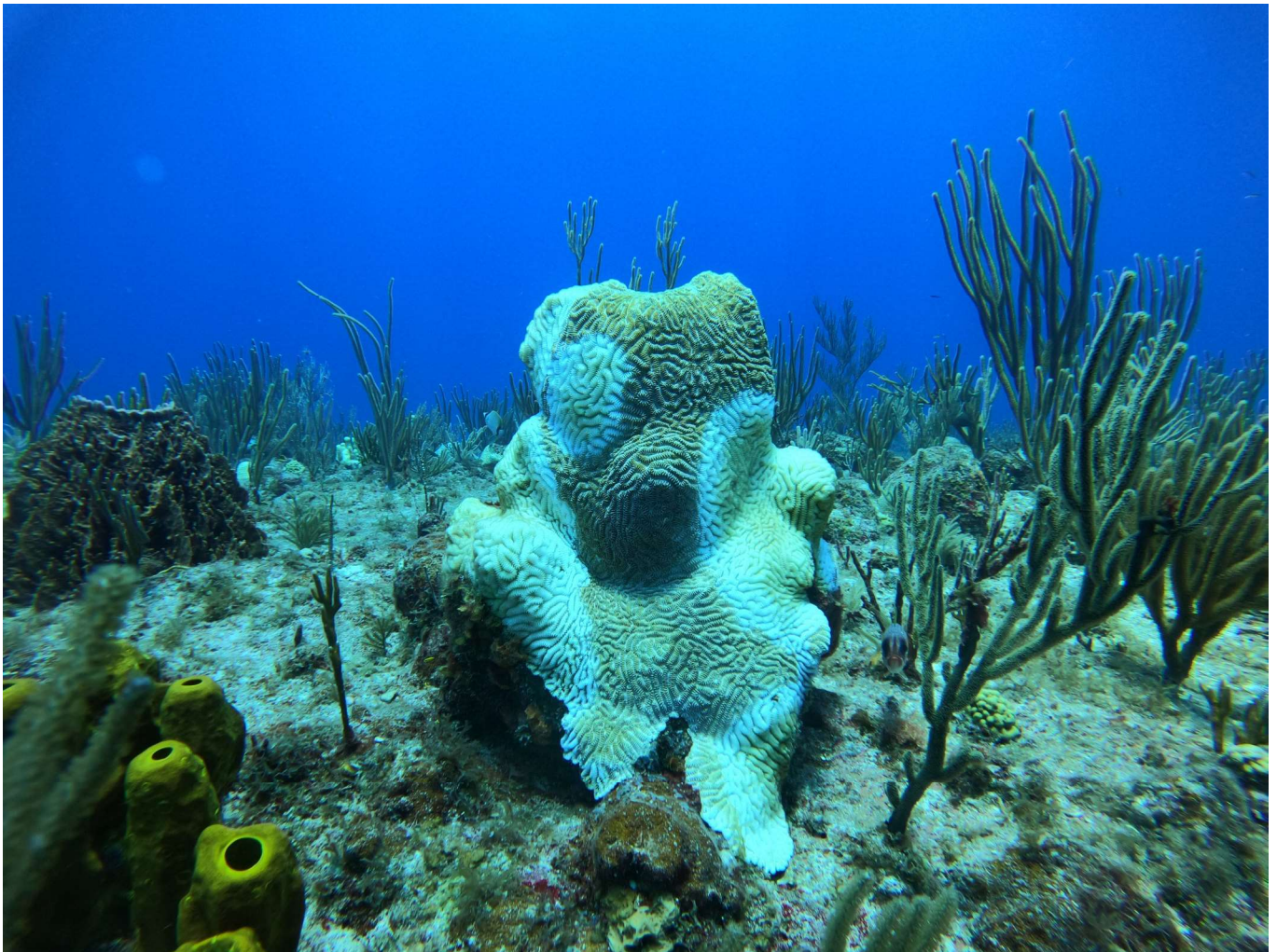


Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)



Beyond the Reef

A BVI based Non-Profit Organisation looking to help the marine environment

Includes a Commercial Diver, Dive Instructor, Oceanographer and Film Producer!

