Florida Reef Tract
Coral Disease Outbreak:
Update on Status and Response Efforts

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Florida’s National Treasure

Florida Reef Tract
Florida’s Natural Treasure

*Florida Reef Tract*

Images: J. Marino, D. Gilliam 2011 & 2017 Reef Calendar winners
Economically Essential

Mapping Ocean Wealth demonstrates what the ocean does for us today so that we maximize what the ocean can do for us tomorrow

The Nature Conservancy | oceanwealth.org
Economically Essential

Coastal Protection

Photos By: Hal Pierce; Ken Banks
Economically Essential

Coastal Protection

Images from: Mapping Ocean Wealth
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Fisheries Habitat
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Biomedical & Drug Research

MARINE BIOMEDICAL & BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
Economically Essential

Tourism
Economically Essential

On Reef & Adjacent to Reef
Tourism Value of Florida’s Coral Reefs per Year (USD)

$1,152,313,000

According to The Nature Conservancy's Mapping Ocean Wealth
Economically Essential

Estimated to annually support 71,000 jobs and generate $6.3 billion in sales and income

(Johns et al, 2001 & 2004)
Florida’s Coral Disease Outbreak
Florida’s Coral Disease Outbreak

Coral Disease Outbreak Extent Across the Florida Reef Tract

2018

- Coral Reef and Hardbottom
- Reports of Disease Outbreak
  - Reported
  - Not Reported

N

50 Miles

Martin County
Palm Beach County
Broward County
Miami-Dade County
Monroe County

Southeast Florida
Biscayne National Park
Upper Keys
Middle Keys
Lower Keys
Key West
Dry Tortugas National Park
Disease Response Partners

Coordinated Multi-faceted Response Effort

[Logos and institutions names]
Disease Response Update
Since June 2018

Wrap up of FY17 DEP-funded projects

Over $500,000 in coral disease projects completed, including:

- Surveillance and monitoring efforts
- Spatial epidemiological modeling
- Lab-based treatment trials
- Sample collection
- Pathogen isolation experiments

https://floridadep.gov/fco/coral/content/florida-tract-coral-disease-outbreak
(Google: FDEP Coral Disease)
Disease Response Update

Since June 2018

3-Day Coral Disease Technical Workshop:

• Intervention action framework for adaptive decision making
• Coral ‘rescue’ actions
• Monitoring and research priorities
• Outplanting/restoration trials
• Opportunities for community engagement
• Recommendations for response capacity & ecosystem resilience

July Workshop Participants. Photo: FDEP
Disease Response Update

Since June 2018

Coral Disease Tourism and Local Business Briefing:

• Coral disease messaging and communications opportunities
• Engagement of local business and tourism leaders
• Recommendation to develop a statewide call to action campaign for Florida’s coral reefs

July Meeting Participants. Photo: Martin County
What’s Next?

Continue coral disease investigation
In FY18, DEP is funding $2+ million in additional coral disease projects, including:

- In-water disease intervention action trials
- Continuing lab-based intervention tool development
- Pathogen isolation and investigation of potential probiotics
- Genetic preservation – coral spawning assistance
Continuing Disease Response

In FY18, DEP is funding $2+ million in additional coral disease projects, including:

Coming Soon:

- In-water disease intervention and coral rescue Strike Teams
- Land-based infrastructure support for rescued wild corals
- Restoration Trials
Protecting Florida’s Coral Reefs

Short Term:
Enhance Disease Response Capacity = Triage

Long-term:
Address Environmental Enabling Conditions = Restore Ecosystem Resilience

WE NEED YOU!