

SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Health Chart (CHC)



The screenshot shows the CoralWatch website homepage. At the top right is the CoralWatch logo, which features a stylized eye icon and the text 'CORALWATCH'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: HOME, PROJECT, MONITORING, DATA, EDUCATION, DOWNLOAD, MEDIA, SUSTAINABILITY, LINKS, CONTACT. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a search bar and a 'REQUEST free Coral Health Chart' button. Below this is a section for 'NEW! Coral Reefs and Climate Change Video Series' with a 'Read more about CoralWatch Education Materials' link. At the bottom left, there is an 'ORDER FORM (all materials)' and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The central part of the page features a large image of hands holding a Coral Health Chart kit over a coral reef, with the text 'Welcome to CoralWatch'. Below this image is a paragraph of text: 'CoralWatch integrates global monitoring of coral bleaching with education about coral reef conservation. We are based at The University of Queensland, in Brisbane, Australia. In 2002, CoralWatch developed and validated the Coral Health Chart (Siebeck et al. Monitoring coral bleaching using a colour reference card. Coral Reefs 2006;25:453-460). The chart standardises changes in coral colour, providing a simple way to quantify bleaching and monitor coral health. The Coral Health Chart is used by dive centres, scientists, school groups, and tourists. Anyone can contribute to our global database! You don't need extensive training – just download a Do it Yourself Kit, request a Coral Health Chart, and you are ready to go!'. On the right side, there is a 'CoralWatch Latest News' section with a date of December 14, 2012. Below this are several buttons: 'DONATE', 'Enter data', 'Monitoring Sites', 'Coral Health Chart PADI Distinctive Specialty', 'TAKE OUR Reef Quiz', and 'Corals At Your Doorstep Moreton Bay, Australia'. At the bottom right, it says 'Coralwatch up-to-date'.

HOME PROJECT MONITORING DATA EDUCATION DOWNLOAD MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY LINKS CONTACT

Search...

REQUEST free Coral Health Chart

NEW! Coral Reefs and Climate Change Video Series accompanying the book. Available now!
[Read more about CoralWatch Education Materials](#)

ORDER FORM (all materials)

facebook twitter

Support / Collaborators

Welcome to CoralWatch

CoralWatch integrates global monitoring of coral bleaching with education about coral reef conservation. We are based at The University of Queensland, in Brisbane, Australia. In 2002, CoralWatch developed and validated the Coral Health Chart (Siebeck et al. Monitoring coral bleaching using a colour reference card. Coral Reefs 2006;25:453-460). The chart standardises changes in coral colour, providing a simple way to quantify bleaching and monitor coral health. The Coral Health Chart is used by dive centres, scientists, school groups, and tourists. Anyone can contribute to our global database! You don't need extensive training – just download a Do it Yourself Kit, request a Coral Health Chart, and you are ready to go!

CoralWatch Latest News

Our second edition of the book Coral Reefs and Climate Change will be released on December 14, 2012

