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# Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD): Collaborative monitoring efforts in the Caribbean

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AGRRA- Atlantic & Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Program  
Presentation to NOAA in the Caribbean Community Webinar

September 23, 2020



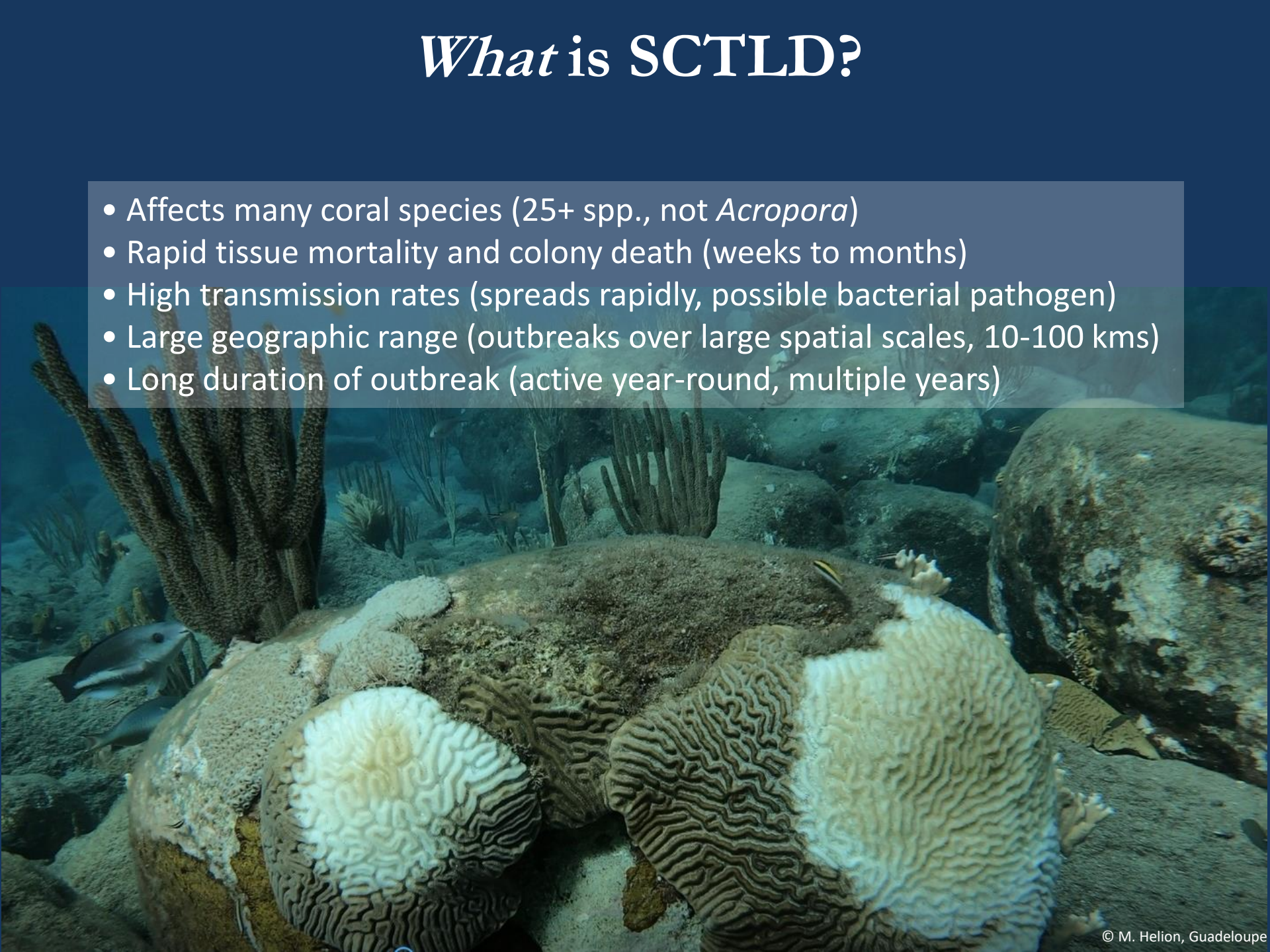
[www.agrra.org](http://www.agrra.org)