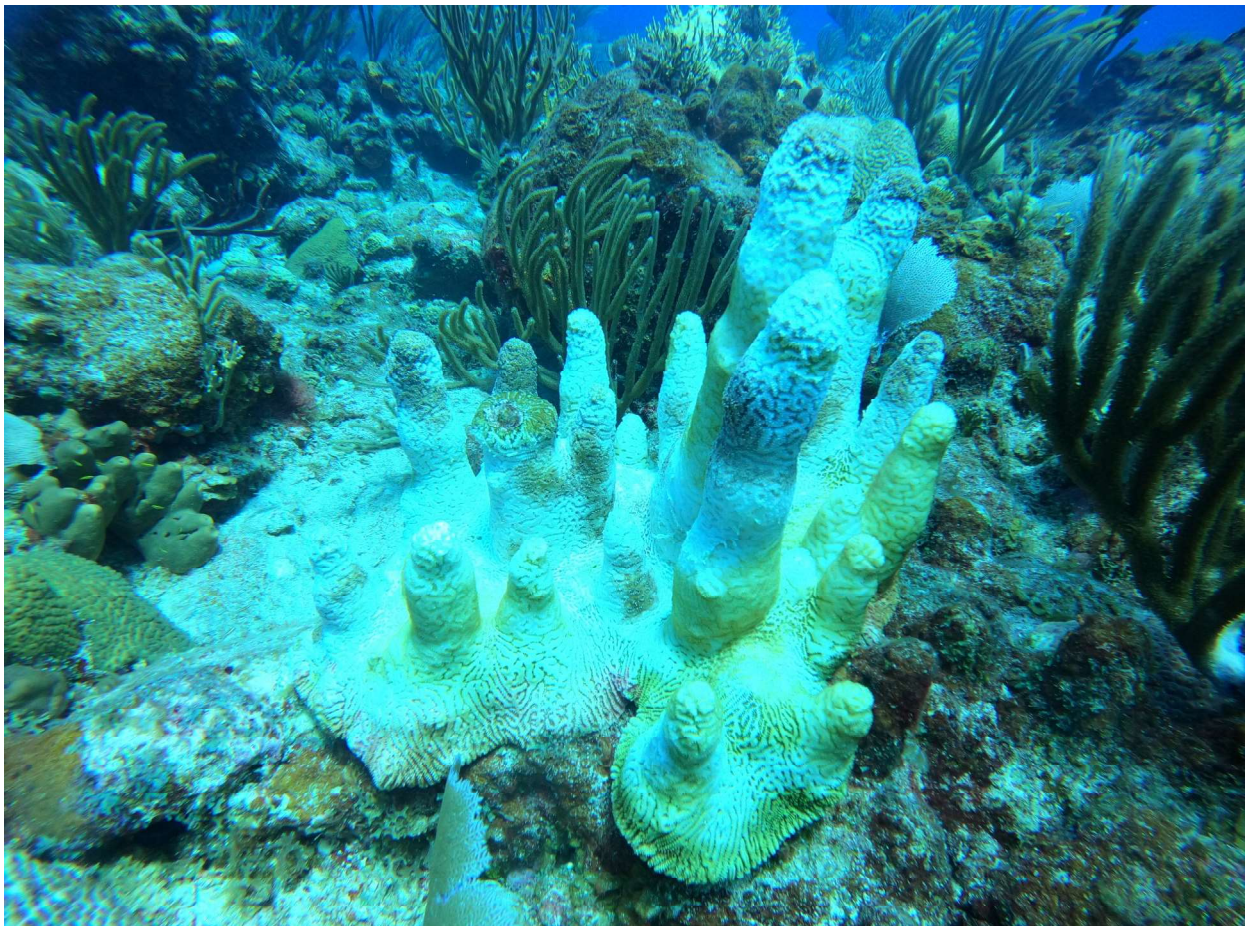
Projects;

- SCTLTD-coordinating intervention methods
- Creating artificial reef dive sites-Willy T (Peter Island) & Sharkplaneos (The Dogs)
- Regular shoreline cleanups– nets, plastics and other items
- Shark tagging and tracking using acoustics!