DONATE

Enter data

Monitoring Sites

Coral Health Chart PADI Distinctive Specialty

TAKE OUR **Reef Quiz**

Corals At Your Doorstep
Moreton Bay, Australia

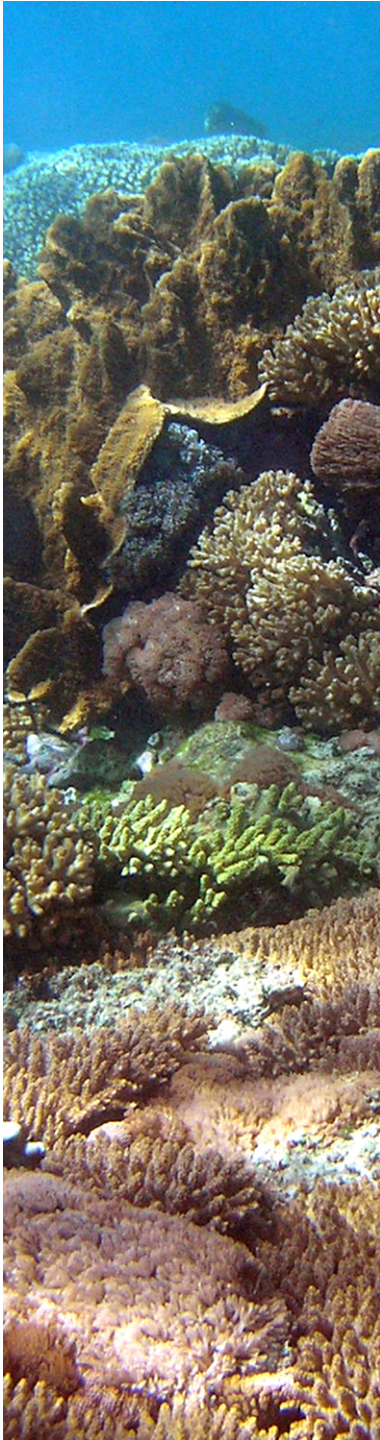
Coralwatch up-to-date

www.coralwatch.org

SURG Coral Health Project

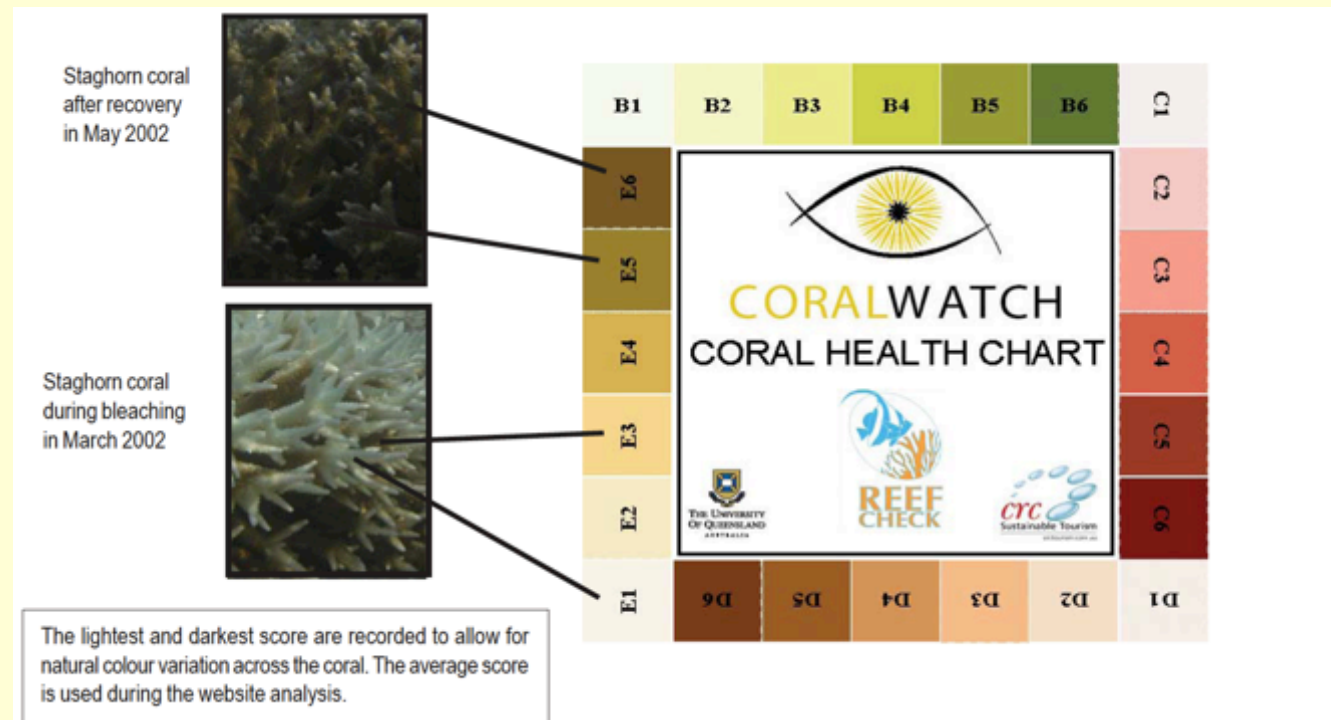
CORALWATCH:

- Provides hands on monitoring and education tools to increase awareness of reef threats
- Encourages behavioural change towards a more sustainable future
- Enables the opportunity for everyone to participate in a global project that monitors the effects of a change global climate



SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Health Chart



Used to assign the darkest and lightest colour scores across the colony

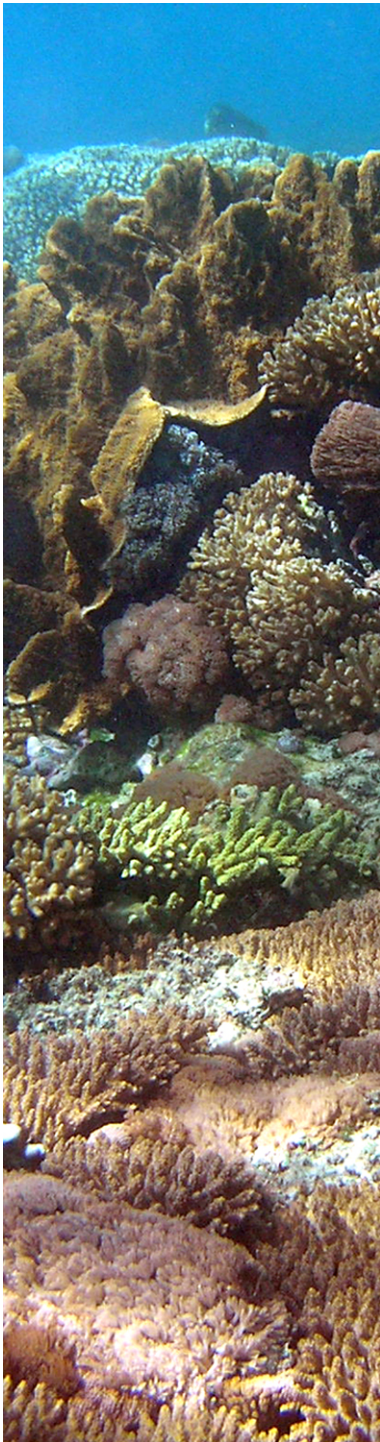
SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Health Chart

Avoid the growing tips of branching and outer margins of plate/encrusting corals, these areas are normally white

Don't be too concerned with exact colour, we are more interested in the variation in the intensity of the colour - the number on the CHC

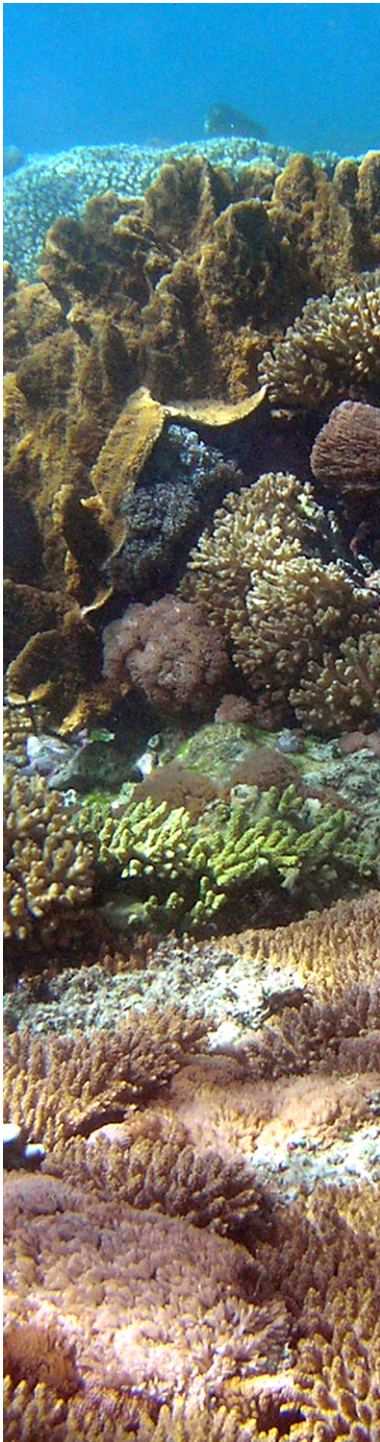
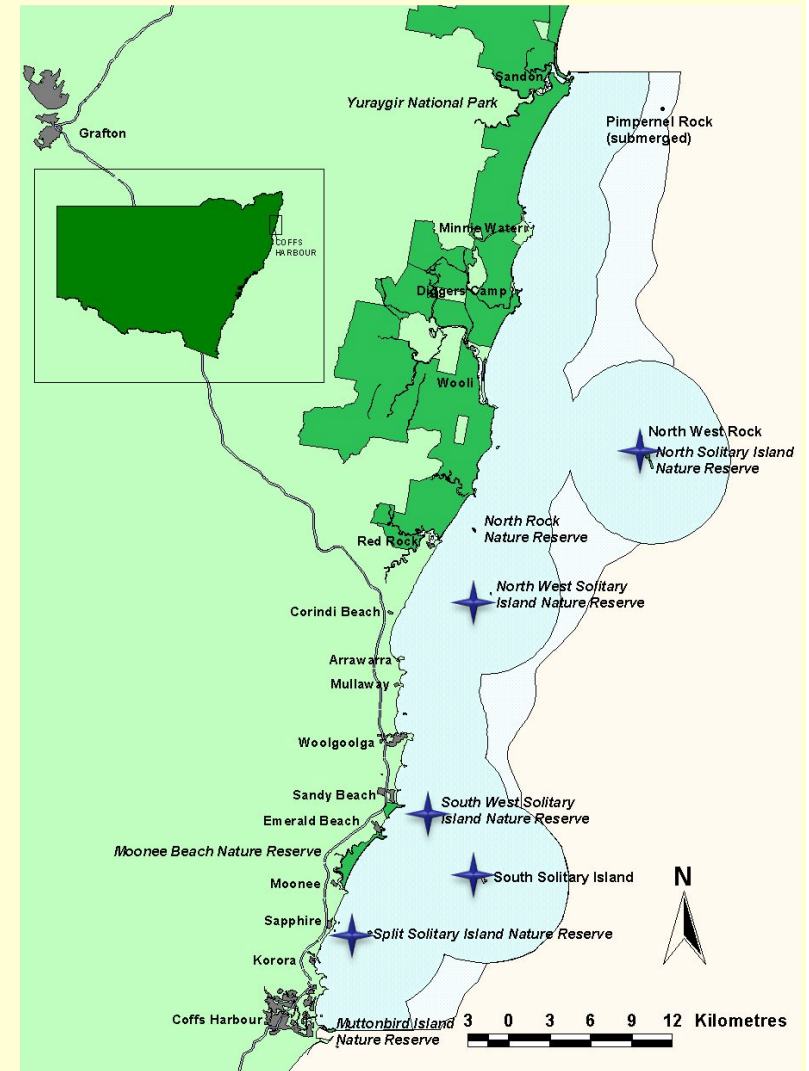
Avoid regions with high concentrations of fluorescent pigment



