## **MEMO**

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From	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation	To Director of Environmental Protection
Ref	in AF EA 034/06	(Attn. Mable CHAN )
Tel No.	2150 6891	Your Ref. (9) in EP2/H16/O/05 Pt.5
Fax No.	2377 4427	dated28.6.07
Date _	18 July 2007	Total Pages1

### Repositioning and Long Term Operation Plan of Ocean Park Environmental Permit No. EP-249/2006A

#### **Baseline Coral Survey**

I refer to your memo of 28 June 2007 concerning the Baseline Coral Survey of the above project and we have the following comments:-

Paragraph 5.1.3, line 6, page 20

Table 4.4 should be Table 5.1. Please check and amend.

Table 4.4.f, page 19

Please advise why 2 coral species are tagged (as marked as F08) in Control Site C.

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation



### Ocean Park Master Redevelopment Project Contract No. CI05 – Site Formation, Funicular Tunnel and Miscellaneous Works

# **Submission Review Record**

Contractor's Submission Reference No. OPE/DBJV/CSF/20085/A – Project Baseline Coral Survey					Fo	or MCAL Use	·	
Item No	Review By	Document / Drawing Reference	Reply Code	PMR's Comments	DBJV's Response	Action	Action Date	Closed Date
1	AFCD	Para 5.1.3 line 6, page 20		Table 4.4 should be Table 5.1. Please check and amend.	Noticed and amended. Thanks for the correction.			
2	AFCD	Table 4.4f, page 19		Please advise why 2 coral species are tagged (as marked as F08) in Control Site C.	The F08 colony was found to be suitable as monitoring colony in terms of size and condition. It is composed of two species growing together. Data of the two species were collected separately. For clarity, the two species will be reported (as F08a and F08b) and analyzed independently in the subsequent monitoring reports.			

DBJV 00 04 – Rev. A

# Ocean Park Master Redevelopment Project Contract No. CI 05

EP-249/2006/A – Condition 3.3, Baseline Coral Survey

Report (Rev. A)

Submitted by DBJV on 1-Jun-07

Certified by

on 3-Jun-07

Project Environmental Team Leader

**Verified by** Independent Environmental Checker **on** 4-Jun -07 IEC Certificate attached in the submission? Yes

Submitted to Ocean Park on 15-Jun-07

Ocean Park Master Redevelopment Project

Environmental Permit No. EP-249/2006/A - Condition 3.3

**Baseline Coral Survey Report** 

Submitted by Dragages-Bouygues JV on 01-06-2007

This is to verify that

**Baseline Coral Survey Report** 

Submitted by Dragages-Bouygues JV

On 01-06-2007

Has been verified by the undersigned.

Signed

Dr Anne F Kerr

Independent Environmental Checker (IEC) Retained by Ocean Park Corporation

pursuant to Environmental Permit No. EP-249/2006/A

Date

4 June 2007



# OCEAN PARK CORPORATION MASTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

#### **CONTRACT NO. CI05**

# SITE FORMATION, FUNICULAR TUNNEL AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

#### **CORAL SURVEY - BASELINE REPORT**

CLIENT:

**Dragages-Bouygues Joint Venture** 

Ocean Park Aberdeen Hong Kong CHECKED BY:

Lam Laboratories Limited

Room 1411-16 14/F Honour Industrial Centre 6 Sun Yip Street, Chai Wan, H.K.

Telephone: (852) 2897-3282 Facsimile: (852) 2897-5509 E-mail: info@lamlab.com Website: http://www.lamlab.com

**APPROVED BY:** 

Raymond Dai Project Manager

DATE:

1 Jun 2007

# Ocean Park Corporation Master Redevelopment Project Contract No. C105

## **Site Formation, Funicular Tunnel and Miscellaneous Works**



Report for
Initial Coral Survey and Coral Tagging Exercise

27 April 2007



## miniprojects co. Ltd.

# Ocean Park Corporation Master Redevelopment Project Contract No. C105

Site Formation, Funicular Tunnel and Miscellaneous Works

# Report for Initial Coral Survey and Coral Tagging Exercise

27 April 2007

Prepared by: miniprojects co. Ltd. Lam Laboratories Limited

miniprojects co. Ltd. Initial Coral Survey

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Ocean Park planned to upgrade and expand the existing area to meet the anticipated visitor demands and to position Ocean Park as a premium tourist attraction and a regional leader in the themed recreational and educational park experience.
- 1.1.2 Lam Laboratories Limited (LAM) has been appointed to formulate a Coral Survey Team to conduct the Marine Ecology Survey for Ocean Park Corporation Master Redevelopment Project Contract No. C105 Site Formation, Funicular Tunnel and Miscellaneous Works.
- 1.1.3 miniprojects Company Limited (miniprojects co. Ltd.) have been commissioned by LAM to undertake coral surveys and tagged coral monitoring at five monitoring sites around the construction site and one control site for captioned project. This report presents the results of the initial coral surveys conducted in April 2007.
- 1.1.4 Monitoring surveys of the coral community for the marine ecological EM&A were required in accordance with the EM&A manual. Monitoring requirement for initial coral survey and coral tagging exercise are presented in Appendix I.
- 1.1.5 This report presents the findings of,
  - Initial coral survey at six sites (five monitoring and one control)
  - Tagging of hard coral colonies at the six sites for monitoring during the construction works
- 1.1.6 As background to this initial survey, a brief review of previous subtidal survey findings has been included and is presented in Section 2 of this report. The report then goes on to describe the survey methodology (Section 3) and results (Section 4) for both the initial survey and tagged coral study at the six sites.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 2 Initial Coral Survey

#### 2 PREVIOUS SURVEY FINDINGS

- 2.1 Repositioning and Long Term Operation Plan of Ocean Park Environmental Impact Assessment Study Maunsell Consultant Asia Ltd.
- 2.1.1 The only available previous information on coral community around the construction area is from the dive survey conducted in 2005 for the EIA Ocean Park development.
- 2.1.2 The five survey sites in the 2005 report correspond to Sites 1 to 5 of the present survey. Data were collected using the semi-quantitative Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) method that provided general information on the biological and ecological attributes of the study areas. The existing data are summarized in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Summary of Site Description for the 5 Coral Survey Sites in 2005 Survey.

Survey.						
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
	Substrate Type	Large boulder	Continuous pavement	Continuous pavement	Continuous pavement	Artificial Seawall
Shallow	Hard Coral Cover (%)	10	5	5	1	1
	Soft Coral Cover (%)	0	0	1	1	0
	Substrate Type	Small blocks & sand	Sand	Large boulder & small block	Continuous pavement	Large boulder
Middle	Hard Coral Cover (%)	5	1	1	1	0
	Soft Coral Cover (%)	0	0	5	3	0
	Substrate Type	Sand	Sand	Sand & large boulder	Large boulder	Sand
Deep	Hard Coral Cover (%)	0	0	0	1	0
	Soft Coral Cover (%)	0	0	3	3	1
Number Coral Sp		16	13	8	7	1
Number Taxa	of Soft Coral	0	0	9	7	1

2.1.3 In the 2005 survey, the shallow zone at Sites 1 and 2 had the highest total species (including hard and soft coral and other benthic organisms) recorded, 17 and 18, respectively. The lowest total species was recorded from the deep zone of Site 2 with only one taxon observed. The highest diversity was recorded from the shallow zone of Sites 1 and 2. Furthermore, Site 5 had a low diversity and species richness from all zones, i.e., shallow, middle and deep. The highest hard coral cover was recorded at Site 1 and was estimated at 10% in the shallow zone. Soft coral cover was highest for the middle zone at Site 3 and was estimated at 5%.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 3 Initial Coral Survey

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Initial Coral Survey

- 3.1.1 Initial coral survey was conducted at the five monitoring sites (Sites 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) and one control site (Control Site C) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007.
- 3.1.2 The purpose of initial coral survey is to verify the status of coral community in the 6 sites in terms of species composition, abundance, cover and healthiness before the commencement of the construction. Baseline data collected in this survey serve as reference materials for post-construction survey to evaluate the possible impact of the construction on the marine environment. Quantitative data on substrate characteristics and coral community status were collected using random transect (line and bell) method.
- 3.1.3 At each site, 3 x 30 m transects were laid randomly and parallel to the coastline at the depth between 3 and 9 m where corals are commonly located. Locations of the starting and ending points of each transect were recorded by GPS (GPSmap 60CS, Garmin).
- 3.1.4 General physical parameters were recorded for each survey site, including substrate characteristics, visibility, weather, tidal conditions and water current. Common benthic flora and fauna were also described.
- 3.1.5 Quantitative data on the substrate type were examined along the transect lines. The substrate and sessile organisms were classified into 12 categories; type of substrate was recorded at 0.5 m intervals on each transect. Percentage cover of each category was computed for each survey site. The 12 substrate types are listed as below,
  - Bare rock
  - Sand and shell debris
  - Silt
  - Sponge
  - Macroalgae
  - Encrusting algae
  - Coralline algae
  - Bryozoan
  - Barnacles
  - Hard coral
  - Soft coral
  - Sea anemone
- 3.1.6 Quantitative data on coral community were inspected by belt transect method. A belt transect of 2 m wide, i.e. 1 m on either side of the transect line, was surveyed for any coral colony exist within the swath. Each coral colony was identified to species level, the colony size, the percentage area of sedimentation on colony surface, the percentage area of bleaching and recent mortality were recorded. Photographs were taken for representative colonies.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 4 Initial Coral Survey

3.1.7 Abundance (number of colonies), number of species (S), and Shannon-Weiner diversity (H') (Shannon and Weaver 1963) were computed for each survey site. Multivariate analyses were performed to determine spatial variations in the substrate composition (relative % of 12 substrate types from 6 sites, n = 3 transects for each site). All multivariate analyses were based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrices calculated from non-transformed data. To visualize multivariate patterns, non-metric multi-dimensional scaling (nMDS) ordination was performed using PRIMER 6 (Clarke and Gorley 2006). Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM) was used to test the significance of the spatial patterns shown in the nMDS ordination. Similarity percentage (SIMPER) procedure in PRIMER was used to identify the substrate types or coral species, which contributed to the observed patterns.

