



Florida Reef Tract Coral Disease Outbreak

The Florida Reef Tract is currently experiencing a widespread and lethal coral disease outbreak. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is working with dozens of partners from federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and members of the community to investigate and solve this problem.

Key factors of the outbreak include:

- **Large geographic range.** Over half of the Florida Reef Tract has been affected – over 96,000 acres.
- **Duration of the outbreak.** Disease has continued to spread for more than three years.
- **Number of coral species affected.** 20+ of approximately 45 species of Florida's reef-building corals have been affected.
- **Significantly high prevalence.** Within certain species, disease is seen in 66-100 out of every 100 colonies surveyed.
- **High rates of disease transmission and mortality.** Once a coral begins to lose living tissue, observations show that the colony will die within weeks to months.

In FY 17 & FY 18, the state of Florida allocated \$1 million to support Florida's coral reefs, including disease response activities.

Priority coral disease response activities include:

- **Coral disease investigation training** on coral disease identification, ecology and investigation techniques.
- **Coral disease surveys and fixed site monitoring** to document the spatial extent, mortality rates and species-specific impacts.
- **Strategic sampling and laboratory analysis** to identify the presence of pathogens potentially responsible for the disease outbreak.
- **Data management and epidemiological analysis** to analyze relevant datasets and determine what factors may influence disease progression.
- **Sampling plan and disease intervention workshops** to determine priority data needs and potential management options to mitigate disease impacts.
- **Intervention experiments and field trials** to assess the effectiveness of treatment techniques and prevent the further spread of disease.

For More Information Visit:

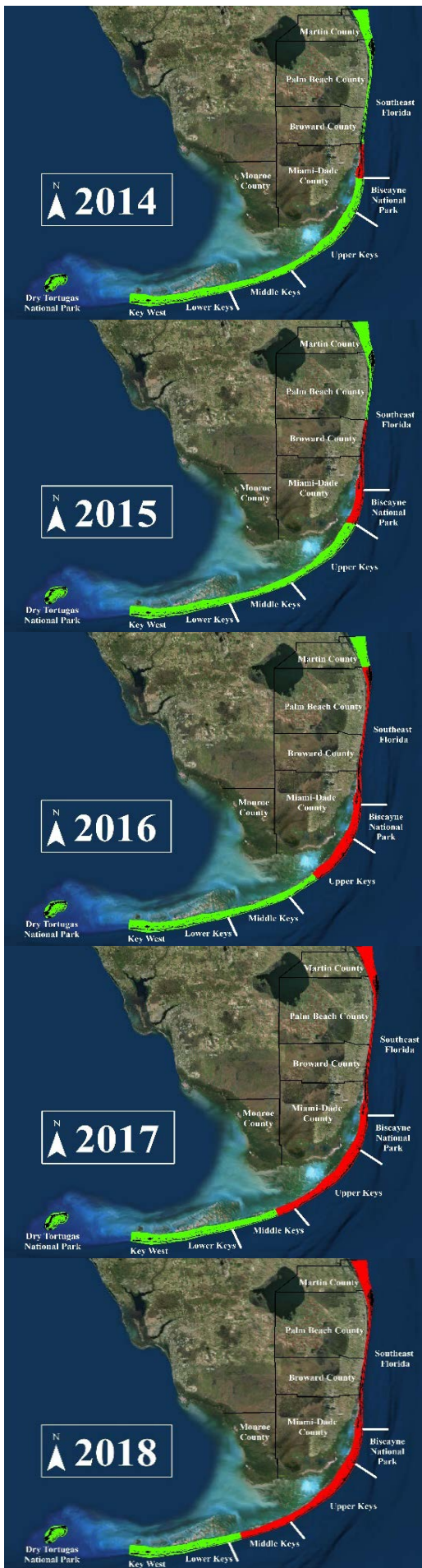
www.floridadep.gov/fco/coral/content/florida-reef-tract-coral-disease-outbreak



Coral Disease
Outbreak

Reported

Not Reported



Coral Disease Outbreak on the Florida Reef Tract 2014-2018

Numerous partners have contributed to a
multi-faceted response effort.



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