

The Virgin Islands Reef Resilience Program

BleachWatch Reef Assessment Data Sheet

A. OBSERVER INFORMATION: Date of Visit: _____ Time: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

(*please circle*): Resident Visitor Tourism Industry Commercial Research Education Other

Vessel/Organization (*if applicable*): _____

B. SITE INFORMATION: Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Location/Site Name: _____ Max. Depth: _____ Buoy #/ Area of Reef: _____

Reef Zone (*circle*) Fringing Reef Patch Reef Wall Mesophotic (30-100m) Nearshore/Lagoonal Other

Environmental Conditions: (Optional)

Wind Speed: _____ Air Temp: _____ Water Surface Temp: _____ Water Bottom Temp: _____

Cloud Cover (*circle*): Clear Partly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Overcast

Did You Observe Signs of Bleaching? *Please Check*

YES—Continue with Section C **No**- Finished

C. BASIC BLEACHING OBSERVATIONS (Use 1,2,3,4 and 5 to indicate observations per station)

<i>In general, how severe was the bleaching over entire site?</i>	<i>Types of Corals Bleached?</i>	<i>Percent of live coral bleached?</i>	<i>Depth Range of bleaching?</i>
_____ Bleached only on upper surface	_____ Brain	_____ 0%	_____ MIN (ft)
_____ Pale (very light brown or yellowish)	_____ Branching	_____ 1-10%	
_____ Totally Bleached White	_____ Fleshy	_____ 11-30%	
_____ Bleached Coral with Algae	_____ Flowering/Cups	_____ 31-50%	_____ MAX (ft)
_____ Bleached in patches, splotchy	_____ Leaf/Plate/Sheet	_____ 51-75%	
	_____ Mound/Boulder	_____ 76-100%	
	_____ Soft Coral		

Fire Coral, Palythoa and Gorgonians are not Stony Corals, but are good baseline indicators of bleaching events.
Please circle the following if you saw bleaching on these species.

Hydrocorals (Fire Coral) Palythoa (Zoanthids) Gorgonians (Soft Corals)

D. NOTES: (specific species bleaching, coral disease, mortality, etc.)

Remember: If there is no bleaching, regular information about your site is valuable.

The VIRRP values your time and assistance.

Please direct any questions to:
vibleachwatch@tnc.org

Table 1: Percent Live Coral Bleaching

The figure below is to help estimate percent of living coral cover affected by bleaching on the overall site.

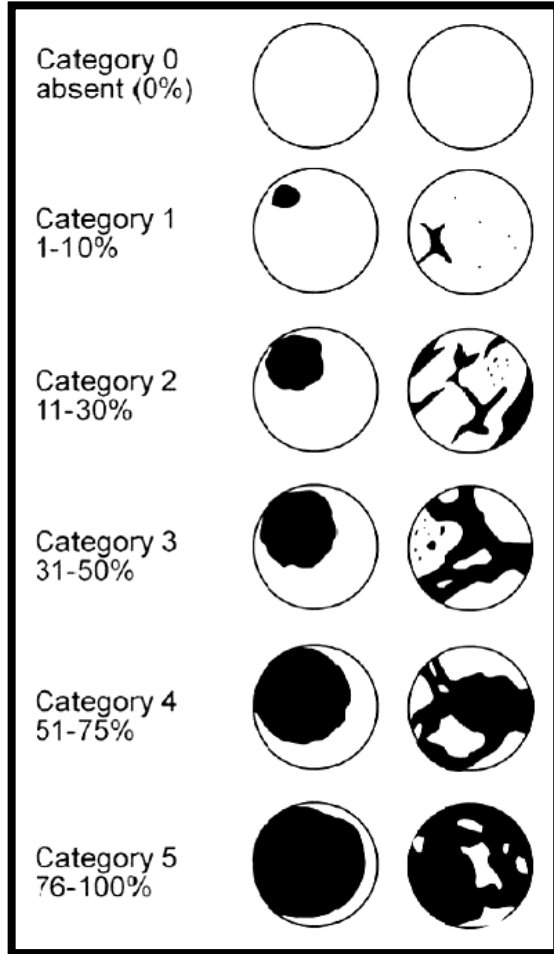


Table 3: Non-Stony Coral ID Key

The Table below helps identify major groups of non stony corals. These corals are great baseline indicators of a mass bleaching event.

Palythoa	Fire Coral	Gorgonians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cnidarian • Encrusting • Anemone-like • Zooanthidae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrocoral • Encrusting • Stinging Polyps • Milleporidae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Octocorals • Branching • Soft Corals • Gorgonians

Table 2: Coral ID Key

The Table below helps identify major groups of corals. More experienced observers are encouraged to identify by family, genus, and/or species where possible.

	<p>Brain Corals: Includes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Corals • Maze Corals • Rose Corals
	<p>Encrusting, Mound & Boulder: Includes all corals that often take the shape of what they grow over or the massive /boulder shaped excluding brain corals.</p>
	<p>Branching & Pillar Include all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branching • Pillar • Finger-like • Knobby
	<p>Plate, Leaf & Sheet Includes all corals that are flattened and are usually layered.</p>
	<p>Flowering & Cup Includes all corals that the corallites appears independent from the rest of the colony.</p>
	<p>Fleshy Corals Includes all corals with a fleshy appearance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cactus Corals

Drawings courtesy of Reef Coral Identification-2003 copyright New world Publications www.fishid.com

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VIRRP BleachWatch Database
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