# *What* is SCTLD?

- Affects many coral species (25+ spp., not *Acropora*)
- Rapid tissue mortality and colony death (weeks to months)
- High transmission rates (spreads rapidly, possible bacterial pathogen)
- Large geographic range (outbreaks over large spatial scales, 10-100 kms)
- Long duration of outbreak (active year-round, multiple years)





# Where is SCTLD Occurring?

<https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/>

2018

Florida

Mexico

Jamaica

Sint Maarten



© J. Iturrieta, Mexico



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# Where is SCTLD Occurring?

<https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/>

2019





# Where is SCTLD Occurring?

<https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/>

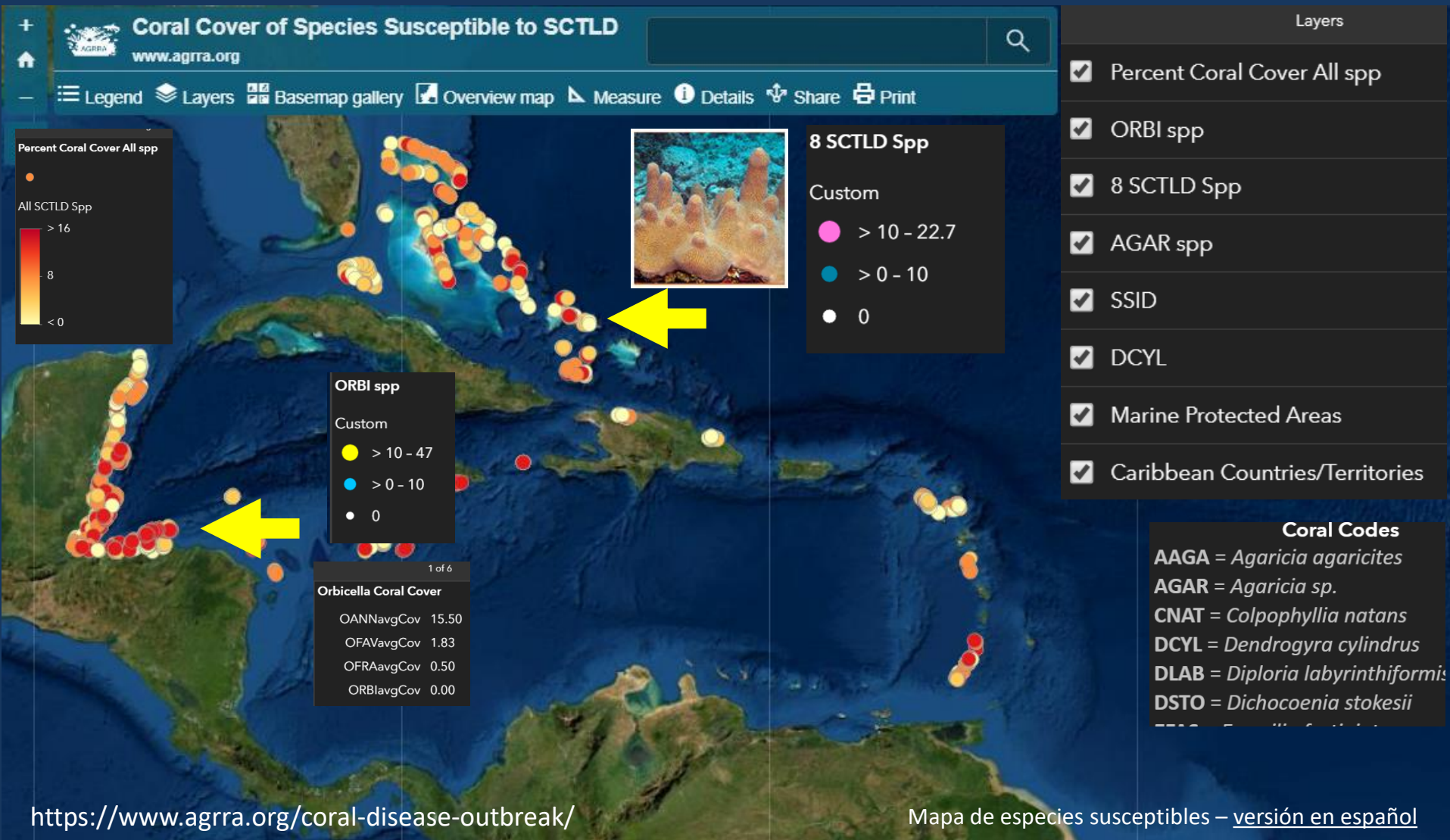
2020



# Which reefs are at risk?

## SCTLD Susceptibility Map

Based on AGRR data, where available  
Percent cover of corals most susceptible to SCTLD  
Helps locate areas at risk to SCTLD to survey or areas to prioritize intervention





# How do I share data?

## Caribbean Coral Health Watch





Report Your Findings



Coral Health Survey  
Submit



Presence of SCTLD

-  New Submission - Under Review
-  SCTLD Absent, but other diseases may be present
-  SCTLD May be Present
-  SCTLD Present

## Submit reports

1. Submit reports and photos on diseased or bleached corals.
