

# USVI SeaVentures Strike Team Annual Summary Report

Time period: March 2022 - December 2022

Prepared by: Leslie Henderson, USVI Coral Management Liaison

## Summary:

In the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) SeaVentures has two active coral disease strike teams funded by NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program project “Coral Disease Response in the US Caribbean”. These teams work to apply antibiotics (Base2B:Amoxicillin ratio 8:1) to active stony coral tissue loss disease lesions at 4 sites across the territory on a monthly basis (Hull Bay, Cane Bay, Butler Bay, and Frederiksted Pier). Treatments began in March 2022 and as of December 2022, a total of 2,264 corals have been treated across the 4 sites (Figure 1). By far, the Cane Bay site has the highest number of treatments applied. This is due to the high density of corals at this site, a large reef area to cover, and the extra 2 NOAA divers who join the SeaVentures team for treatment missions. As the USVI is currently in the endemic phase of disease, the majority (72%) of corals treated are within the *Orbicella* genus (Figure 2). The manpower required to achieve this level of treatment is significant. To date, divers have cumulatively spent approximately 189 hours underwater (Table 2). The USVI SeaVentures strike team averages 12 corals treated per dive per diver (Table 2).

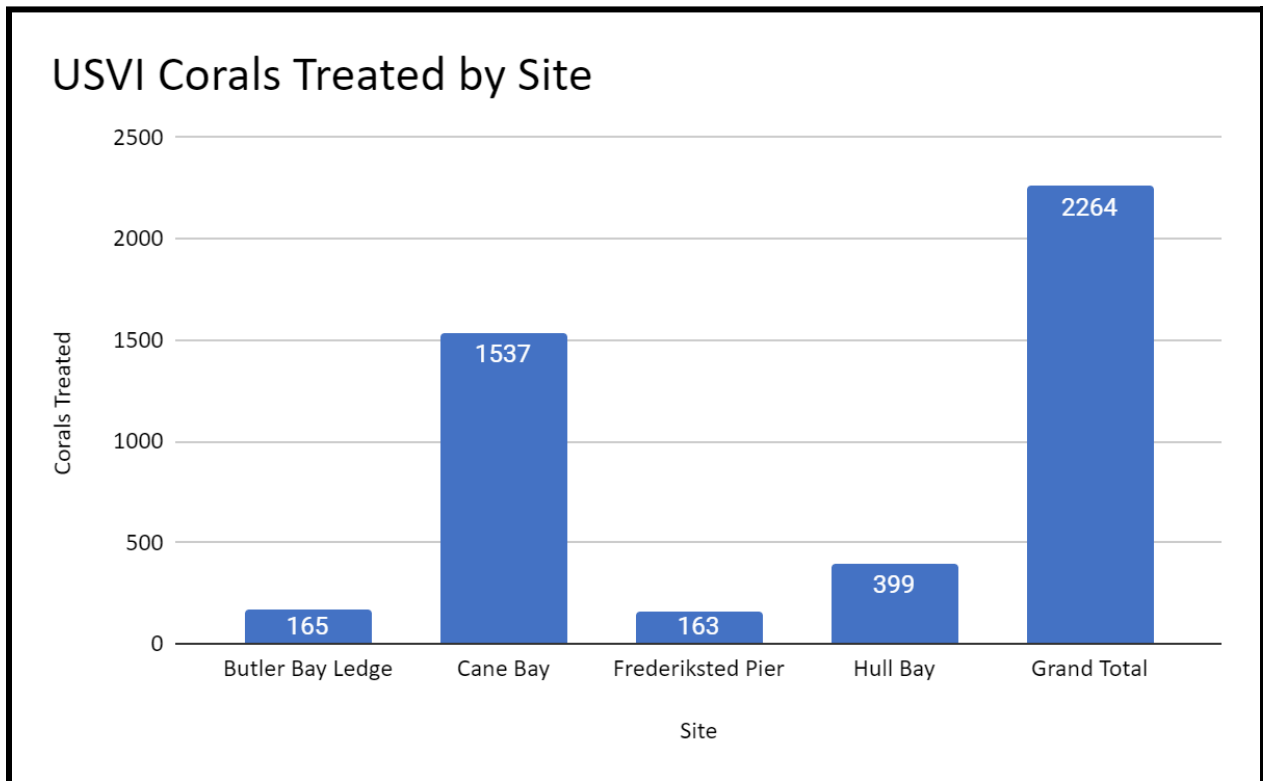


Figure 1: Total corals treated by SeaVentures in the USVI from March 2022 - December 2022