SURG Coral Health Project

Survey design

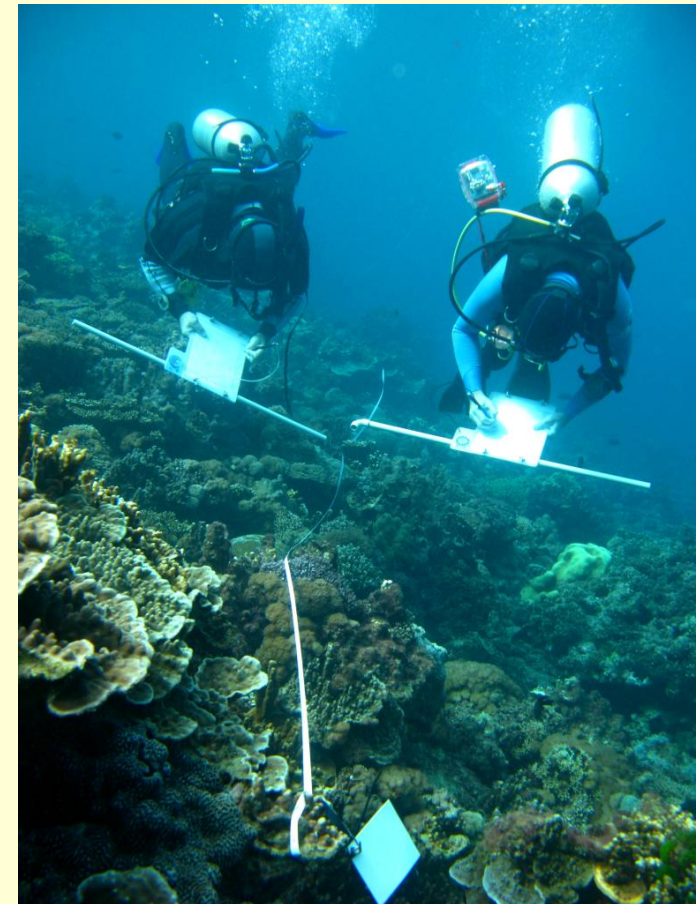
- Five island locations
- Four 2m x 20m belt transects per island
- Surveyed twice yearly (winter and summer)