#### 3.2 Coral Tagging Exercise

- 3.2.1 At each site, at least 10 hard coral colonies were identified to species level (if possible) and tagged for impact monitoring during the construction works. Corals were tagged giving priority to the largest, undamaged colonies since damage to these colonies would be more evident compared to smaller colonies or corals with existing damage. Corals were also selected for tagging based on the most suitable coral species and growth forms. As far as possible, tagging of hard coral species with tall polyps were avoided due to their higher tolerance of sedimentation.
- 3.2.2 The selected colonies were tagged using two-level marking,
  - A numbered stone, painted in bright yellow, was placed next to each tagged colony,
  - A numbered plastic tag was nailed into an adjacent piece of hard substrate.
- 3.2.3 For each tagged coral, specific detailed information was collected including species identification, size, growth form, depth and general condition for immediate surroundings. The health status of each tagged coral colony was carefully recorded, including information on existing surface area with partial mortality and bleached area. Sediment cover was recorded including percentage cover, texture and approximate thickness of sediment on the colony. Any contiguous patches of sediment cover >10% should be counted. The condition of each tagged coral colony was recorded by taking a photograph from an angle and distance that best represents the entire colony.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 5 Initial Coral Survey

#### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Initial Coral Survey

- 4.1.1 Geographic location of each transect in each survey site was recorded by GPS (Table 4.1) and illustrated in Fig. 4.1. Physical parameters at each site, including depth of transects, level of sedimentation on rock surface, visibility, tidal condition and water current are recorded and summarized in Table 4.1.
- 4.1.2 Percentage cover of the 12 substrate types was computed and illustrated in Figs. 4.2a-c. Summary of physical environment and coral cover was shown in Table 4.2.
- 4.1.3 Recorded of individual coral colonies, area of sediment, bleaching and mortality for each transect of the 6 survey sites are presented in Appendix II. Summary of coral community for each site is shown in Table 4.2, and record of hard coral species is listed in Table 4.3.
- 4.1.4 Among the 5 monitoring sites, the subtidal environment showed different level of variation in physical and biological characteristics. Sites 1 and 2, located at east coast of Nam Long Shan, are relatively sheltered, with gentler slope and mainly covered with boulders and rubbles. Higher abundance of hard corals was observed and colonies mainly reside on the boulder surfaces. Sites 3 and 4 at the south coast are more exposed to wave action and tidal current from the East Lamma Channel. The substrate profile is steeper and composed mainly of bedrock. Lower abundance of corals was found, encrusted on the bedrock surface. Site 5 was a sheltered bay at the west coast, but the site is affected by relatively potent tidal current. Hard corals were scarcely observed on boulder surfaces. The Control Site C was situated in St. Stephen's Beach where is a sheltered bay covered mainly by boulders, sand, high abundance and diversity of hard corals.
- 4.1.5 The substrate compositions at Site 1, Site 2 and Control Site C were clearly separated from the other sites in nMDS ordinations, in which the groups with shorter distance are more similar (Fig. 4.3). These site differences were confirmed by ANOSIM (R = 0.885, p < 0.001), which revealed significant site differences in substrate compositions. Samples from Control Site C were significantly separated from samples collected at Sites 1 and 2, which were similar to each other (Fig. 4.3). SIMPER showed that higher average dissimilarity (ADS) was found between Control Site C and Sites 3 (78.2 %), 4 (69.1 %) and 5 (75.7 %) than between Control Site C and Sites 1 (47.6 %) and 2 (46.3 %). Control Site C was characterized by higher percentage covers of coral (mean of 3 transects, 23.3 % vs. 2.2 - 12.8 % at other sites), barnacles (31.3 %) and coralline algae (13.9 %) (Fig. 4.2c). Sites 1 and 2 exhibited higher percentage cover of macroalgae (27.3 and 25.0 %, respectively; Fig. 4.2a), whilst Sites 3 and 4 were dominated by encrusting algae (56.1 and 39.43 %, respectively; Fig. 4.2b), and the substrates of Site 5 was mostly covered by silt layer (43.9 %) (Fig. 4.2c).

miniprojects co. Ltd. 6 Initial Coral Survey

**Table 4.1 Coral Survey Sites and Conditions.** 

	Transact			Depth	Sedimentation on Rocks	Visibility			Current
Site	Replicate	GPS	S Coordinates	(m)	Surface (mm)	(m)	Weather	Tide	(knot)
		Start	N 22°14'34.2" E 114°10'43.1"						
	T1	End	N 22°14'33.3"	- 3.6-4.8	0-1				
			E 114°10'43.0" N 22°14'33.1"						
1	T2	Start	E 114°10'43.0"	- 3.6-3.9	0-1	1-1.5	calm,	ebb	0-0.5
		End	N 22°14'32.3" E 114°10'42.6"				cloudy	Coo	
		Start	N 22°14'32.1"						
	Т3		E 114°10'42.5" N 22°14'31.4"	- 3.3-4.5	0-1				
		End	E 114°10'41.8" N 22°14'25.5"						
	T1	Start	E 114°10'36.6"	- 3.6-3.9	0-1				
	11	End	N 22°14'24.6" E 114°10'36.6"	3.0 3.7	0 1				
		Start	N 22°14'24.5"						
2	T2		E 114°10'36.5" N 22°14'23.7"	4.2-4.5	0-2	1-1.5	calm, cloudy	ebb	0-0.5
		End	E 114°10'36.4"						
	Т3	Start	N 22°14'23.6" E 114°10'36.4"	- 3.6-3.9	0-1				
	13	End	N 22°14'22.8" E 114°10'35.9"	- 3.0-3.9	0-1				
		Start	N 22°13'49.5"						
	T1 -		E 114°10'14.1" N 22°13'49.9"	- 5.5-6.7	0-2				
		End	E 114°10'13.2"						
2	T2 -	Start	N 22°13'49.7" E 114°10'13.2"	- 5.5-7.6	0-2	0.0.1.2	calm,	ebb	0.5-1.0
3		End	N 22°13'50.3" E 114°10'12.4"	- 3.3-7.0	0-2	0.8-1.3	cloudy	евв	0.5-1.0
	Т3 -	Start	N 22°13'50.2"	- 5.5-6.7					
			E 114°10'12.2" N 22°13'50.7"		0-2				
		End	E 114°10'11.4"						
	T1 -	Start	N 22°13'52.3" E 114°10'07.7"	- 8.2-9.4	1-4				
		End	N 22°13'53.0" E 114°10'06.9"		1-4				
		Start	N 22°13'53.2"						
4	T2		E 114°10'06.8" N 22°13'53.6"	5.8-9.1	0-4	0.7-1.2	calm, sunny	ebb	0.5-1.0
		End	E 114°10'05.9"						
	Т3	Start	N 22°13'53.7" E 114°10'05.7"	- 5.8-7.3	0-2				
	15	End	N 22°13'54.1" E 114°10'04.8"	3.0 7.3	0.2				
		Start	N 22°13'59.3"						
	T1		E 114°09'57.5" N 22°14'00.3"	5.2-6.1	2-5				
		End	E 114°09'57.6" N 22°14'00.7"						
5	T2	Start	E 114°09'58.0"	- 6.4-6.7	2-5	0.7-1.2	calm,	ebb	0.5-1.0
3	12	End	N 22°14'01.3" E 114°09'58.7"	0.4 0.7	2 3	0.7 1.2	cloudy	COO	0.5 1.0
		Start	N 22°14'01.8"						
	Т3		E 114°09'58.5" N 22°13'50.7"	- 6.1-7.0	2-5				
		End	E 114°09'58.4" N 22°12'48.6"						
	T1	Start	E 114°12'50.6"	- 2.7-4.5	0-1				
		End	N 22°12'49.5" E 114°12'50.4"		<del>-</del> -				
		Start	N 22°12'49.2"				calm		
C	T2	End	E 114°12'50.1" N 22°12'50.1"	2.4-3.6	0-1	0.7-1.2	calm, sunny	ebb	0-0.5
			E 114°12'49.8" N 22°12'50.1"						
	Т3 -	Start	E 114°12'50.1"	- 4.8-5.5	0-1				
			N 22°12'50.7"						

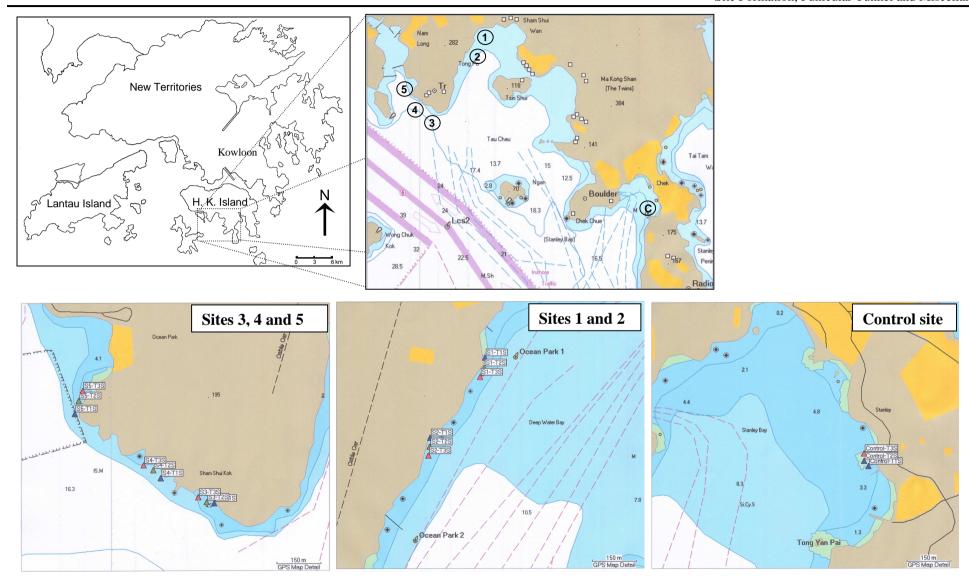


Fig. 4.1 Map Showing the Positions of the Transects (Only Starting Points are Shown) at the 6 Survey Sites.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 8 Initial Coral Survey