What is SCTLD?

- Coral Disease affecting 20+ stony coral species
- First seen in Florida in 2014 and now spread to the Caribbean
- Causes tissue of coral to peel/ slough off skeleton
- Uncertain of exact bacteria that causes the disease
- Uncertain of exact transmission method– waterborne, direct contact, vessels, marinelife?



Why is it more serious than other coral diseases?

- Fast spreading on a coral– 2-4cm a day!
- Stony corals are slow growers ~0.1— 1cm a year!
- Breaks out in multiple locations on coral
- Causes 100% mortality– coral will not recover

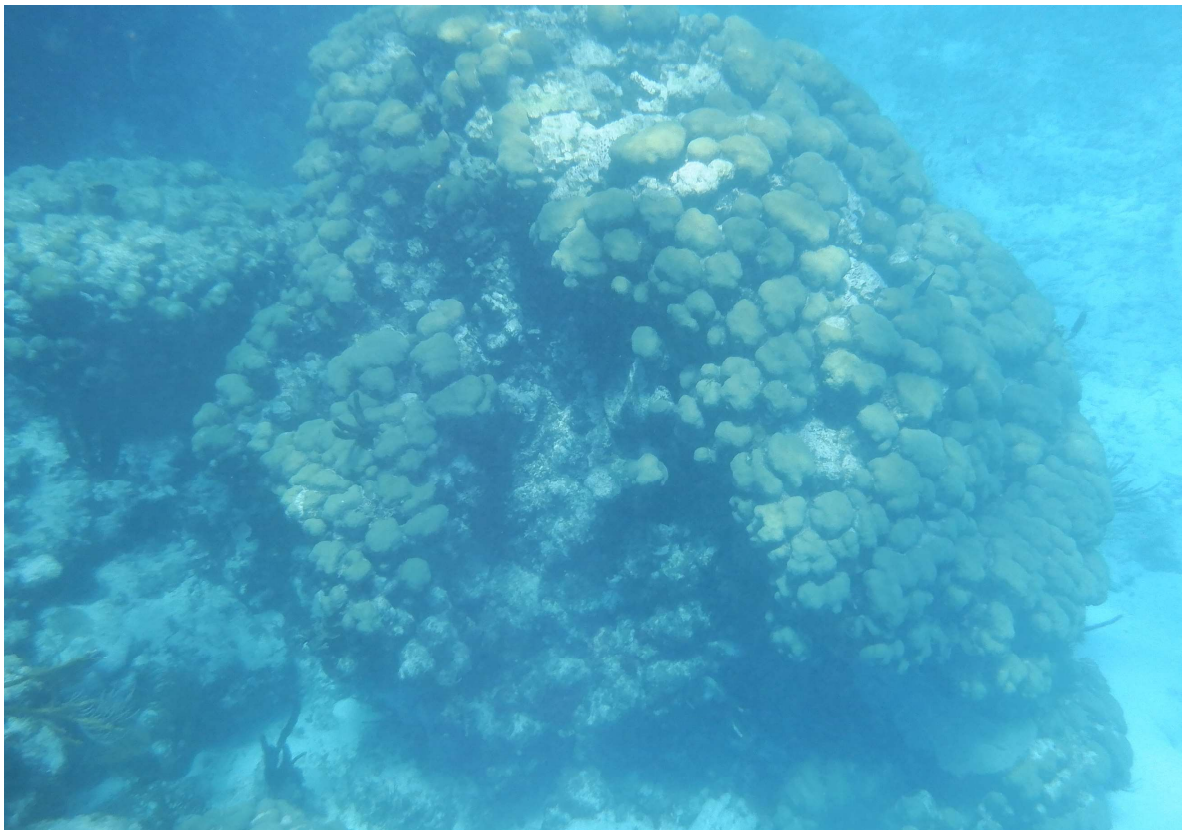


Pillar Coral at Vanishing Rock, Salt Island

Impacts?