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Survey methods

- Transects must not overlap
- Two divers per transect
- Observe all corals (>100mm) along the transect assigning a maximum and minimum colour intensity using the CHC
- Enter CHC scores, coral type & family category onto datasheet
- Record a maximum of 25 corals per diver (50 per transect)



Family: Poc/Den /Ac/Por/Fav Coral Type:     

Location/Site: _____ Date: _____ Time (0000hrs): _____ Water Temp. (C): _____
 Lat/Long: _____ Depth (m): _____ Sunny/Cloudy/Raining (Please Circle)
 Names: _____ Bearing: _____

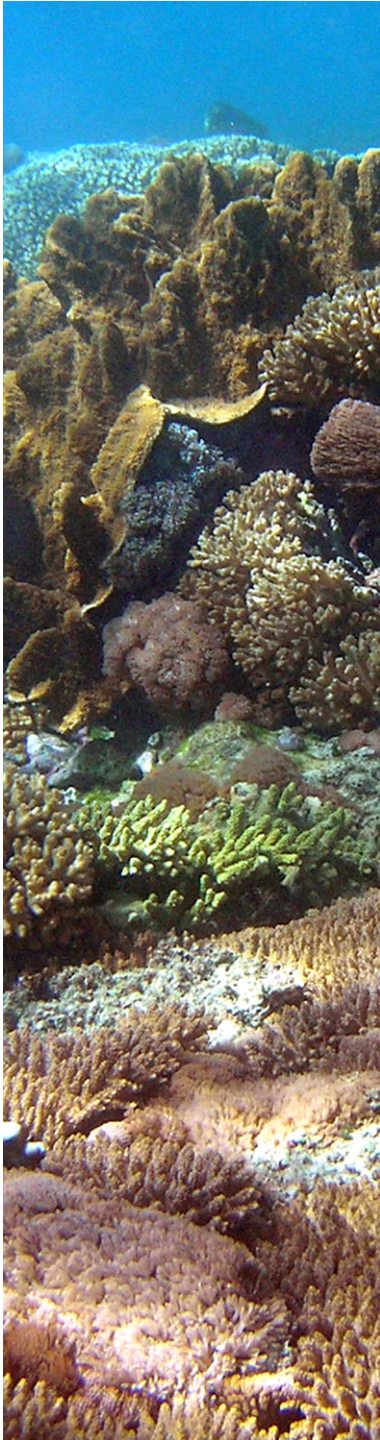
Number	Coral Type	Family	Dark	Light	Number	Coral Type	Family	Dark	Light	Number	Coral Type	Family	Dark	Light
1					18					35				
2					18					36				
3					20					37				
4					21					38				
5					22					39				
6					23					40				
7					24					41				
8					25					42				
9					26					43				
10					27					44				
11					28					45				
12					29					46				
13					30					48				
14					31					49				
15					32					50				
16					33									
17					34									



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Survey equipment

- Tape
- Slate and datasheet
- Coral health chart
- Coral identification charts
- Torch (standardises light)

