



Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

terminology for clear science communications

A partnership between:



MISLEADING LANGUAGE	MORE ACCURATE TO SAY
White disease	Tissue loss disease
SCTLD acronym	Coral disease affecting hard corals
Mysterious	Emerging, newly occurring disease
Unidentified	Named by scientists as stony coral tissue loss disease
Confused with other diseases	Shares similarities with some other coral diseases
Contagious	Spreads rapidly among stony corals but does not affect humans
Unknown disease	Scientists are working to document the outbreak and develop advanced treatments
Cause unknown	Partners regionally are researching the disease; Scientists are working to identify pathogen(s) responsible
Unmanageable	Targeted, strategic efforts
Closure of reef	Quarantine
Culling	Strategic removal or rescue
Use antibiotics	Strategic, small-scale application of Antibiotics
Uncertain about plans	Range of approaches needed

Highly susceptible species



Meandrina meandrites



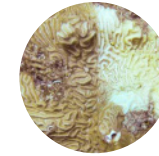
Eusmilia fastigiata



Dendrogyra cylindrus



Dichocoenia stokesii



Pseudodiploria clivosa



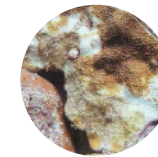
Diploria labyrinthiformis



Colpophyllia natans



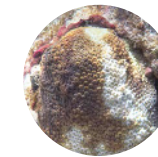
Pseudodiploria strigosa



Orbicella species



Siderastrea siderea



Montastrea cavernosa

What's at stake?

Our highly diverse and economically valuable coral reef ecosystems.

What can we do?

While the situation is urgent, it is not too late to save these incredibly important ecosystems. Corals are resilient if given the chance and the enabling conditions for their growth and survival.

The key is reducing local and global stressors to support reproduction, growth, and survival.