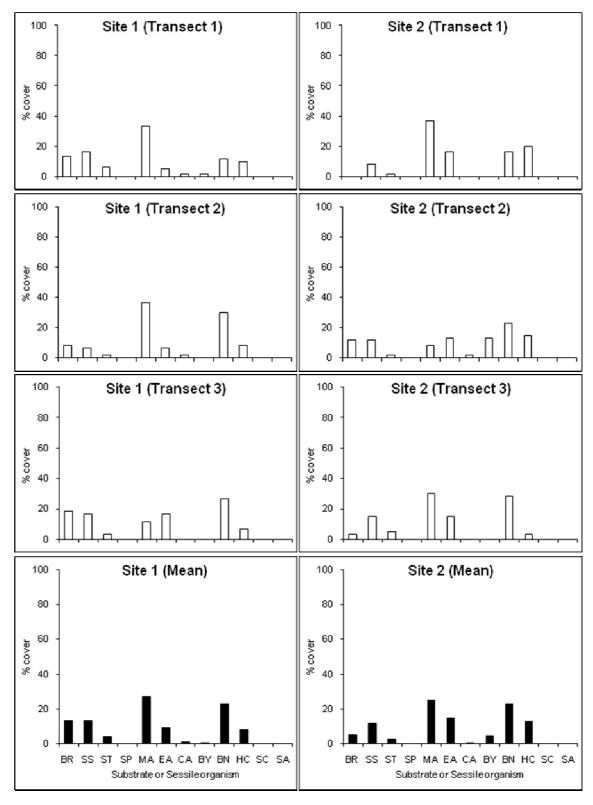


Fig. 4.2a Percentage Cover for Substrate or Sessile Organism Recorded in Each of the Three Transects and Mean for Sites 1 and 2 in April 2007. BR, bare rock; SS, sand and shell debris; ST, silt; SP, sponge; MA, macroalgae; EA, encrusting alage; CA, coralline algae; BY, bryozoan; BN, barnacle; HC, hard coral; SC, soft coral; SA, sea anemone.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 9 Initial Coral Survey

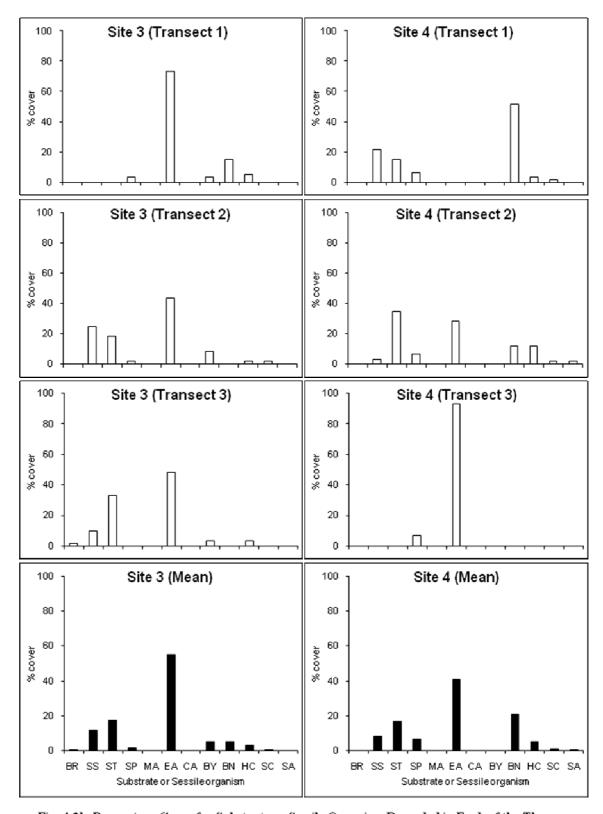


Fig. 4.2b Percentage Cover for Substrate or Sessile Organism Recorded in Each of the Three Transects and Mean for Sites 3 and 4 in April 2007. BR, bare rock; SS, sand and shell debris; ST, silt; SP, sponge; MA, macroalgae; EA, encrusting alage; CA, coralline algae; BY, bryozoan; BN, barnacle; HC, hard coral; SC, soft coral; SA, sea anemone.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 10 Initial Coral Survey

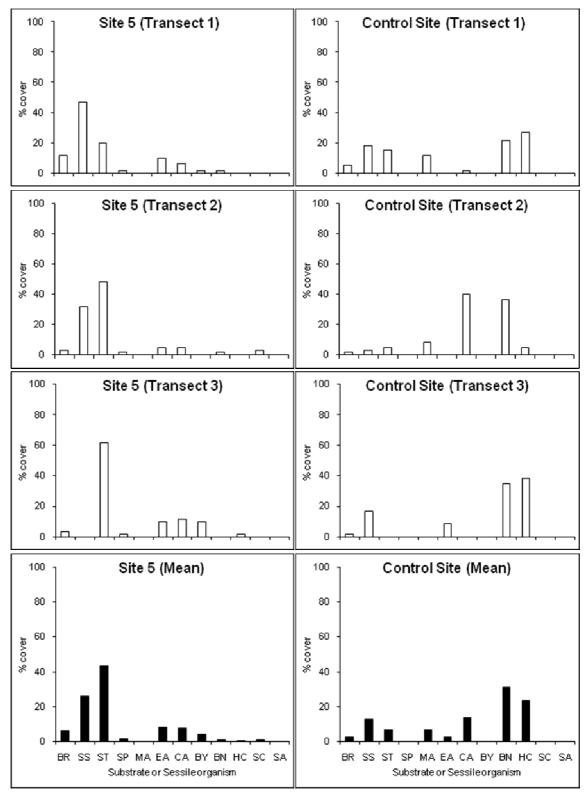


Fig. 4.2c Per centage Cover for Substrate or Sessile Organism Recorded in Each of the Three Transects and Mean for Site 5 and Control Site C in April 2007. BR, barerock; SS, sand and shell debris; ST, silt; SP, sponge; MA, macroalgae; EA, encrusting alage; CA, coralline algae; BY, bryozoan; BN, barnacle; HC, hard coral; SC, soft coral; SA, sea anemone.

miniprojects co. Ltd. 11 Initial Coral Survey

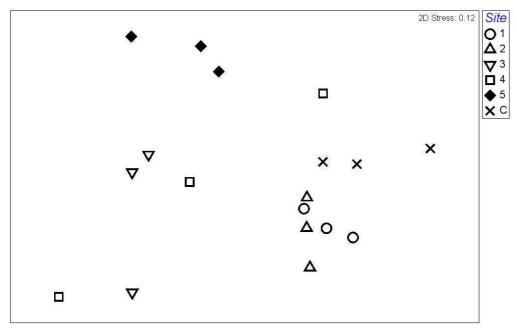


Fig. 4.3 nMDS Ordinations of Substrate Compositions at the 6 Survey Sites Based on Non-transformed Bray Curtis Similarity Matrix.

Table 4.2 Summary of Survey Site Habitat and Coral Community

		C!4. 1	G!4- 2	G!4 - 2	G!4 - A	G!4 - F	Control
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site C
	Substrate Type					Bedrock &	
		sand	sand	boulder	sand	boulder	sand
Line ransect	Hard Coral - Mean % Cover	8.3	12.8	3.3	5.0	0.6	23.3
Li Tran	Soft Coral - Mean % Cover (%)	0	0	0.6	1.1	1.1	0
	Hard Coral - Total Number of Colony	61	79	45	65	9	137
	Hard Coral - Total Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	18,420	23,220	13,880	10,300	1,330	51,080
	Hard Coral - Colony Size Range (cm <sup>2</sup> )	30-2,300	40-1,450	20-1,600	10-600	90-220	40-3,000
+	Hard Coral - Number of Species	12	15	14	7	4 + 3*	19 + 1*
Bell Transect	Shannon Diversity Index (H')	1.00	1.11	1.07	0.78	0.48	1.23
ell Tr	Hard Coral - Mean % Area sediment	0.98	1.86	1.22	1.30	2.66	0.98
m	Hard Soral - Mean % Area Bleaching	0	0.09	0	0	0	0
	Hard Coral - Mean % Area Mortality	0.13	0.14	0.29	0.08	0.33	0.77
	Soft Coral - Total Number of Colony	0	0	10	27	15	0
	Soft Coral - Number of Species	0	0	3	3	2	0

<sup>\*</sup> off transect record

Table 4.3 List of Hard and Soft Coral Species Recorded in the 6 Survey Sites.

Hard Coral	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Control Site C
Siderastreidae						
Psammocora profundacella				$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
Psammocora superficialis	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b> *	$\checkmark$
Acroporidae						
Montipora cf. turgescens			$\checkmark$	✓	$\checkmark$	
Montipora peltiformis.		✓	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$
Agariciidae						
Pavona decussata.	✓	✓	✓			$\checkmark$
Faviidae						
Favia favus						✓
Favia lizardensis	✓					
Favia rotumana	✓	✓				✓
Favia speciosa		✓	✓	✓		✓
Favites abdita	✓	✓	✓			✓
Favites pentagona	✓	✓				✓
Platygyra acuta	✓	✓	✓			✓
Platygyra carnosus	✓	✓	✓			✓
Montastrea magnistellata				✓		
Plesiastrea versipora	✓	✓	✓		<b>√</b> ∗	✓
Cyphastrea serailia.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Goniastrea aspera.		✓	✓			✓
Goniastrea favulus						<b>√</b> *
Leptastrea pruinosa	✓	✓			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Poritidae						
Goniopora stutchburyi			✓	✓	✓	✓
Porites sp.	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b> ∗	✓
Merulinidae						
Hydnophora exessa		✓				✓
Dendronphylliidae						
Turbinaria peltata			✓			✓
Total Number of Hard Coral Species	12	15	14	7	4 + 3*	19 + 1*
Soft Coral						
Alcyoniidae					,	
Lobophytum depressum.					✓	
Nephtheidae						
Dendronephthya sp.			✓	✓		
Plexauridae						
Euplexaura sp.			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Echinomuricea sp.			✓	✓		
<b>Total Number of Soft Coral Species</b>	0	0	3	3	2	0

<sup>\*</sup> off transect record

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#### Site 1

4.1.6 In Site 1, the sea bottom run from onshore to offshore in a gentle slope. The bedrock is replaced by boulders and sand at depth of around 3 m. The rock surface was mainly covered by seasonal macroalgae (27.2%), barnacle (22.8%) or bare rock (13.3%) (Fig. 4.2a). Hard coral cover (8.3%) was the second highest among the 5 monitoring sites (Table 4.2). Colonies were mainly observed at 3 to 6 m. From the bell transects, a total of 61 hard coral colonies from 12 species and 4 families was recorded (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Shannon diversity index (H') was 1.00. The common species include the brain coral *Platygyra carnosus* and *Favites abdita*, both belong to family Faviidae and are common species in shallow waters of Hong Kong. Health status of the colonies was generally normal; low level of sedimentation (0.98), bleaching (0%) and mortality (0.13%) was recorded.