- Coastal Defense– loss of wave attenuation
- Tourism Product
- Fisheries Stock– important habitat and shelter
- Increase in algae– ciguatera poisoning and lowers reef health

Impacts will not be noticed straight away and hard to recover from– vital to act now!



What can we do?

Regular Surveys and Monitoring

- Roving diver counting diseases vs healthy corals at sites
- Understand the severity of the disease at each and how varies throughout the BVI



Antibiotic Treatments

- Base2B mixed with amoxicillin powder and applied to disease boundary on coral
- Early treatment increases chances of success
- Every coral treated— species, size, amount treatment, photos and passed onto BVI Government (MNRLI)



Coral Rescue/ Restoration

- Longer Term strategy
- Take fragments of corals and grow in safe environment
- Replant once disease has passed through or cure found

Prevention

Encourage good practices to minimize the chance of transmission!

ALERTING ALL DIVERS!

An unprecedented disease is threatening corals in the Caribbean

It attacks stony corals and scientists are calling it 'Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease'

The coral disease is water-borne and may spread through contact. The situation is urgent but corals are resilient if given the chance and the right conditions for their growth and survival -

let's help protect the ocean.

Healthy Stony Coral

Sick Stony Coral

Photo left: K. Martin, right: A. Brubaker

Help stop the spread

Never touch corals!
Have good buoyancy

Rent gear locally
so you don't spread the disease

Dive on healthy reefs
before diving infected reefs

Pathogens can survive on dive and snorkel gear. Dive and snorkel gear can transfer disease among reefs and internationally.

Decontaminate your gear

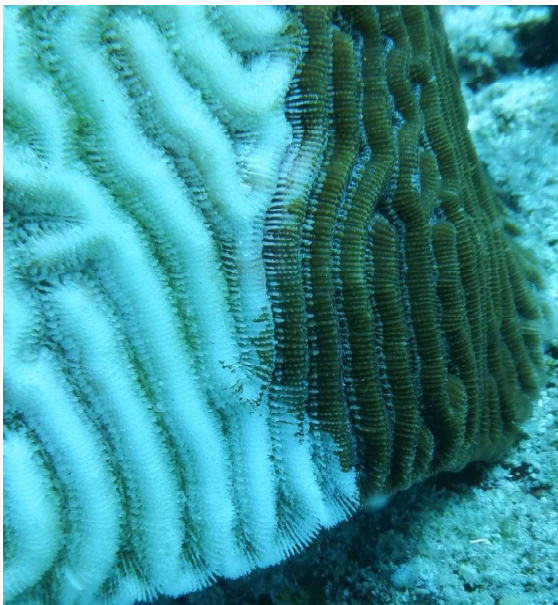
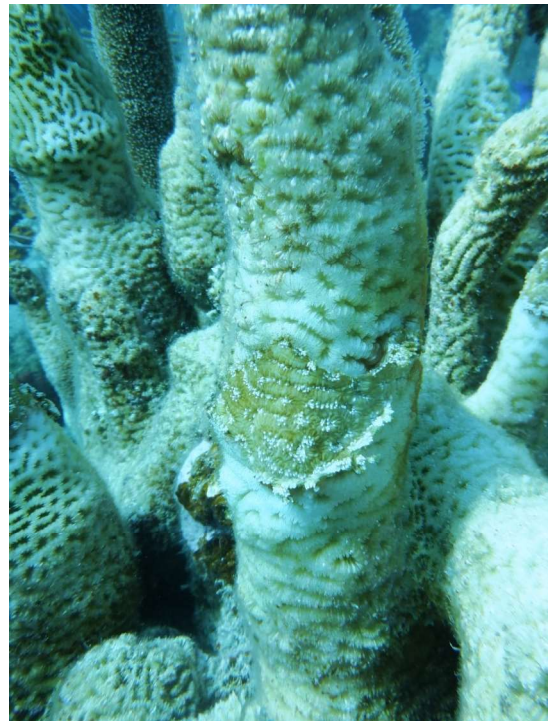
DISPOSAL
leave wash solution in sun for 1 day to break down then dispose