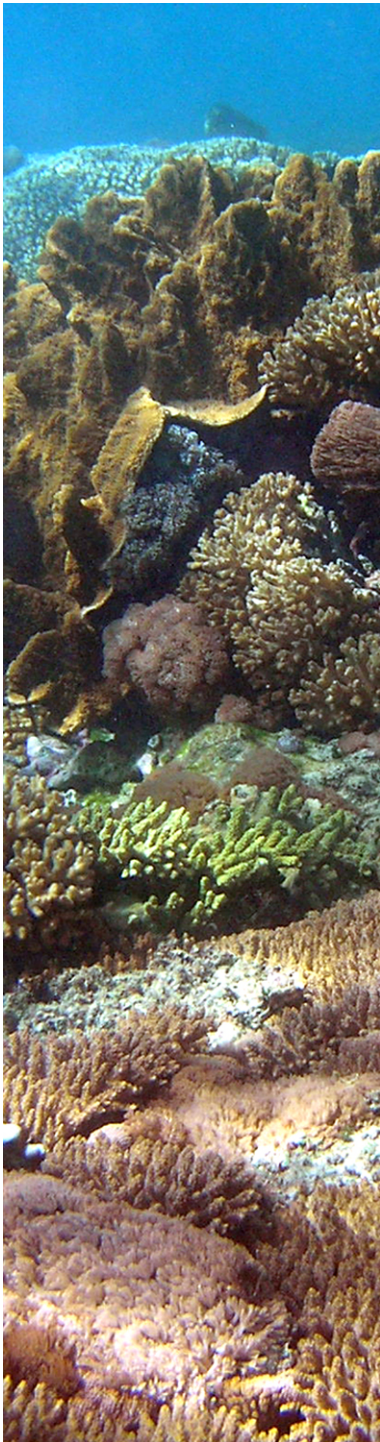
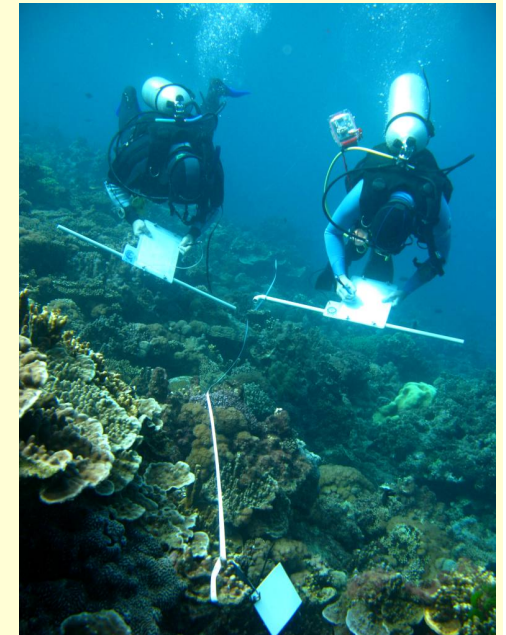


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CORALWATCH - Methods

TIPS

- Remain parallel to each other
- Be neutrally buoyant 1m above the bottom
- Use lungs to control body position
- Swim against the current
- Use an arm distance to gauge width of the transect (1m either side of transect)
- Avoid scoring adjacent to scarred or recently dead areas



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Coral Types



boulder/
encrusting



plate



branching



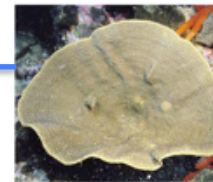
soft coral

SURG - Targeted Coral Families Coral Morphologies

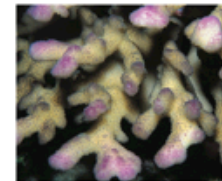
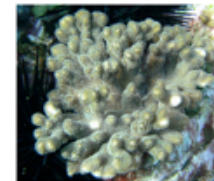
Boulder/Encrusting



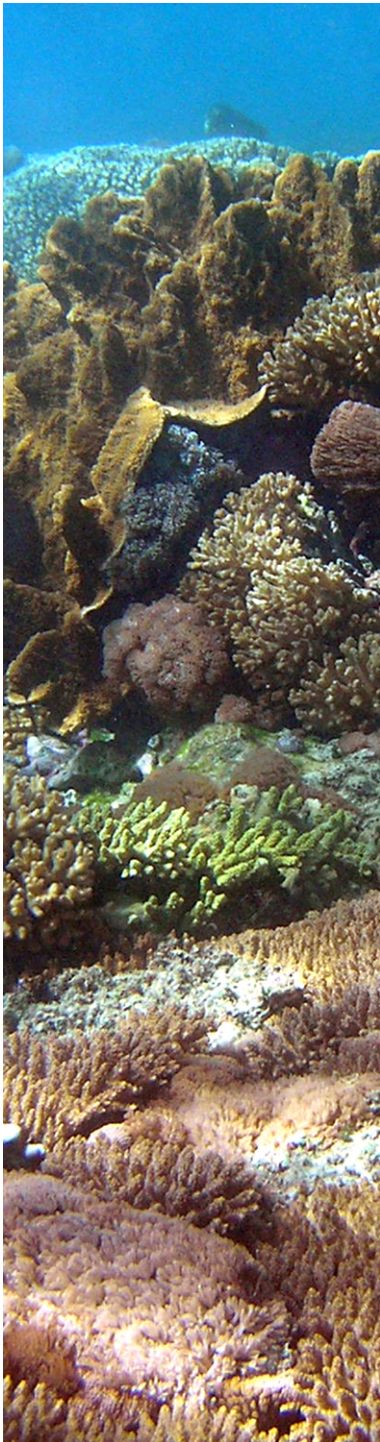
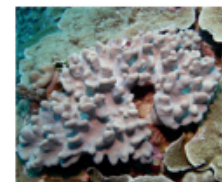
Plate /Foliose