#### Site 2

4.1.7 The substratum character of Site 2 is similar to Site 1; sea bottom are mainly composed of boulders and sand, the rock surface was mainly covered by seasonal macroalgae (25%), barnacle (22.8%) and encrusting algae (15%) (Fig. 4.2a). Hard coral cover (12.8%) was the highest among the 5 monitoring sites (Table 4.2) and corals mainly inhabit the depth from 3 to 6 m. Bell transect data recorded a total of 79 hard coral colonies from 15 species from 5 families (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Common species include *Favites pentagona* and *Platygyra carnosus*. Shannon diversity index (H') was higher than the other 4 monitoring sites (1.11). Heath of the existing coral was generally good, sedimentation (1.86%) and mortality (0.14%) was low. Bleaching (0.09%) was observed on few *Porites sp.* colonies but the portion is minor.

#### Site 3

Site 3 is a more exposed shore, the bottom is mainly covered with bedrock that 4.1.8 extends down to about 6 m before replaced by boulders, sand and silt. The bedrock and boulder surface was mainly inhabited with encrusting algae (55%) (Fig. 4.2b). Macroalgae was not recorded due to the unfavourable exposed environment. Hard coral cover (3.3%) was lower than Site 1 and 2 (Table 4.2) and were mainly found at 4 to 9 m. A total of 50 hard coral colonies was recorded in the bell transect which was composed of 14 species from 5 families (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Different from Site 1 and 2, the common hard coral species include Goniopora stutchburyi and Montipora cf. turgescens. The former is the common species usually found in deeper community, while Montipora cf. turgescens is an uncommon species that is associated with deeper and wavy habitat (Chan et al. 2005). Shannon diversity index (H') was relatively high in context (1.07). Sedimentation (1.22%) and mortality (0.29%) was low, and no bleaching was observed on the standing hard corals. Three species of soft coral were also recorded at the deeper portion of transect 2 and 3 (Table 4.3; Appendix II), no apparent mortality was evidenced in these colonies.

#### Site 4

Site 4 shares some substratum properties with Site 3 that bedrock runs down in 4.1.9 steep profile to about 6 to 9 m and connect to boulder or sand substrate. Due to the non-uniform topography, the 3 transects varied in depth and hence their associated flora and fauna. Transect 1 was located at greater depth where is mainly bedrock and sand, the rock surface was mainly covered by barnacle (51.7%) but no algae (Fig. 4.2b). Transect 2 transited from deeper to shallower water and transect 3 was mainly boulder at shallower water where encrusting algae (93.3%) is the major covering organism on the rock surface. Hard coral cover (5.0%) was similar to Site 3 (Table 4.2). The species composition and distribution, however, was highly biased. A total of 67 hard coral colonies was recorded on the bell transects, which was composed of only 7 species from 3 families (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Moreover, over 80% (55 out of 67 colonies) of the record was occupied by a single species Goniopora stutchburyi at the deeper portion of the transects. The Shannon diversity index (H') was highly reduced (0.78) due to the bias in hard coral composition. Health condition was generally good, little sedimentation (1.30%), no bleaching and low mortality (0.08%) was observed. Soft corals were also recorded at deeper region and species composition was similar to Site 3 (Table 4.3; Appendix II).

#### Site 5

4.1.10 Site 5 is relatively limited in hard substratum, boulders and rubbles extend to about 4 to 5 m and become scattered on sand (26.1%) or silt (43.3%). Rock surface was either bare (6.1%) or covered with encrusting algae (8.3%), coralline algae (7.8%) (Fig. 4.2c). Hard coral cover (0.6%) was the lowest of all survey sites. Only 9 hard coral colonies from 4 species and 3 families were found on the bell transects (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Three more species were observed away from the transects, the colonies were scattered. The record was dominated by *Goniopora stutchburyi* (7 of 9 colonies). The Shannon diversity index (H') was low (0.48). Sedimentation (2.66%) was higher than the other sites but still in low level. Little mortality (0.33%) and no bleaching were observed in the standing colonies. Two taxa of soft coral was found in the deeper region, both taxa are common record in local waters and no mortality was observed in the community (Table 4.3; Appendix II).

#### **Control Site C**

4.1.11 The Control Site C at St. Stephen's Beach is, similar to Site 1 and 2, a sheltered bay covered mainly by boulders and sand. The hard substratum was mainly inhabited by barnacle (31.1%), hard coral (23.3%) and coralline algae (13.9%) (Fig. 4.2c). Site 5 had higher values than the 5 monitoring sites in terms of hard coral cover (23.3%), number of colonies on bell transect (137), number of species (19) and Shannon diversity index (1.23) (Table 4.2). Common species included *Favia rotamana*, *Favites pentagona*, *Plesiastrea versipora* and *Favia specios* (Table 4.3; Appendix II). Level of sedimentation was low (0.98%) (Table 4.2). Higher mean mortality (0.77%) was recorded due to contribution from a 50%-mortality colony (*Favites pentagona*) in transect 3 (Appendix II).

The mortality was caused by abrasion like physical damage and no sign of infection or sickness was witnessed. All other colonies were normal in their health condition, and hence the site is suitable as a control site for monitoring survey.

4.1.12 Photographs of benthic organisms found at the Survey Sites are shown in Appendix III.

#### 4.2 Coral Tagging Exercise

- 4.2.1 The code, species name, area, sedimentation level, and percentage of bleaching and mortality of the tagged coral colonies at each site were summarized in Tables 4.4a-f. Photographs of the colonies were shown in Appendices IVa-f. The survey team had tried to take photographs of the corals from an angle and distance that best represented the colonies but difficulties sometimes occurred as a result of low water visibility during the surveys.
- 4.2.2 Tagging of hard coral species with tall polyps had been avoided. Few colonies of *Goniopora stutchburyi* had been, however, tagged in Sites 4 and 5 as the number of coral colonies that could be tagged were limited.
- 4.2.3 In general, the healthy status of the tagged coral colonies was normal, with low levels of sedimentation, bleaching and morality.

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Table 4.4a Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 1.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
A01	Platygyra carnosus	1000	0, 0	0	0
A02	Platygyra carnosus	2000	0, 0	0	0
A03	Favites pentagona	200	0, 0	0	0
A04	Leptastrea pruinosa	400	5, 1	0	0
A05	Platygyra carnosus	1200	0, 0	0	5
A06	Platygyra carnosus	1600	0, 0	0	0
A07	Favia rotumana	800	5,1	0	0
A08	Platygyra carnosus	1000	0, 0	0	0
A09	Platygyra carnosus	350	0, 0	0	0
A10	Platygyra carnosus	700	0, 0	0	0

Table 4.4b Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 2.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
B01	Platygyra carnosus	450	0, 0	0	0
B02	Plesiastrea versipora	300	0, 0	0	0
B03	Psammocora superficialis	1000	5, 1	0	0
B04	Favia speciosa	300	4, 1	0	0
B05	Plesiastrea versipora	900	3, 1	0	0
B06	Platygyra carnosus	600	0, 0	0	0
B07	Cyphastrea serailia	700	0, 0	0	0
B08	Plesiastrea versipora	1200	0, 0	0	0
B09	Favites pentagona	600	0, 0	0	0
B10	Favites pentagona	400	0, 0	0	0

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Table 4.4c Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 3.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
C01	Platygyra acuta	2000	0, 0	0	0
C02	Platygyra carnosus	1000	0, 0	0	0
C03	Porites sp.	400	5, 1	0	1
C04	Cyphastrea serailia	600	4, 1	0	0
C05	Pavona decussata	600	0, 0	0	0
C06	Pavona decussata	1200	0, 0	0	0
C07	Montipora cf. turgescens	200	2, 1	0	0
C08	Favia favus	600	4, 1	0	4
C09	Favites pentagona	150	1, 1	0	0
C10	Montipora peltiformis	300	0, 0	0	0

Table 4.4d Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 4.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
E01	Goniopora stutchburyi	300	0, 0	0	0
E02	Goniopora stutchburyi	200	0, 0	0	0
E03	Goniopora stutchburyi	150	0, 0	0	0
E04	Porites sp.	400	5, 1	0	0
E05	Goniopora stutchburyi	300	0, 0	0	0
E06	Goniopora stutchburyi	450	0, 0	0	0
E07	Favia speciosa	600	10, 1	0	0
E08	Porites sp.	150	2, 1	0	4
E09	Porites sp.	200	8, 1	0	4
E10	Porites sp.	500	0, 0	3	0

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Table 4.4e Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 5.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
D01	Psammocora sp.	600	10, 1	0	0
D02	Montipora cf. turgescens	100	6, 1	0	0
D03	Goniopora stutchburyi	400	0, 0	0	0
D04	Leptastrea pruinosa	500	4, 1	0	0
D05	Porites sp.	400	5, 1	1	4
D06	Plesiastrea versipora	1000	0, 0	0	5
D07	Leptastrea pruinosa	800	0, 0	0	0
D08	Plesiastrea versipora	100	0, 0	0	0
D09	Cyphastrea sp.	150	5, 1	0	0
D10	Montipora cf. turgescens	200	0, 0	0	0

Table 4.4f Code, Species Name, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies at Control Site C.

