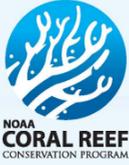




A partnership between:

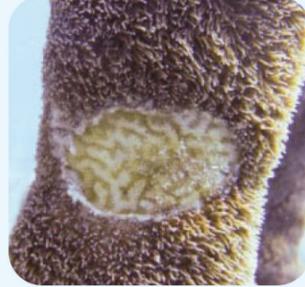


MPAConnect guide to detect Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease on Gulf of Mexico Coral Reefs

Total
loss of
affected
tissue



Bare skeleton
with no tissue



Sloughing away
of tissue

Be Alert!

A new coral disease is causing high mortality of stony corals

Cause is unknown but it is water-borne and may spread via direct contact

Take care not to confuse with other coral diseases, bleaching or fish bites

Correct field diagnosis depends on multiple factors

Highly
susceptible
species
at Flower
Garden
Banks



*Colpophyllia
natans*



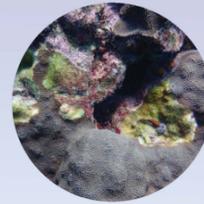
*Pseudodiploria
strigosa*



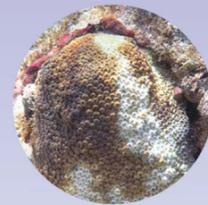
*Orbicella
annularis*



*Orbicella
franksi*



*Orbicella
faveolata*



*Montastrea
cavernosa*



*Siderastrea
siderea*

Typical order of infection

High prevalence
and mortality

Among susceptible species

~2-3%
Normal
background
disease
prevalence

66-100%
Species-specific
Stony Coral Tissue Loss
Disease prevalence

Rapid
spread

Within one week
to two months

On coral colonies
Multiple lesions

Rapid mortality

On dive sites

Rapid spread among corals

What can managers do?

- 1 Monitor highly susceptible species via roving diver surveys
- 2 Monitor sentinel sites weekly – old, large, healthy, spawning colonies
- 3 Monitor suspected cases every three days to weekly, take photos, note date and location
- 4 Inform your agency about new threat, seek contingency support, investigate supplies for treatment
- 5 Promote decontamination of dive gear to prevent disease spread
- 6 Take photos and record location of diseased corals
- 7 Promote ballast water management, exchange ballast offshore and not on coral reefs
- 8 Seek training in protocols for treatment of priority corals



June 2021

Coral photography:
K. Neely, Nova Southeastern University.
Andy Bruckner / NOAA
Graphic Design: ©2021 Deviate Design

To report coral disease contact Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary at flowergarden@noaa.gov or (979) 777-3895.

For more information, visit <https://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