Branching



Soft



SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Types - SIMP



branching



plate



soft coral

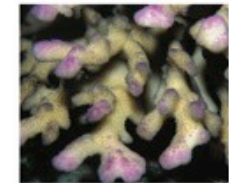


boulder/
encrusting

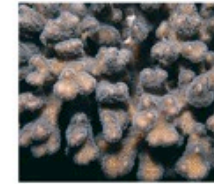
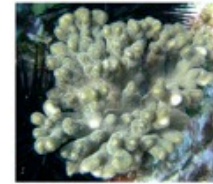
SURG - Targeted Coral Families

Pocilloporidae - Pocillopora & Stylophora

Colonies variable; branches have blunt or slightly flattened ends as if squeezed slightly at the tips. Corallites small and usually with hoods

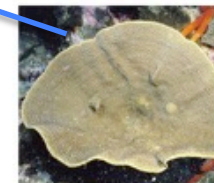


Colonies made of knobby branches covered in skeletal bumps called verrucae. Corallites immersed or among the verrucae. A fine 'fuzz' of tentacles is often present.



Dendrophylliidae - Turbinaria

Thin, contorted plates, often tiered, corallites round (2.5-6mm), tubular or level with the colony surface. Surface texture smooth between corallites.



SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Types - SIMP

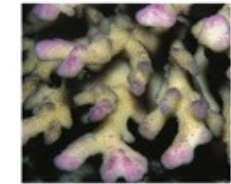


branching

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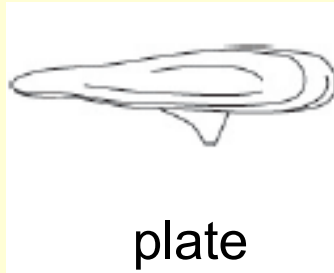


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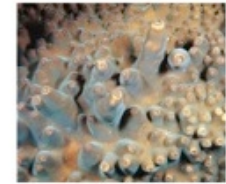
SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Types - SIMP



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Coral Types - SIMP



SURG - Targeted Coral Families

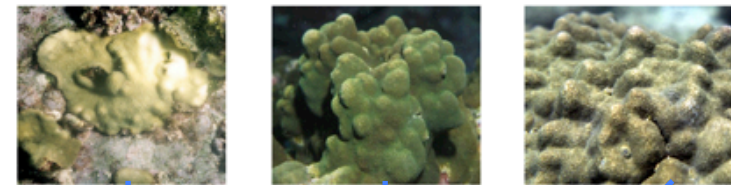
Acroporidae - Acropora

Acropora can form plate and table shaped colonies from clusters of tiny branchlets
An axial corallite at branch tips is surrounded by radial corallites



Poritidae - Porites & Goniopora

Porites - Thin or encrusting plates with ridges or bumps of skeleton on colony surface. Colonies often appear fragmented. Corallites very small (<1.5mm) with well-defined walls



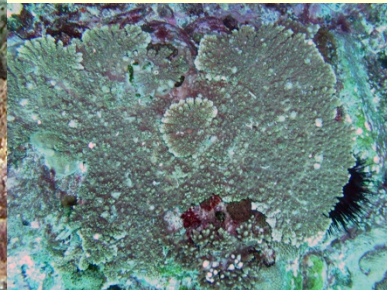
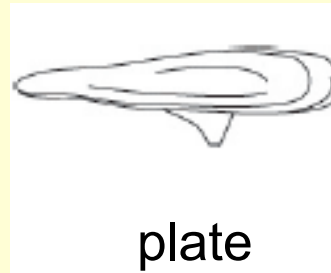
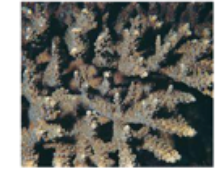
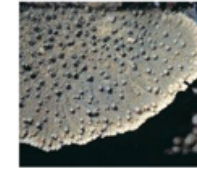
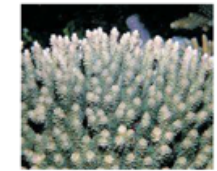
SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Types - SIMP