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm²)	Sedimentation (%, mm)	Bleaching (%)	Mortality (%)
F01	Favia speciosa	900	0, 0	0	0
F02	Favites pentagona	1000	4, 1	0	0
F03	Favites pentagona	800	0, 0	0	0
F04	Porites sp.	800	5, 1	4	4
F05	Cyphastrea serailia	800	4, 1	0	1
F06	Psammocora sp.	1800	0, 0	0	0
F07	Plesiastrea versipora	3000	0, 0	0	0
F08a	Favia speciosa	150	0, 0	0	0
F08b	Goniastrea favulus	300	0,0	0	0
F09	Favites pentagona	1800	10, 1	0	0
F10	Platygyra carnosus	2800	0, 0	0	0

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#### 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.1 Summary – Coral Community

- 5.1.1 The present survey recorded 23 hard coral species from the 5 monitoring and 1 control sites (Tables 4.2 and 4.3). Number of species at each site ranged from 7 to 20. Hard coral cover ranged from 0.6% to 23.3%. A total of 402 hard coral colonies was observed on the bell transects, ranged from 9 to 137 for the 6 sites. Sizes of coral colonies ranged from 10 to 3,000 cm<sup>2</sup>. Diversity index (H') ranged from 0.48 to 1.23. Mean sediment cover on corals (range 0.98 to 2.66%), mean bleaching area (range 0 to 0.09%) and mean mortality area (range 0.08 to 0.77) were low for all the six sites.
- 5.1.2 On site bases, Site 1, Site 2 and Control Site C had higher coral abundance and diversity, species composition was typical for southern shallow waters of Hong Kong. Similar communities had been reported at other locations such as Lamma Island and Stanley (MEMCL 2000; Hyder 2002). For Site 3, Site 4 and Site 5, corals were mainly located at greater depth, cover and abundance were lower and were composed of deeper water species.
- 5.1.3 In Hong Kong context, however, the values of coral cover, species composition and diversity were not high for all the 6 sites. Territory-wide information on local coral communities has been obtained in different surveys (OCL 2003, AFCD 2006), well developed coral communities were mainly located at Northeastern waters such as Hoi Ha Wan, Tung Ping Chau. Some of the representative sites are shown in Table 5.1, coral cover and number of coral species were much higher.

Table 5.1 Summary of the Coral Cover and Diversity of the 6 Survey Sites and Representative Communities in Hong Kong.

Site	% Coral Cover	Species Diversity (no. of species)	Shannon Diversity Index
Tung Ping Chau	69 <sup>1</sup>	47 <sup>2</sup>	$2.24^{2}$
Hoi Ha Wan	70 <sup>1</sup>	38 <sup>2</sup>	$1.60^{2}$
Bluff Island	63 <sup>1</sup>	43 <sup>2</sup>	$2.06^{2}$
Chek Chau	62 1	45 <sup>2</sup>	$1.41^{2}$
Long Ke Wan	59 <sup>1</sup>	44 <sup>2</sup>	$1.84^{2}$
Present Survey			
Site 1	8.3	12	1.00
Site 2	12.8	13	1.11
Site 3	3.3	13	1.07
Site 4	5.0	6	0.78
Site 5	0.6	3	0.48
Control Site C	23.3	18	1.23

Data from Reef Check 2006 (AFCD 2006)

5.1.4 In overall, although abundance and richness was not high, the communities in all sites were generally in good conditions with low level of sedimentation,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OCL 2003

bleaching and mortality. Monitoring of the communities during the course of construction is necessary in order to avoid adverse impact to the standing corals.

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### **APPENDICES**

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#### **Appendix I Monitoring Requirements**

- 1.1 The construction phase coral monitoring programme should comprise an Initial Survey with coral tagging exercise, Impact Monitoring Surveys and a Post-Construction Monitoring Survey.
- 1.2 Coral monitoring work should be conducted by a qualified marine biologist with specialist knowledge of corals and sound experience at identifying corals in the field. To ensure consistency, it is recommended that the same coral specialist should be used on each dive survey. The coral specialist should be approved by AFCD prior to the commencement of the monitoring programme.

#### Initial Survey / Coral Tagging Exercise

- 1.3 A initial survey and coral tagging exercise at all 5 coral impact sites and one control site should be conducted preferably no more than one month before commencement of construction works. Tagging of a minimum of 10 hard coral colonies at each coral monitoring site is considered appropriate. Corals should be tagged giving priority to the largest, undamaged colonies since damage to these colonies would be more evident compared to smaller colonies or corals with existing damage. Corals should also be selected for tagging based on the most suitable coral species and growth forms. As far as possible, tagging of hard coral species with tall polyps should be avoided due to their higher tolerance of sedimentation.
- 1.4 Coral colonies should be tagged using small brightly coloured (e.g. orange or green) stones marked with labeled tags. For each tagged coral, specific detailed information should be collected including location, size, depth and general condition of their immediate surroundings. Tagged coral colonies should also be identified to species level.
- 1.5 The health status of each tagged coral colony should be carefully recorded, including information on existing surface area with partial mortality and bleached area. For each tagged hard coral colony, sediment cover should be recorded including percentage cover, colouration, texture and approximate thickness of sediment on the colony itself and on adjacent hard substrate. Any contiguous patches of sediment cover >10% should be counted. The condition of each tagged coral colony should also be recorded by taking a photograph from an angle and distance that best represents entire colony. The information of selected corals collected during the Baseline Survey should be submitted to AFCD for approval.

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#### Appendix II List of Hard and Soft Coral Colonies, Percentage Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality in Bell Transect Survey.

Sit	e 1														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Leptastrea pruinosa	200	0	5	0	Favites abdita	30	0	4	0	Favites pentagona	120	0	0	0
2	Favites pentagona	280	0	1	0	Favites abdita	110	0	2	0	Favia rotumana	100	0	0	0
3	Pavona decussata	260	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	140	0	3	0	Favia rotumana	130	0	0	0
4	Pavona decussata	90	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	160	0	10	0	Favia rotumana	140	0	1	0
5	Favites pentagona	110	0	1	0	Favites abdita	220	0	4	0	Platygyra acuta	220	0	0	0
6	Platygyra carnosus	40	0	0	0	Favites abdita	250	0	0	0	Favites abdita	290	0	3	0
7	Favites abdita	100	0	3	0	Platygyra carnosus	130	0	4	0	Platygyra carnosus	150	0	1	0
8	Platygyra carnosus	1300	0	0	0	Platygyra acuta	130	0	8	0	Platygyra carnosus	280	0	0	0
9	Favites pentagona	530	0	1	0	Favites pentagona	200	0	4	0	Platygyra carnosus	150	0	0	0
10	Favites pentagona	500	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	400	0	1	0	Favites abdita	130	0	3	0
11	Favia rotumana	280	0	3	0	Favites abdita	480	3	5	0	Favites abdita	180	0	5	0
12	Platygyra acuta	470	0	2	0	Favites abdita	100	0	1	0	Platygyra acuta	200	0	4	0
13	Favites abdita	330	0	2	0	Favites abdita	130	0	0	0	Favia lizardensis	200	5	5	0
14	Platygyra acuta	490	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	100	0	2	0	Favia rotumana	220	0	3	0
15	Platygyra acuta	250	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	160	0	1	0	Favia rotumana	180	0	2	0
16	Favites pentagona	260	0	0	0	Cyphastrea serailia	170	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	120	0	1	0
17	Favites abdita	330	0	0	0										
18	Platygyra acuta	230	0	1	0										
19	Platygyra carnosus	2300	0	0	0										
20	Favites pentagona	360	0	2	0										
21	Plesiastrea versipora	390	0	2	0										
22	Psammocora superficialis	400	0	3	0										
23	Psammocora superficialis	130	0	1	0										

Sit	e 1 (con't)														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
24	Porites sp.	180	0	0	0										
25	Psammocora superficialis	190	0	0	0										
26	Porites sp.	220	0	0	0										
27	Platygyra carnosus	1800	0	1	0										
28	Psammocora superficialis	350	0	2	0										
29	Porites sp.	330	0	0	0										

Sit	e 2														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Cyphastrea serailia	130	0	0	0	Porites sp.	250	0	4	3	Montipora peltiformis	200	0	0	0
2	Cyphastrea serailia	220	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	320	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	290	0	0	0
3	Cyphastrea serailia	250	0	0	0	Platygyra acuta	100	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	160	0	0	0
4	Platygyra acuta	280	0	1	0	Montipora peltiformis	320	0	0	0	Montipora peltiformis	210	0	0	0
5	Platygyra carnosus	140	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	120	0	2	0	Favites abdita	240	0	1	0
6	Cyphastrea serailia	40	0	0	0	Goniastrea aspera	80	0	0	0					
7	Cyphastrea serailia	850	0	4	0	Plesiastrea versipora	300	0	0	0					
8	Favites abdita	200	0	1	0	Favia rotumana	150	0	2	0					
9	Platygyra carnosus	230	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	400	0	0	0					
10	Favites pentagona	190	0	1	0	Leptastrea pruinosa	350	0	0	0					
11	Platygyra acuta	250	0	1	0	Plesiastrea versipora	550	2	2	0					
12	Favites pentagona	180	0	0	0	Pavona decussata	250	0	3	0					
13	Favites pentagona	300	0	2	0	Plesiastrea versipora	1450	0	3	0					
14	Cyphastrea serailia	130	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	320	0	0	0					
15	Cyphastrea serailia	100	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	200	0	2	0					
16	Porites sp.	340	0	3	2	Favites pentagona	150	0	0	0					
17	Favites abdita	230	0	3	0	Favites pentagona	780	0	2	0					
18	Favites abdita	200	0	0	0	Hydnophora exesa	500	0	0	0					
19	Platygyra carnosus	1050	0	2	0	,									
20	Favites abdita	100	0	1	0										
21	Leptastrea pruinosa	240	0	2	0										
23	Favites pentagona	130	0	1	0										
24	Favites pentagona	150	0	1	0										
25	Platygyra acuta	380	0	2	0										
26	Favites pentagona	120	0	0	0										