A partnership between:

AGRRRA Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment

www.agrrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak

How to identify it?



Bright White Skeleton

Tissue Peeling

Fast Spreading

100% Mortality

Multiple Lesions

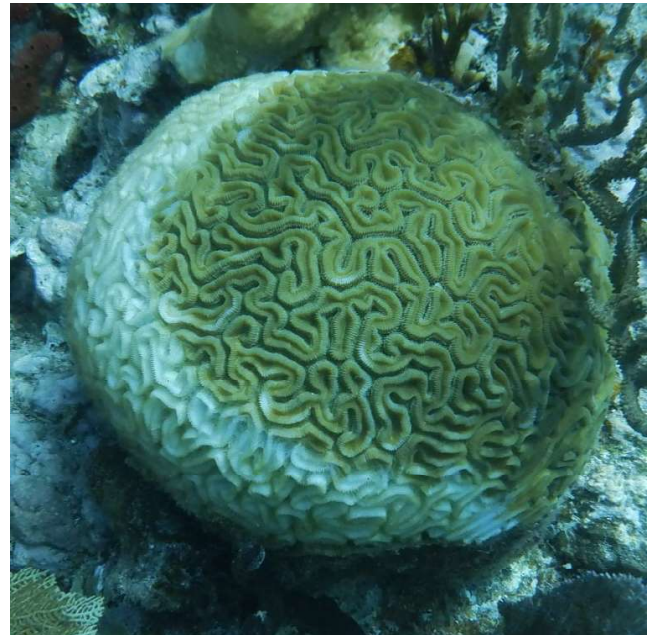


Other coral diseases/ factors affecting stony corals;