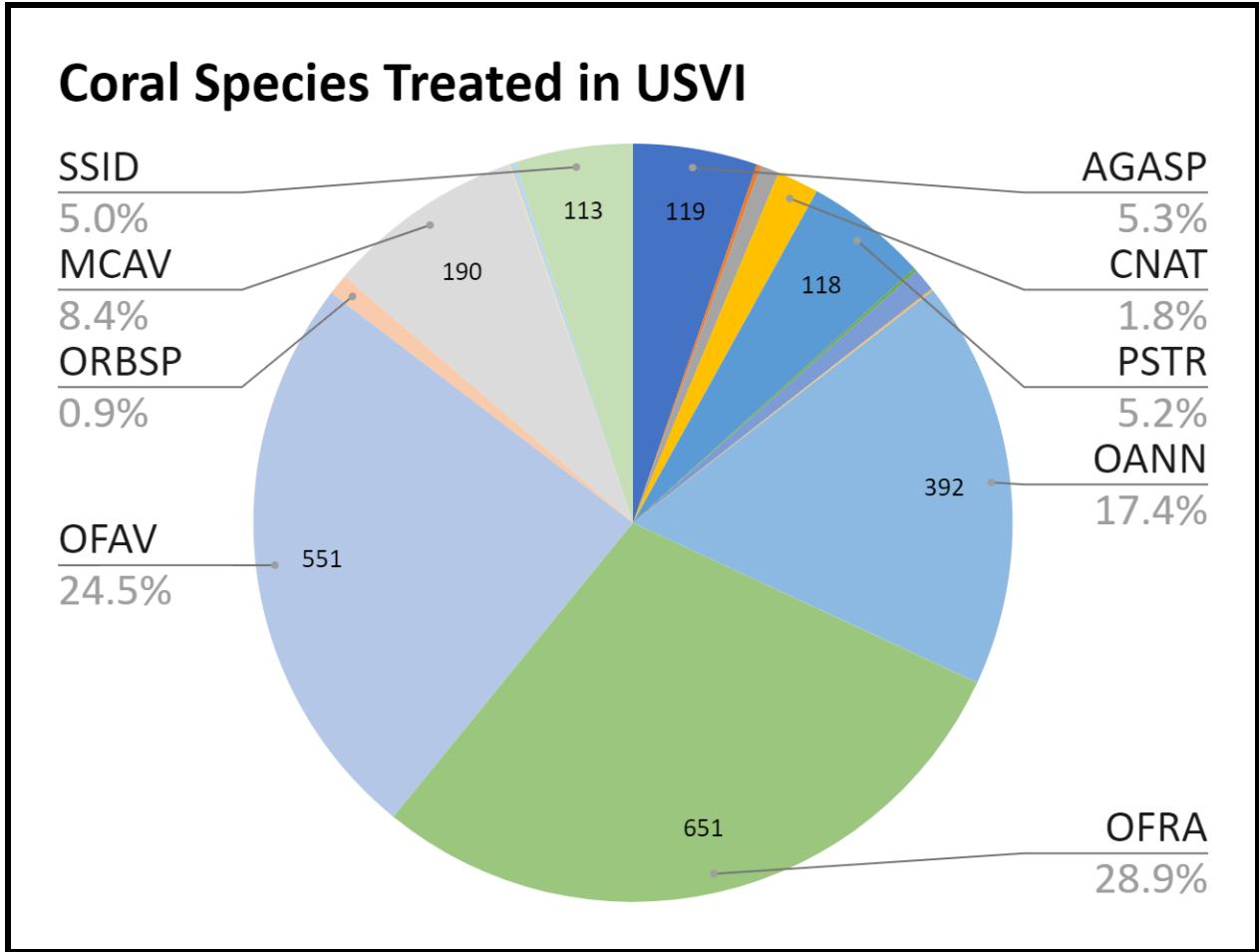


Figure 2: Coral species treated in the USVI from March 2022 - December 2022. Coral species codes can be found in Table 1 below. N = 2264.

Table 1: USVI coral species codes

Scientific Name	Coral Code
<i>Agaricia</i> species	AGAsp
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i>	CNAT
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	DCYL
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i>	DLAB
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i>	DSTO
<i>Eusmelia fastigiata</i>	EFAS
<i>Montastrea cavernosa</i>	MCAV
<i>Meandrina</i> species	MMEA
<i>Mycetophyllia</i> species	MYCsp
<i>Orbicella annularis</i>	OANN

<i>Orbicella faveolata</i>	OFAV
<i>Orbicella franksii</i>	OFRA
<i>Orbicella</i> species	ORBsp
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i>	PCLI
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i>	PSTR
<i>Solenastrea bournoni</i>	SBOU
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i>	SINT
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i>	SSID

Table 2: Corals treated vs human effort

Site	Number of individual dives	Total corals Treated	Average corals treated per diver on a single dive
Butler Bay Ledge	12	165	14
Cane Bay	101	1537	15
Frederiksted Pier	12	163	14
Hull Bay	64	399	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2264</b>	<b>12</b>