Sit	e 2 (con't)														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
27	Psammocora superficialis	1100	2	8	0										
28	Platygyra carnosus	600	0	3	0										
29	Favites pentagona	400	0	2	0										
30	Favites pentagona	200	0	0	0										
31	Favites pentagona	100	0	0	0										
32	Favites pentagona	150	0	0	0										
33	Favia rotumana	210	0	2	0										
34	Platygyra carnosus	350	0	0	0										
35	Platygyra carnosus	330	1	2	0										
36	Favites pentagona	220	0	0	0										
37	Plesiastrea versipora	310	0	3	0										
38	Favites pentagona	230	0	1	0										
39	Psammocora superficialis	200	0	10	0										
40	Montipora peltiformis	100	0	0	0										
41	Montipora peltiformis	60	0	0	0										
42	Montipora peltiformis	80	0	0	0										
43	Montipora peltiformis	60	0	1	0										
44	Favites pentagona	300	0	0	0										
45	Favites abdita	120	0	1	0										
46	Favites pentagona	550	0	3	0										
47	Favites pentagona	150	0	0	0										
48	Platygyra acuta	280	0	3	0										
49	Favia speciosa	230	0	2	0										
50	Plesiastrea versipora	900	0	2	0										
51	Platygyra carnosus	250	0	2	0										

Sit	lite 2 (con't)														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
52	Favia rotumana	200	0	1	0										
53	Favia rotumana	220	1	3	0										
54	Favites pentagona	450	0	0	0										
55	Porites sp.	350	0	3	2										

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Sit	e 3														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Porites sp.	130	3	0	0	Montipora peltiformis	40	0	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	650	0	2	0
2	Montipora cf. turgescens	70	0	0	0	Montipora cf. turgescens	260	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	210	0	4	0
3	Goniopora stutchburyi	210	0	0	0	Montipora cf. turgescens	250	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	80	0	2	0
4	Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	0	0	Montipora cf. turgescens	100	0	0	0	Psammocora superficialis	920	0	5	0
5	Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	160	0	0	0	Goniastrea aspera	410	0	3	0
6	Montipora cf. turgescens	100	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	80	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	500	0	1	0
7	Montipora cf. turgescens	310	0	3	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	30	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	2	0
8	Montipora cf. turgescens	180	0	3	0	Porites sp.	30	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	200	0	0	0
9	Montipora cf. turgescens	20	0	0	0	Favia speciosa	300	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	210	0	1	0
10	Porites sp.	150	0	1	0	Porites sp.	280	6	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	150	0	3	0
11	Porites sp.	110	0	0	0	Favites abdita	270	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	300	0	2	0
12	Montipora cf. turgescens	100	0	0	0	Porites sp.	180	0	2	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0
13	Montipora cf. turgescens	70	0	0	0	Pavona decussata	780	0	0	0	Turbinaria peltata	270	0	0	0
14	Porites sp.	100	0	0	0						Psammocora superficialis	330	0	2	0
15	Montipora peltiformis	320	6	1	0						Goniopora stutchburyi	220	0	3	0
16	Goniopora stutchburyi	90	0	0	0										
17	Cyphastrea serailia	410	0	2	0										
18	Porites sp.	300	0	0	0										
19	Goniopora stutchburyi	280	0	3	0										
20	Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	1	0										
21	Platygyra acuta	430	0	0	0										
22	Platygyra acuta	1600	0	0	0										
23	Platygyra carnosus	970	0	1	0										

	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1						Euplexaura sp.	NA	0	NA	NA	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0	NA	NA
2						Dendronephthya sp.	NA	0	NA	NA	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0	NA	NA
3						Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0	NA	NA	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0	NA	NA
4						Euplexaura sp.	NA	0	NA	NA					
5						Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0	NA	NA					
6						Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0	NA	NA					

Sit	e 4														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Goniopora stutchburyi	10	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	450	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	300	0	0	0
2	Goniopora stutchburyi	100	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	430	0	3	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	170	0	4	0
3	Psammocora profundacella	150	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	2	0	Montipora cf. turgescens	150	0	3	0
4	Psammocora profundacella	130	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	220	0	1	0					
5	Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	250	0	2	0					
6	Goniopora stutchburyi	50	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0					
7	Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	250	0	0	0					
8	Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	90	0	0	0					
9	Goniopora stutchburyi	100	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	40	0	0	0					
10	Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	30	0	0	0					
11	Goniopora stutchburyi	130	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0					
12	Goniopora stutchburyi	100	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	80	0	0	0					
13	Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	110	0	0	0					
14	Goniopora stutchburyi	200	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	0	0					
15	Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	110	0	0	0					
16	Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	100	1	0	0					
17						Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0					
18						Goniopora stutchburyi	30	0	0	0					
19						Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0					
20						Goniopora stutchburyi	70	0	0	0					
21						Goniopora stutchburyi	110	0	0	0					
22						Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	0	0					
23						Goniopora stutchburyi	130	0	1	0					
24						Goniopora stutchburyi	60	0	0	0					

Sit	e 4 (con't)														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
25						Goniopora stutchburyi	40	0	0	0					
26						Goniopora stutchburyi	40	0	0	0					
27						Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0					
28						Goniopora stutchburyi	100	0	0	0					
29						Goniopora stutchburyi	80	0	0	0					
30						Goniopora stutchburyi	300	0	0	0					
31						Goniopora stutchburyi	400	0	0	0					
32						Goniopora stutchburyi	450	0	1	0					
33						Goniopora stutchburyi	200	0	0	0					
34						Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	0	0					
35						Goniopora stutchburyi	230	0	0	0					
36						Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	0	0					
37						Goniopora stutchburyi	240	0	0	0					
38						Goniopora stutchburyi	350	0	1	0					
39						Goniopora stutchburyi	270	0	0	0					
40						Porites sp.	50	0	0	0					
41						Psammocora superficialis	330	0	2	0					
42						Porites sp.	320	0	2	0					
43						Porites sp.	160	2	3	0					
44						Porites sp.	90	5	0	0					
45						Montastrea magnistellata	200	0	2	0					
46						Favia speciosa	600	0	10	0					
	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
2	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0							

	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
3	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
4	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Dendronephthya sp.	NA	0							
5	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
6	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
7	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
8	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
9	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0							
10	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
11	Euplexaura sp.	NA	0			Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
12	Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0							
13						Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							
14						Echinomuricea sp.	NA	0							

Sit	e 5														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Cyphastrea serailia	90	0	1	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	110	0	5	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	170	0	3	0
2	Leptastrea pruinosa	220	2	2	0						Goniopora stutchburyi	120	0	2	0
3											Goniopora stutchburyi	210	0	4	0
4											Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	3	0
5											Goniopora stutchburyi	130	0	1	0
6											Montipora cf. turgescens	100	0	2	0
	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Soft Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0		
2						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0		
3						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0			Euplexaura sp.	NA	0		
4						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
5						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
6						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
7						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
8						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
9						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
10						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
11						Lobophytum depressum	NA	0							
12	_					Lobophytum depressum	NA	0			-				

Co	ntrol Site C														
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
1	Favia rotumana	150	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	190	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	450	0	2	0
2	Favia rotumana	240	0	1	0	Platygyra acuta	120	0	1	0	Favia rotumana	280	0	0	0
3	Platygyra acuta	180	0	0	0	Platygyra acuta	90	0	0	0	Favia speciosa	280	0	1	0
4	Platygyra carnosus	240	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	210	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	90	0	0	0
5	Platygyra carnosus	400	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	360	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	670	0	0	0
6	Cyphastrea serailia	200	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	420	0	0	0	Cyphastrea serailia	190	0	0	0
7	Favia rotumana	210	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	380	0	0	0	Porites sp.	450	0	4	0
8	Favia rotumana	320	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	80	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	190	0	0	0
9	Goniastrea aspera	400	0	2	0	Favites abdita	400	5	1	0	Favia rotumana	210	0	0	0
10	Favia rotumana	200	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	280	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	40	0	0	0
11	Favia rotumana	500	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	280	3	0	0	Favia rotumana	200	7	3	0
12	Favia rotumana	300	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	350	0	0	0	Goniastrea aspera	500	0	4	0
13	Porites sp.	300	3	5	0	Favites abdita	240	2	0	0	Pavona decussata	130	0	0	0
14	Platygyra carnosus	560	0	1	0	Leptastrea pruinosa	330	0	0	0	Pavona decussata	50	0	0	0
15	Favia rotumana	250	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	400	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	1400	0	3	0
16	Favites pentagona	380	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	200	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	250	0	2	0
17	Favites pentagona	280	0	0	0	Platygyra acuta	120	0	0	0	Psammocora superficialis	800	0	5	0
18	Favia rotumana	190	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	130	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	60	0	3	0
19	Favia rotumana	350	0	0	0	Favites abdita	140	2	0	0	Favia speciosa	60	0	2	0
20	Favia rotumana	300	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	200	0	0	0	Favia speciosa	240	0	2	0
21	Favia rotumana	280	5	0	0	Porites sp.	420	0	3	0	Porites sp.	190	0	4	0
23	Favites abdita	200	0	3	0	Favia rotumana	330	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	290	0	3	0
24	Favites abdita	260	0	0	0	Cyphastrea serailia	290	0	3	0	Favia rotumana	350	0	2	0
25	Cyphastrea serailia	260	3	0	0	Platygyra carnosus	120	0	0	0	Favites pentagona	60	0	2	0
26	Favia speciosa	430	0	1	0	Favia rotumana	500	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	120	0	0	0