Black Band



White Plague



Bleaching



Focused Biting

Yellow Blotch

Brain Corals



Symmetrical Brain Coral



Knobbly Brain Coral

Pseudodiploria clivosa



Boulder Brain Coral

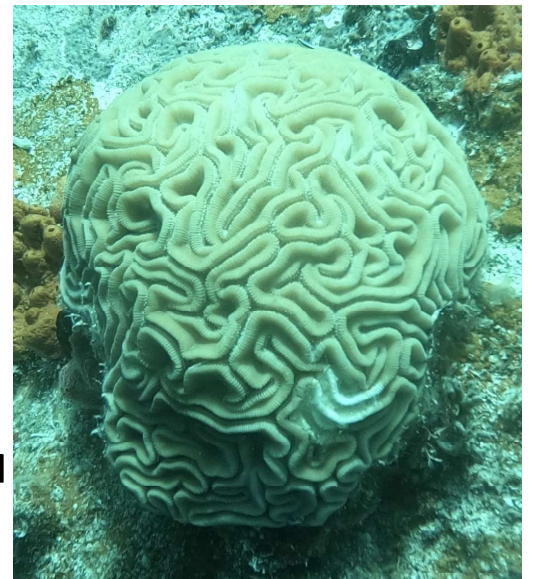
Colpophyllia natans



Maze Brain Coral

Grooved Brain Coral

Diploria labyrinthiformis



Star Corals



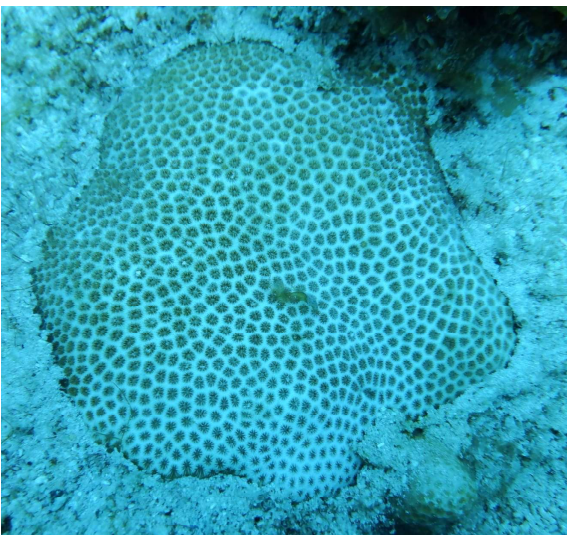
Large Cup Coral

Montastraea cavernosa



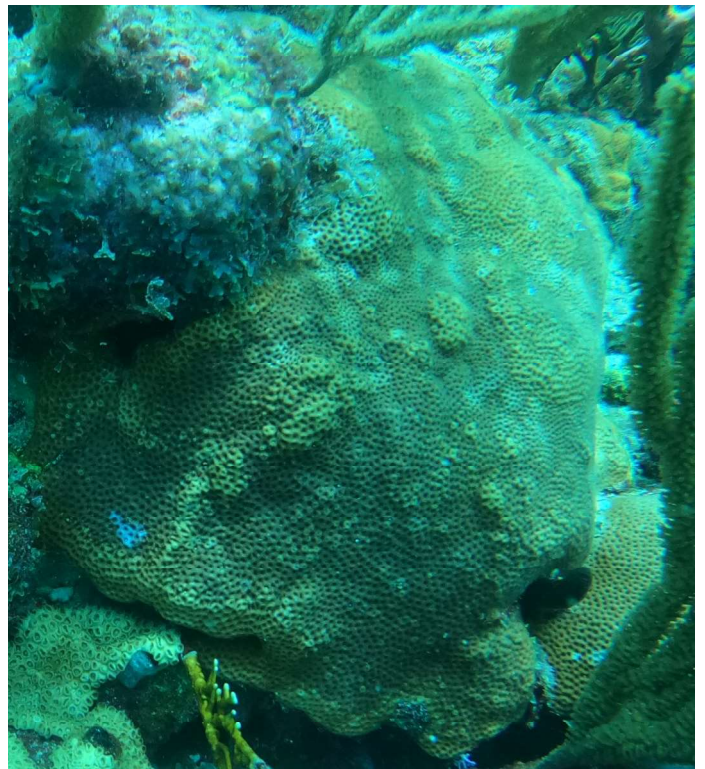