2. Experts work with you to review and confirm presence or absence.
3. Your report is displayed on the Caribbean SCTLD/Bleach Map.
4. Your report helps guide response and management actions.
5. *What's New?*
  - One easy to fill out survey form
  - Combined Disease & Bleach reports

# How is SCTLD tracked in the Caribbean?





# How do we make this data useful for managers?

## Caribbean Dashboard of SCTLD

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) Outbreak in the Caribbean

[www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak](http://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak)

Last Updated: September 21st, 2020

# of Countries/Territories

**15**

with SCTLD Present

# of Countries/Territories

**9**

with SCTLD Treatments

# of Countries/Territories

**18**

Monitoring for SCTLD

# of Countries/Territories

**18**

with Education Outreach

SCTLD Outbreaks: Dates & Locations

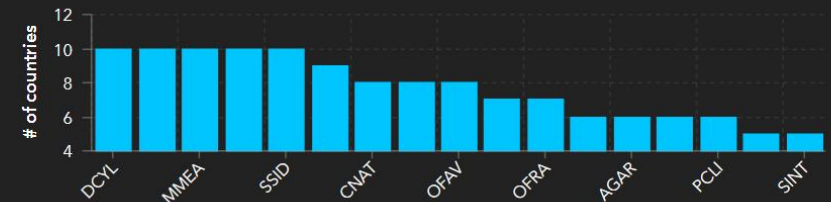
Year	Date	Location	Map ID
2014	Nov 18	Florida	A
2018	Feb 6	Jamaica	B
	July 3	Mexico	C
	Nov 22	Sint Maarten	D
	Jan 29	U.S. Virgin Islands	E
	Mar 3	Dominican Republic	F
2019	early March	Turks and Caicos Islands	G
	March	Belize	H
	June 21	Sint Eustatius	I
	Aug 13	Puerto Rico	J
	Dec 23	The Bahamas	K
	mid Dec	British Virgin Islands	L
2020	May 17	Cayman Islands	M
	June 29	Guadeloupe	N
	June 9	St. Lucia	O



