

# Coral Disease Response Teams

## Goal:

- Collectively move the coral disease outbreak response efforts forward by dividing into teams that meet routinely to address ten priority topic areas. The priority topic areas were identified during a technical workshop of coral disease response partners in July 2018. Collaboration between teams is highly encouraged and information produced by each team will be used to inform an overall Florida Coral Disease Response Plan.

## Team Organization:

- Each team will have one to three “co-leads” who are responsible for organizing their team, facilitating team meetings, and guiding progress towards their team objectives. Co-leads are listed alphabetically by last name.
- The team co-leads will be responsible for providing updates, when appropriate, at the biweekly Disease Advisory Committee (DAC) calls and to the Coral Disease Response Coordinator. They will also be responsible for coordinating with the Data Management Team.
- Weekly team meetings are initially suggested, but scheduling can be refined by each team based on their needs.
- Partners with appropriate expertise or interest in any particular team can join that team by emailing a request to the relevant co-leads.

## Coral Disease Response Coordinator

- The Coral Disease Response Coordinator is responsible for collaborating with and supporting the team co-leads to help make progress in the priority areas. The Coral Disease Response Coordinator will work to identify opportunities for collaboration and synergy between teams. The Coral Disease Response Coordinator will serve as a conduit of information to and from the Executive Coordination Team (below).

## Executive Coordination Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Executive Coordination Team (ECT) will work together to track overall disease response progress, assess resource needs and overall response priorities, seek to identify potential sources for additional resources, and brief their respective agency leadership and appropriate state and federal legislators on progress. While funding decisions ultimately lie with the responsible agency, wherever possible, decisions will be made collaboratively.
- Members:
  - Kevin Claridge (DEP), Sarah Fangman (NOAA-FKNMS), Gil McRae (FWC)

## Teams:

### Management Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Management Team is responsible for tracking funding, identifying priority resource gaps, and recommending funding allocations to the ECT. The Management Team will review and assess, where appropriate, project proposals, action plans, and other team products. The Management Team will draft relevant Leadership asks and can serve as a venue for updates or discussions on ‘big picture’ environmental issues (where possible, to include specific tie-ins to this coral disease outbreak).
- Lead:
  - Maurizio Martinelli (Sea Grant)

### Reconnaissance & Intervention Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Reconnaissance & Intervention Team is responsible for the efforts to identify, track, and map the leading edge of the disease front. Where possible, they may assist partners outside Florida with similar endeavors. The Reconnaissance & Intervention Team is also responsible for identifying sites and colonies within the invasion, epidemic, and endemic zones for treatment, and for developing relevant protocols

and decision-making tools. The Reconnaissance & Intervention Team will, where possible, work to identify novel treatments or improve existing treatment methodologies.

- Co-Leads:
  - Karen Neely (NSU), Stephanie Schopmeyer (FWC)

#### Research & Epidemiology Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Research & Epidemiology Team is responsible for identifying the overarching research needs related to the current coral disease outbreak, and working collaboratively to begin addressing the research gaps. The Research & Epidemiology Team will review all research project proposals and reports. As appropriate, the Research & Epidemiology Team may subdivide according to specific research areas (e.g., histology, microbiology, spatial epidemiology), guided by an expert in the field.
- Co-Leads:
  - Andy Bruckner (FKNMS), Karen Neely (NSU)

#### Coral Rescue Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Coral Rescue Team is responsible for the development of a reef-tract wide coral collection and housing plan to ensure an appropriate number of individuals from affected species are held in captivity for future reintroduction to the wild. The Coral Rescue Team is also responsible for coordinating the stepwise implementation of this plan, including soliciting partners and collaborators for these efforts.
- Co-Leads:
  - Lisa Gregg (FWC), Jennifer Moore (NOAA)

#### Restoration Trials Team

- Objectives:
  - The Restoration Trials Team is responsible for developing trials and conducting or coordinating monitoring Restoration Trials of outplants to help determine when and where coral restoration should occur. This may include determining whether non-affected species can be disease reservoirs or vectors, outplants of susceptible species are surviving at acceptable levels, outplanting of susceptible species might impact local disease prevalence, and addressing priority research questions. The Restoration Trials Team will develop a Restoration Action Plan that contains recommendations for future restoration efforts.
- Co-Leads:
  - Kristi Kerrigan (DEP), Erinn Muller (Mote)

#### Communications Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Communications Team is responsible for advancing all forms of communications surrounding the coral disease outbreak. This may include: developing basic briefing materials, developing a speaker's bureau to field presentation requests, coordinating messaging between partners, and assisting partners with requests from media. The Communications Team may collaborate with the Citizen Engagement Team (below) where appropriate.
- Co-Leads:
  - Francisco Pagan (DEP), Gena Parsons (FKNMS)

#### Citizen Engagement Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Citizen Engagement Team is responsible for educating and facilitating the participation, where appropriate, of members of the public in certain aspects of the disease response. The goal is to ensure that there are opportunities to make meaningful contributions to the overall response efforts, especially in sectors that hold strong interests in coral reef health.
- Co-Leads:
  - Andy Bruckner (NOAA FKNMS), Shelly Krueger (Sea Grant), Ana Zangroniz (Sea Grant)

## Data Management Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Data Management Team is responsible for understanding each team's data needs and availability, and ensuring that relevant data are organized, transparent, synthesized, and made available to all partners in a timely manner. The Data Management Team will assist in data visualization where appropriate. The other nine response teams should identify a representative to join Data Management Team discussions.
- Co-Leads:
  - Nick Alcaraz (FWC), Rene Baumstark (FWC)

## Regulatory Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Regulatory Team is responsible for coordinating the issuance of permits for response activities underway in the various jurisdictions, ensuring (where possible) the regulatory compliance of response activities, and considering whether there are needs to enhance capacity for processing requests for new response activities.
- Co-Leads:
  - Joanne Delaney (NOAA FKNMS), Lisa Gregg (FWC), Jocelyn Karazsia (NOAA NMFS)

## Caribbean Cooperation Team:

- Objectives:
  - The Caribbean Cooperation Team is responsible for facilitating communication between Florida response partners and folks in other coral reef jurisdictions. The Caribbean Cooperation Team is responsible for tracking reports of similarly appearing disease signs outside of Florida, disseminating information and response tools, receiving any new information (e.g., new intervention techniques, research findings) from other jurisdictions, and facilitating learning exchanges.
- Co-Leads:
  - Jennifer Koss (NOAA CRCP), Judy Lang (AGRRA), Dana Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA CRCP)