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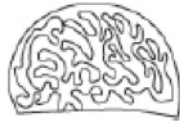
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SURG Coral Health Project

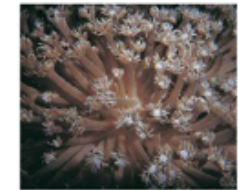
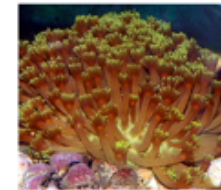
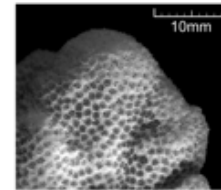
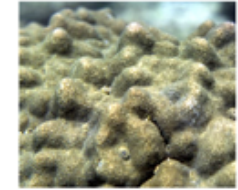
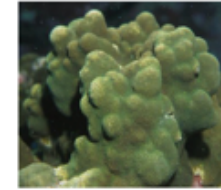
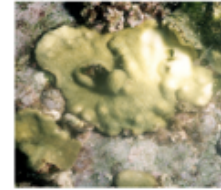
Coral Types - SIMP



boulder/
encrusting

Poritidae - Porites & Goniopora

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Porites sp



Goniopora sp



SURG Coral Health Project

Coral Types - SIMP

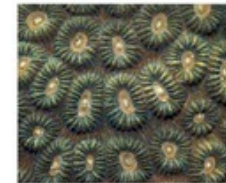
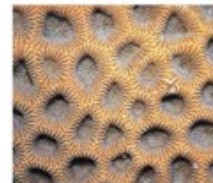


boulder/
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SURG - Targeted Coral Families

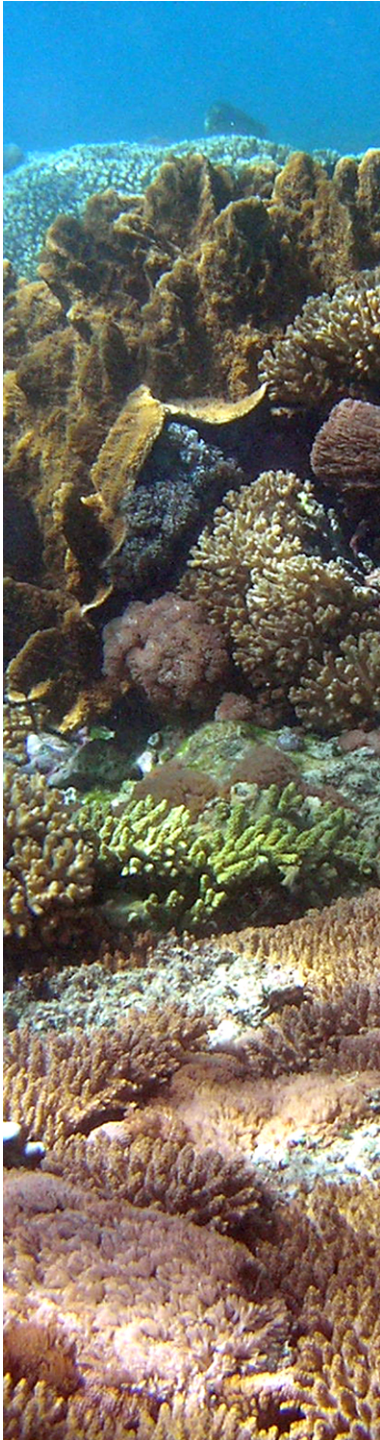
Faviidae - Goniastrea, Favites & Favia

Colonies can typically form mounds, encrusting, thick plates & domes. Some species can form short or long meandering valleys from 4-20mm wide. Others have corallites forming cones or tubes in which corallites may be rounded to sub-angular.



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Coral Types - SIMP



Sarcophyton



Soft coral

SURG Coral Health Project

Tips for monitoring corals

- Maintain excellent buoyancy control – use your lungs to move up and down through the water
- Take your time and only dive to your capabilities
- Stay off the bottom
- Maintain a head down fins up body position
- Use modified swimming techniques
- Try not to touch the corals – polyps retract causing changes in pigment intensity

