Help protect Guam’s reefs by reporting coral reef impacts!

Don’t forget! When you get out on the water, enable the GPS on your camera.

What to include in your report:
- **Activity** (Diving, snorkeling, swimming, fishing, etc.)
- **Date and location** (Beach name, dive site, closest landmark, etc.)
  - GPS coordinates if available
- **Type of impact:**
  - **Type(s) of coral** (or other organism) impacted
  - **Depth** of observed impact
  - **Number or percent** of impacted colonies
  - **Description** of impact, such as:
    - Severity of bleaching (mild, moderate, severe)
    - Shape, size, and color of lesions or abnormality
    - Number and size of crown of thorns sea stars
    - Type and amount of marine debris

If you see something, say something!
Text 688-DAWR (3297) if you witness marine preserve violations, someone damaging corals, dangerous marine debris, or other immediate concerns of this nature.

Types of coral:
- **Encrusting corals**
  - Form sheets over hard surfaces

- **Soft corals**
  - Feathery tentacles
  - Flowy, no hard skeleton

- **Massive corals**
  - Smooth ball/boulder
  - Small, crowded polyps

- **Foliose (‘lettuce’) corals**
  - Steep ridges w/polyps found in valleys

- **Staghorn corals**
  - Sharp-tipped branches
  - Pronounced corallites

- **Large branching/pillar**
  - Vertical growth, not widespread branching

- **Small branching corals**
  - Small branches/fingers
  - Discrete coral heads

Coral reef etiquette:
1. Never touch, kick, or stand on coral. Practice neutral buoyancy.
2. Don’t feed fish – it disturbs their natural behavior.
3. If you see litter near or in the water (or anywhere!) pick it up.
4. Wear reef safe sunscreen.

Report coral reef impacts at [EORmarianas.org](http://EORmarianas.org)
What to include in your report:

- **Location and depth** of bleaching
- **Type(s) of coral** (or other organisms) bleached
- **Number** of bleached colonies
- **Severity** of bleaching:
  - **MILD:** 1-10% of coral colonies are pale or bleached
  - **MODERATE:** 10-50% of all colonies are pale or bleached
  - **SEVERE:** 51-90% of all colonies are bleached
  - **VERY SEVERE:** Over 90% of all colonies are bleached

How to identify bleaching:

- **Paling:** upper and/or most exposed surfaces will be lighter color than rest of colony – look at the bottom of the colony or between branches to detect a difference in color
- **Upper surfaces or whole colony will be bright white if fully bleached** – colony appears to “glow”
- **Bleached corals can also “fluoresce” like a highlighter**
- **Look closely at polyps – bleached corals are alive, tissue is intact**
- **Recently dead corals will be bare, white skeleton with some thin, usually bright green algae**
- **White tips of branching colonies are growth tips, not bleaching**

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CORAL ABNORMALITIES

What to include in your report:

• Location and depth of abnormality
• Type(s) of coral (or other organisms) affected
• Number of affected colonies
• Description of abnormalities:
  ✓ LESIONS? What do they look like? How big?
  ✓ COLORATION? Tissue loss?
  ✓ DISTINCT FEATURES of the abnormalities?

Growth anomalies: Excess skeletal growth, paler tissue, corallites are different size, shape, or density

Pigmentation response: Often bright pink, near bite marks

Irregular bleaching: tissue still present, pattern unlike thermal bleaching

Black/grey death

Photos by L. Raymundo, D. Burdick, and R. Miller

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NUISANCE SPECIES

What to include in your report:
- Location and depth of nuisance species
- Type(s) of nuisance species:
  - ANGEL HAIR ALGAE (Chaetomorpha)
  - GOLDEN NOODLE ALGAE (Chrysocystis, Chrysophaeum)
  - CYANOBACTERIA
  - TERPIOS
  - DRUPELLA SNAIL
- Estimated total area affected (m²)
- Type(s) of coral affected (if applicable)
- Number of affected colonies (if applicable)

Angel hair algae: bright green, thin and stringy, like tangled “fishing line”
Golden noodle algae: yellowish green, slimy, falls apart easily

CROWN OF THORNS SEA STARS (COTS)

What to include in your report:
- Location and depth of COTS
- Estimated size (diameter)
- Estimated number of COTS
- Type(s) of coral affected

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What to include in your report:
• Location and depth of diseased echinoderm(s)
• Type(s) of echinoderm(s) affected:
  ✓ BALATE (Sea cucumbers)
  ✓ SEA STARS
  ✓ URCHINS
• Estimated number of diseased echinoderms
• Description of lesions (color, size, etc.)

What to include in your report:
• Location and depth of debris
• Type(s) of marine debris:
  ✓ PLASTIC
  ✓ FISHING GEAR
  ✓ METAL
  ✓ OTHER
• Estimated total area affected (m²)
• Approximate number of items per m²
• Type(s) of coral affected (if applicable)
• Number of affected colonies (if applicable)

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