SCTLD Presence

SCTLD Response

Key



Coral species affected by SCTLD

Species Affected

Coral Codes





# *What else* should we be monitoring?

## AGRRA's Caribbean Reef Health Storymap

Overall Reef Health Index

Coral Cover Indicator

Fleshy Macroalgal Indicator

Herbivorous Fish Indicator

Commercial Fish

Introduction

Coral Cover

Coral Density

Coral Size

Mortality

Bleaching

Disease

Recruits

Relief

All Corals

ATEN

APAL

MMEA

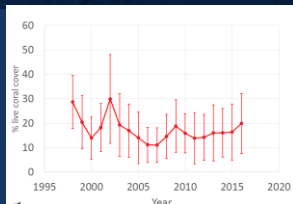
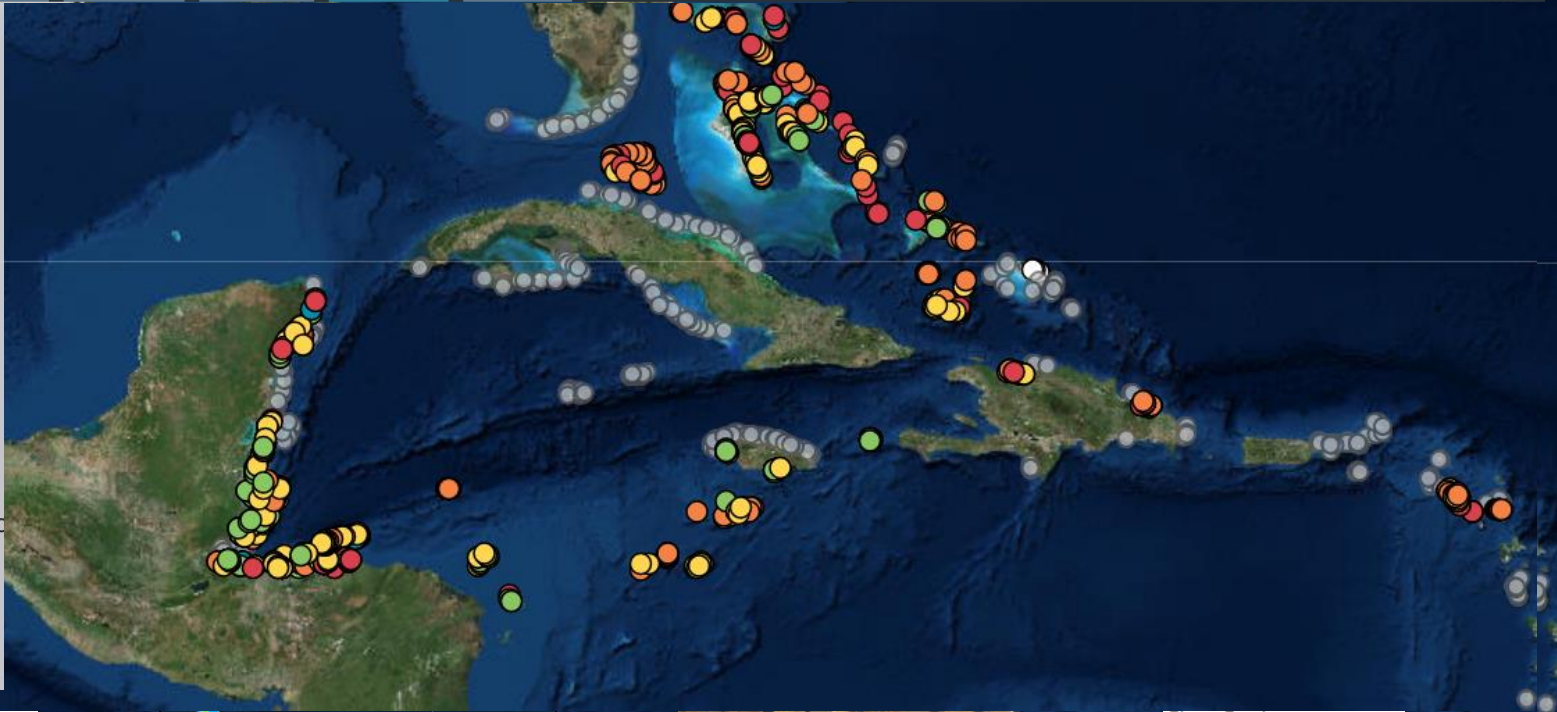
MCAV

OANN

OFAV



The Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) Program champions coral reef conservation and empowers those who protect these diverse ecosystems. We are an international collaboration of scientists, managers, and supporters aimed at improving the regional condition of reefs in the



Graphics



MPA tools



Site photos

Stony Coral Coverage (%)	
Fleshy Macroalgae Indicator	3
Herbivorous Fish Indicator	2
Commercial Fish Indicator	2