Co	ntrol Site C (con'	<b>'t</b> )				T					T				
	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
27	Plesiastrea versipora	220	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	100	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	220	0	0	0
28	Goniastrea aspera	190	0	0	0	Porites sp.	130	0	0	0	Favia speciosa	370	0	0	0
29	Turbinaria peltata	90	0	0	0	Porites sp.	350	0	0	0	Montipora peltiformis	280	0	1	0
30	Goniastrea aspera	120	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	60	0	0	0	Plesiastrea versipora	500	0	3	0
31	Goniastrea aspera	750	0	0	0	Favia rotumana	90	0	0	0	Goniopora stutchburyi	450	0	5	0
32	Favites pentagona	700	0	0	0						Favia speciosa	490	0	2	0
33	Favia rotumana	320	0	0	0						Plesiastrea versipora	280	0	1	0
34	Favites pentagona	650	0	1	0						Plesiastrea versipora	50	0	1	0
35	Porites sp.	400	0	1	0						Plesiastrea versipora	300	0	1	0
36	Porites sp.	200	0	1	0						Hydnophora exesa	210	0	0	0
37	Favia speciosa	500	0	0	0						Favia speciosa	350	0	2	0
38	Psammocora profundacella	200	0	0	0						Plesiastrea versipora	1500	0	2	0
39	Platygyra acuta	390	0	0	0						Favia speciosa	220	0	1	0
40											Porites sp.	500	6	2	0
41											Plesiastrea versipora	140	0	0	0
42											Goniopora stutchburyi	480	0	3	0
43											Plesiastrea versipora	500	0	0	0
44											Psammocora superficialis	130	0	0	0
45											Plesiastrea versipora	60	0	0	0
46											Plesiastrea versipora	3000	0	0	0
47											Plesiastrea versipora	200	0	0	0
48											Plesiastrea versipora	580	0	0	0
49											Favia speciosa	170	0	0	0
50											Cyphastrea serailia	160	0	0	0
51											Goniopora stutchburyi	180	0	0	0

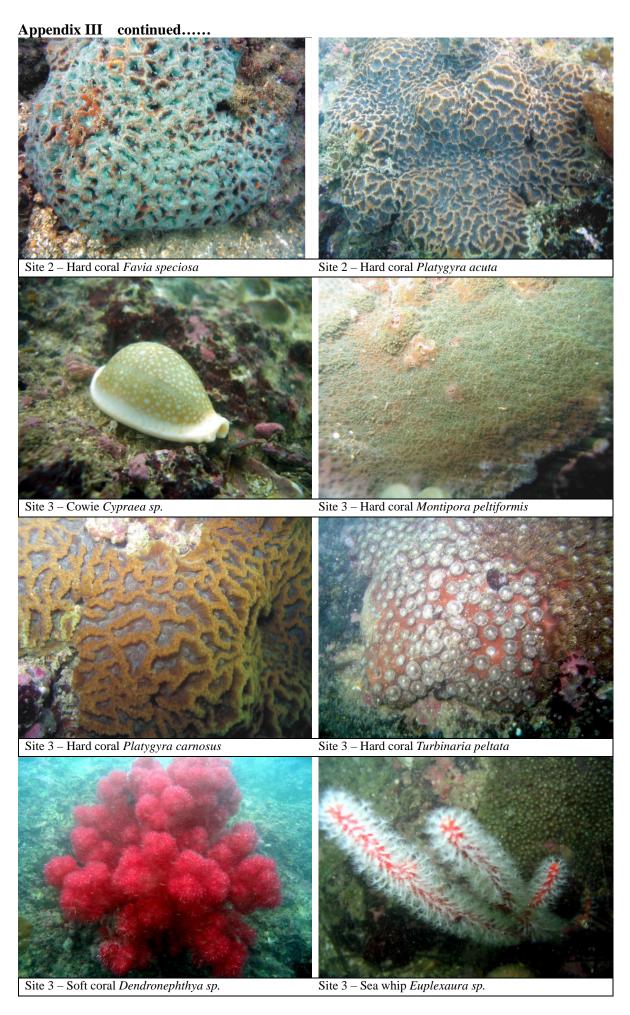
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	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)	Hard Coral	Area (cm²)	Mortal ity (%)	Sedim ent (%)	Bleach ing (%)
52											Psammocora superficialis	500	0	2	0
53											Psammocora superficialis	500	8	2	0
54											Plesiastrea versipora	2200	0	1	0
55											Favia speciosa	220	0	2	0
56											Psammocora superficialis	850	6	1	0
57											Favia rotumana	250	0	2	0
58											Favia rotumana	250	8	1	0
59											Favia favus	350	0	1	0
60											Psammocora profundacella	250	6	1	0
61											Montipora peltiformis	200	0	3	0
62											Psammocora superficialis	300	0	3	0
63											Cyphastrea serailia	320	0	1	0
64											Favia speciosa	250	0	1	0
65											Psammocora superficialis	580	4	1	0
											Platygyra carnosus	2600	0	0	0
											Platygyra carnosus	1400	0	1	0

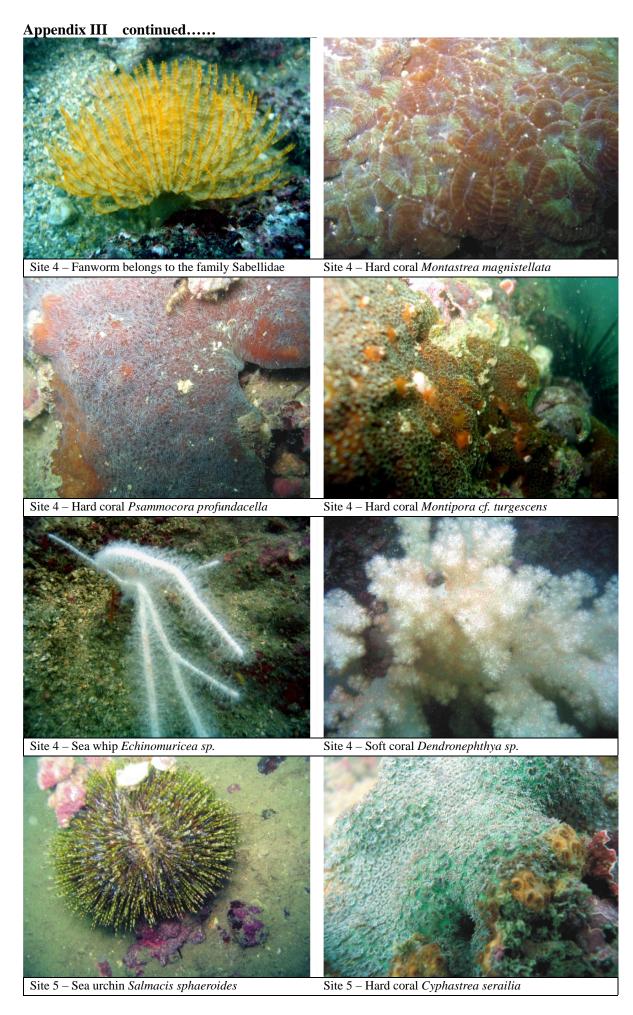
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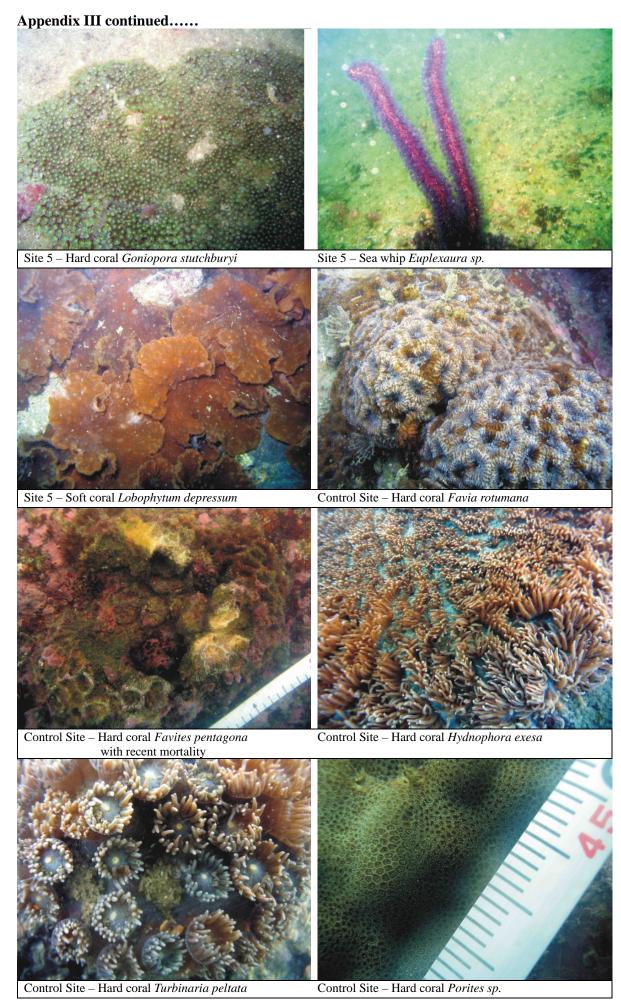
Photographs of benthic organisms at the survey sites. Appendix III Site 1 – Macroalgae *Colpomenia sinuosa* (front) Hard coral *Platygyra carnosus* (back) Site 1 – Sea urchin Anthocidaris crassispina Site 1 – Hard coral *Plesiastrea versipora* Site 1 – Hard coral Favites abdita Site 2 – Sea cucumber Colochirus quadrangularis Site 1 – Hard coral Pavona decussata Site 2 – Hard coral Favites pentagona Site 2 – Hard coral Cyphastrea serailia