Elliptical Star Coral

Dichocoenia stokesi



Blushing Star Coral

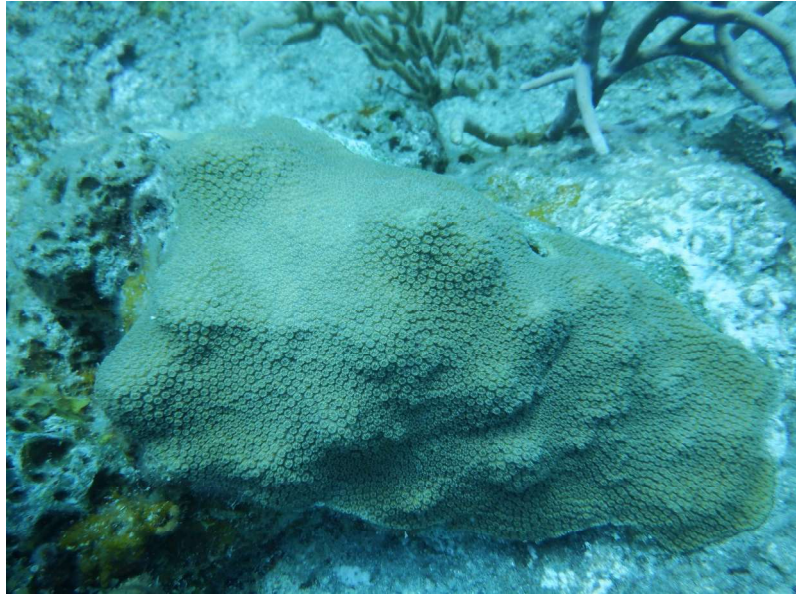
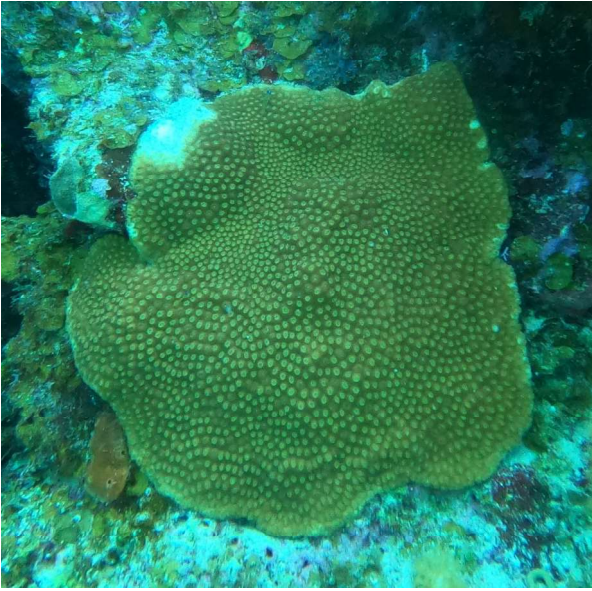
Stephanocoenia michelinii



Massive Starlet Coral

Siderastrea siderea

Star Corals



Boulder, Mountainous and Lobed Star Coral

Orbicella sp.



Other Susceptible Coral

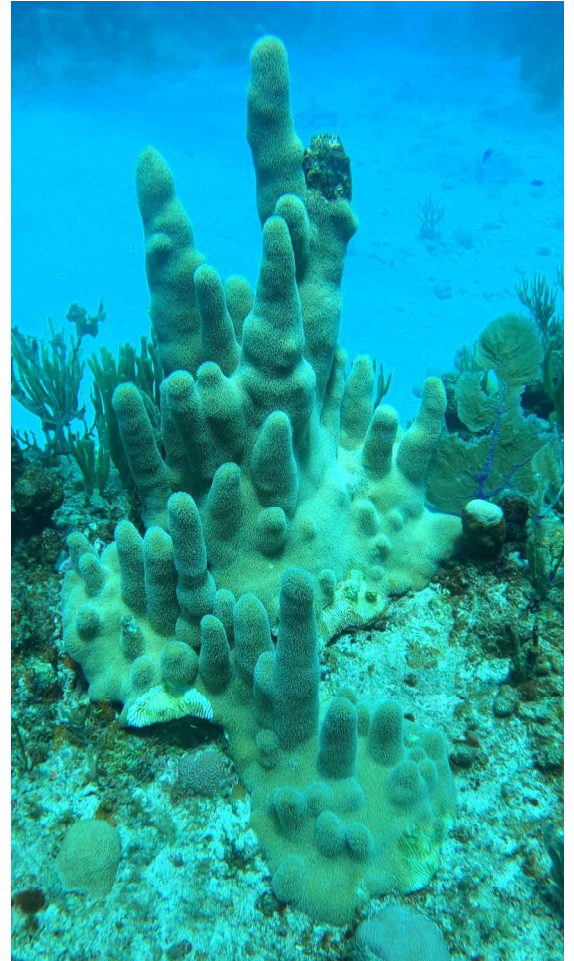


Smooth Flower Coral



Mustard Hill Coral

Lettuce Coral



Pillar Coral

Dendrogyra cylindrus

Cactus Coral

