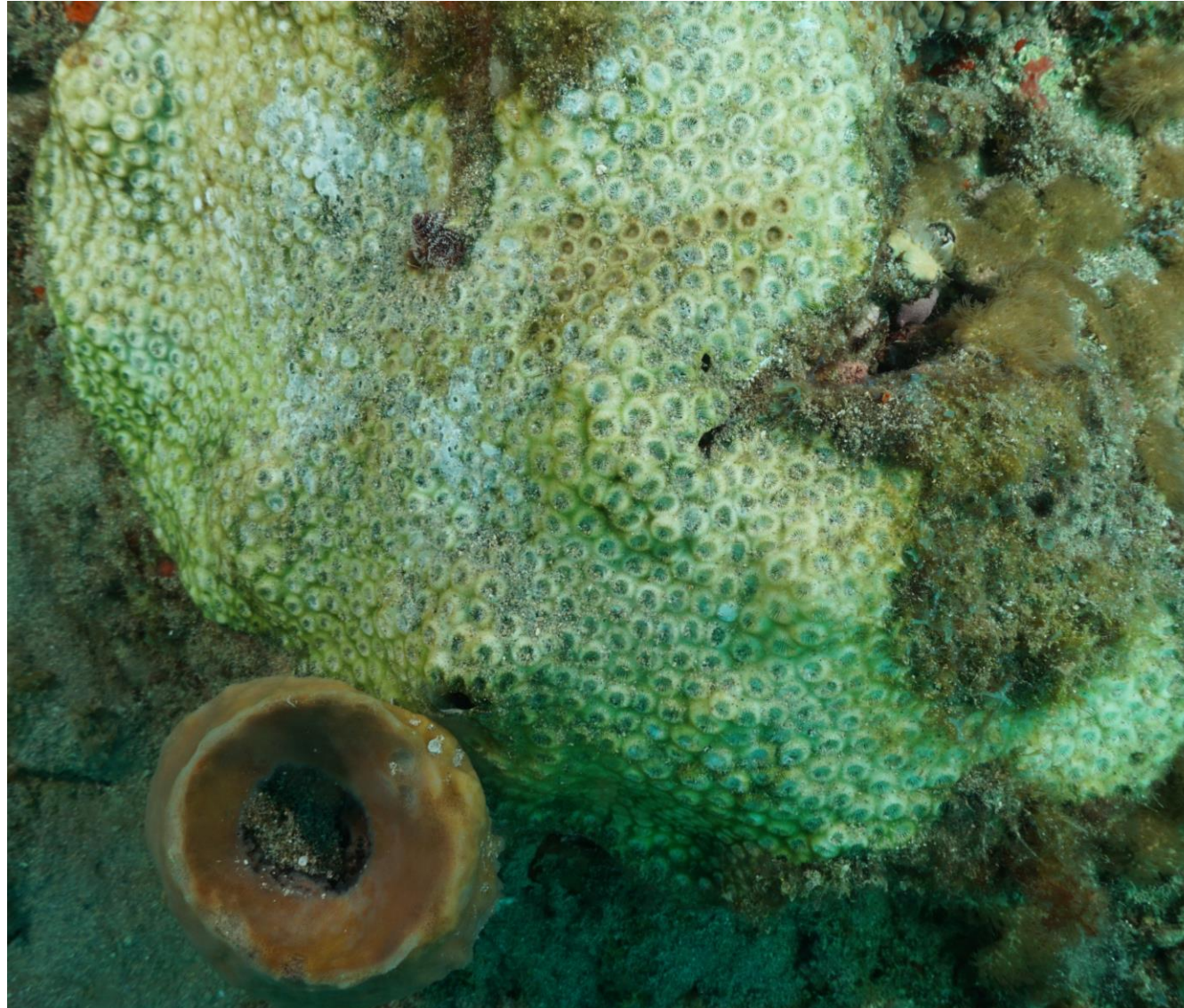


Review #7





Review #8





Review #9





Review #10



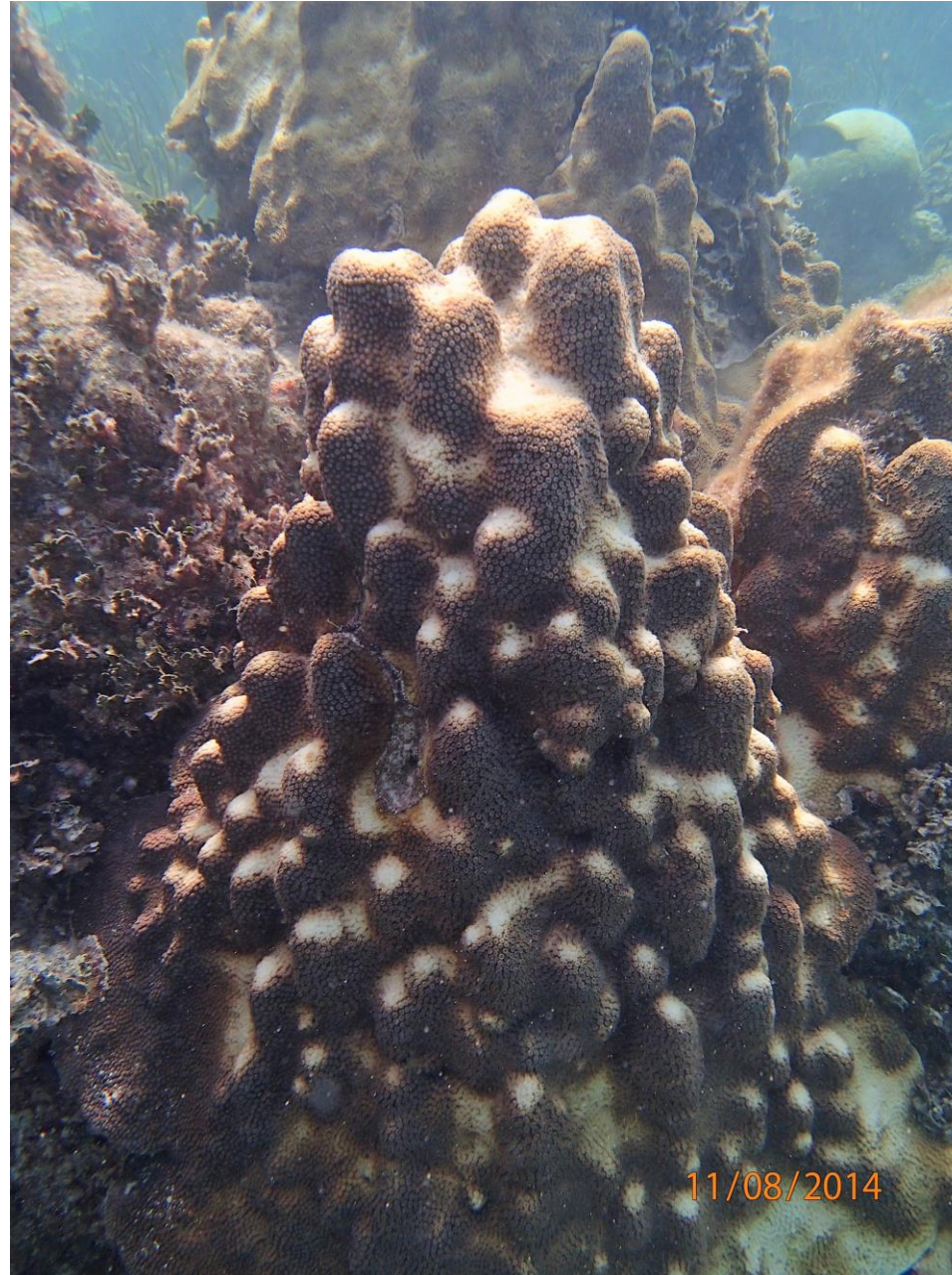


Review #11





Review #12





Review #13





Review #14





Review #15





#	Coral / Organism	Type	Condition
1	Smooth Star Coral	Mound/Boulder	Paling
2	Boulder Brain	Brain	Partial Bleaching
3	Great Star Coral	Mound/Boulder	Tissue Loss (white)
4	Palythoa	N/A	Bleached
5	Smooth Flower Coral	Flowering/Cup	Healthy
6	Knobby Brain Coral	Brain	Black Band Disease
7A	Massive Starlet Coral	Mound/Boulder	Partially Bleached
7B	Lettuce Coral	Leaf/Plate/Sheet	Bleached
8	Great Star Coral	Mound/Boulder	Dead with Algae
9	Grooved Brain	Brain	Tissue Loss (white)
10	Mountainous Star	Mound/Boulder	Healthy
11	Smooth Star	Mound/Boulder	Predation
12	Mountainous Star	Mound/Boulder	Partially Bleached
13	Pillar Coral	Branching	Tissue Loss (white)
14	Massive Starlet Coral	Mound/Boulder	Disease – Other (Dark Spots)
15	Lobed Star Coral	Mound/Boulder	Black Band Disease