Site data tables



# Useful SCTLD portals and weblinks

Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA):

[www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/](http://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/)

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Website:

<https://www.gcfi.org/emerging-issues-florida-coral-disease-outbreak/>

U.S. Virgin Islands Coral Disease Advisory Committee:

<https://www.vicoraldisease.org/>

Puerto Rico: Department of Natural Resources:

<http://www.drna.pr.gov/programas-y-proyectos/coralpr/>

Florida:

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary SCTLD Portal:

<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Stony Coral Tissue Loss (SCTLD) Response:

<https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral/content/stony-coral-tissue-loss-disease-response>

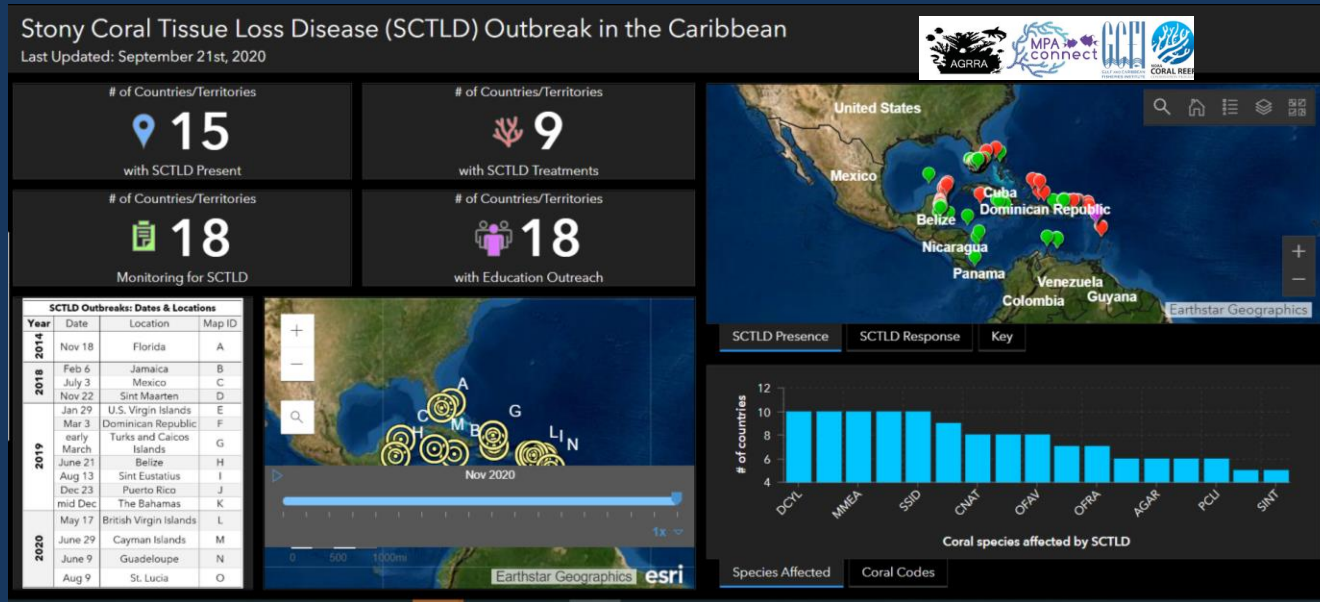
Reef Resilience Network:

[www.reefresilience.org](http://www.reefresilience.org)





<https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/>



## Report Your Findings



Reef rese  
sites with  
you see s  
below. Th

**SUBMIT**

Coral Disease Survey – Roving  
Diver

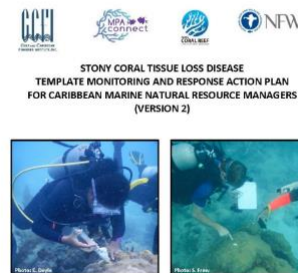
## MAPS



## INFOGRAPHICS



## ACTION PLANS



## SCTLD WEBINARS







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[www.agrra.org](http://www.agrra.org)

Thank you to all our AGRRRA & SCTLD  
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Judy Lang & Lynnette Roth