Appendix III

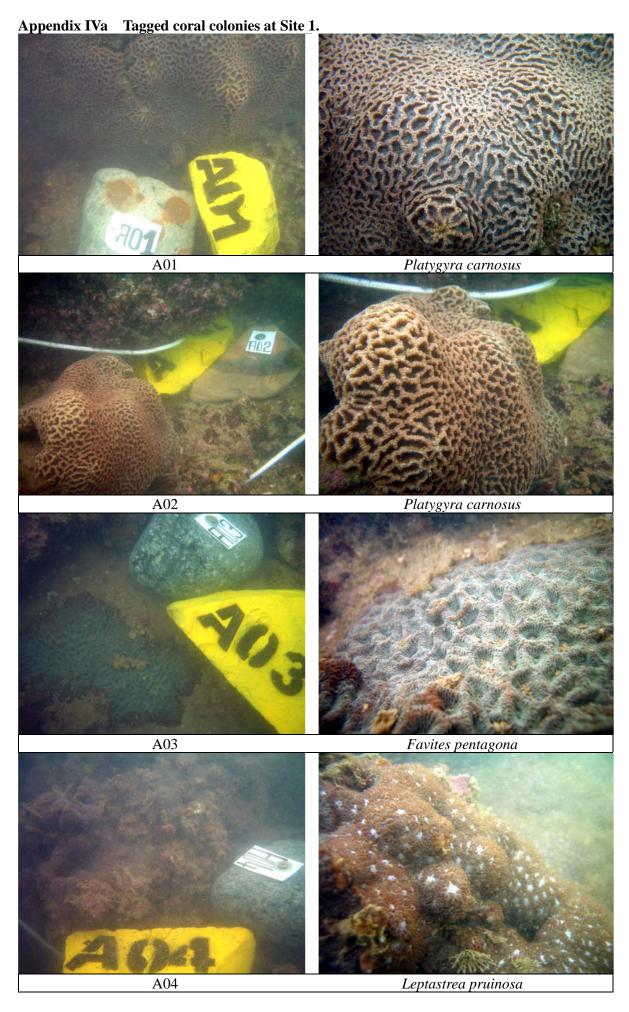


Appendix III

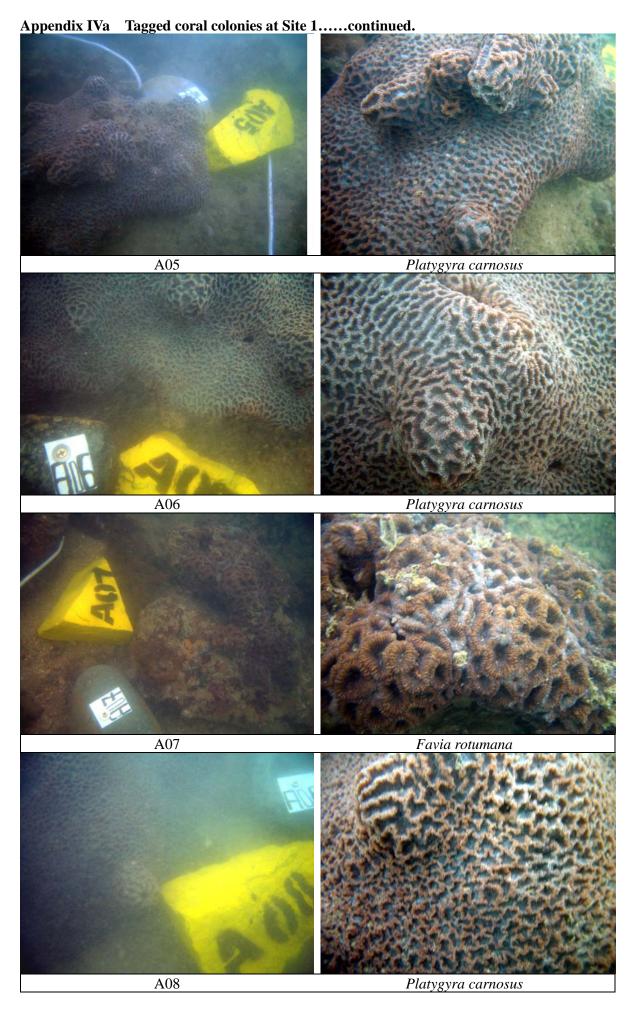




Appendix III

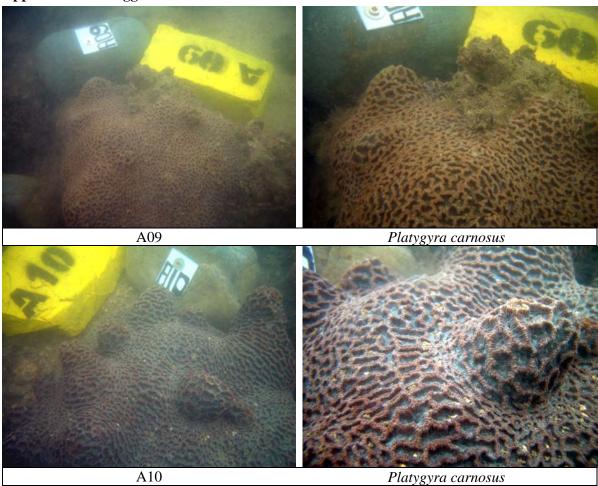


Appendix IVa

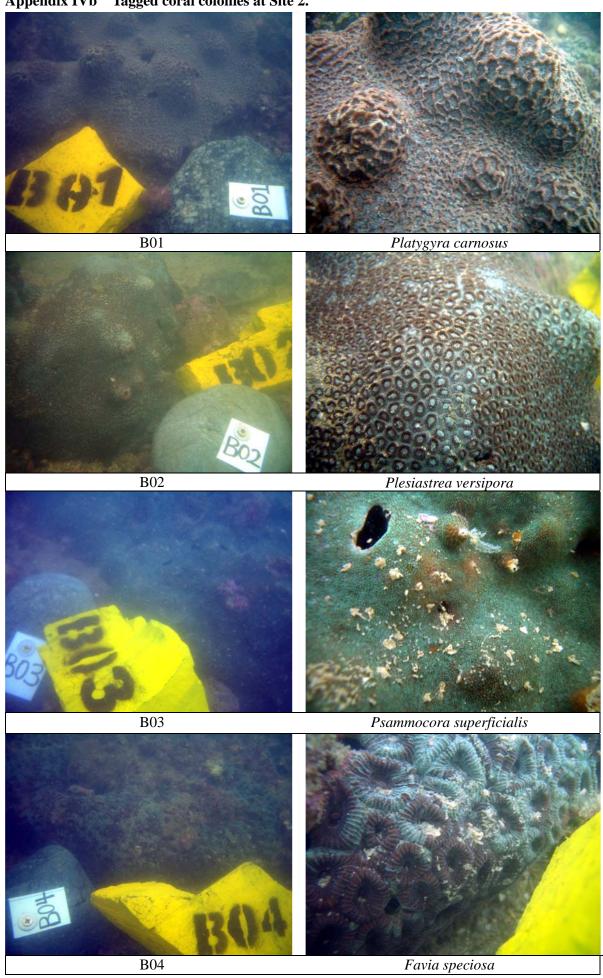


Appendix IVa

Appendix IVa Tagged coral colonies at Site 1.....continued.



Appendix IVb Tagged coral colonies at Site 2.



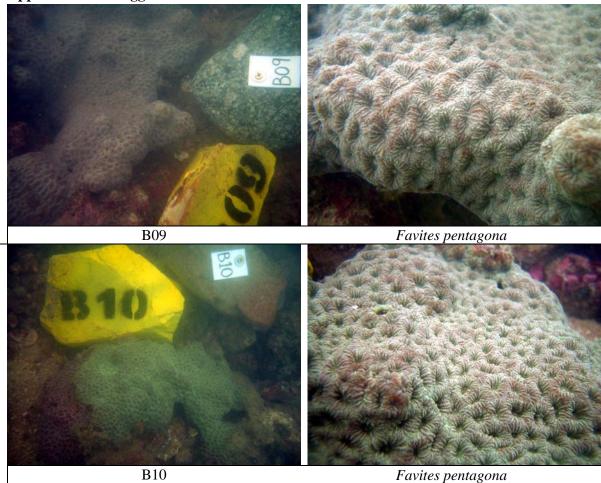
Appendix IVb

Appendix IVb Tagged coral colonies at Site 2.....continued. Plesiastrea versipora B06 Platygyra carnosus B07 Cyphastrea serailia

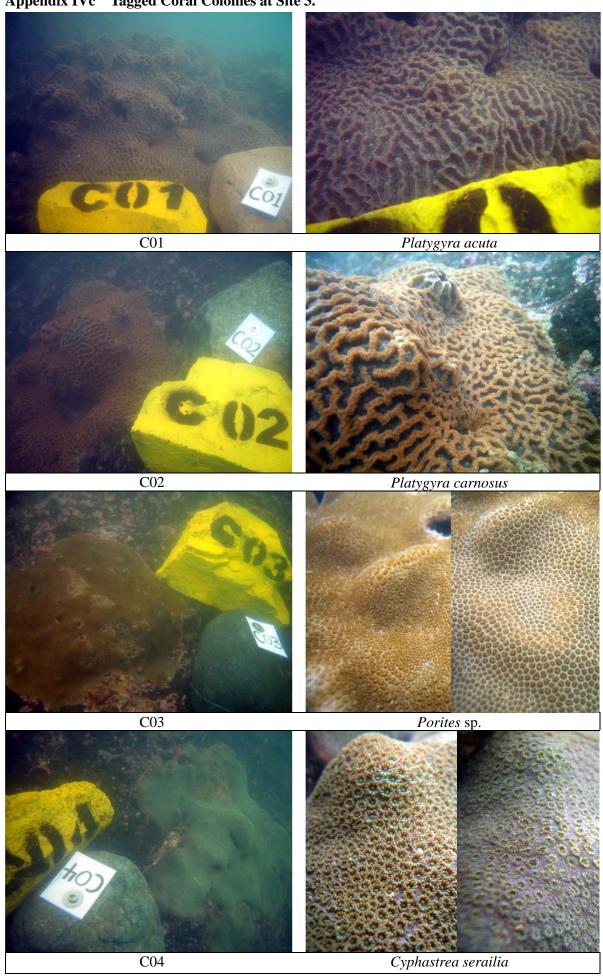
Plesiastrea versipora

B08

Appendix IVb Tagged coral colonies at Site 2.....continued.



Appendix IVc Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 3.



Appendix IVc

Appendix IVc Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 3.....continued. C05 Pavona decussata C06 Pavona decussata C07 Montipora cf. turgescens

Appendix IVc

C08

Favia favus

Appendix IVc Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 3.....continued.

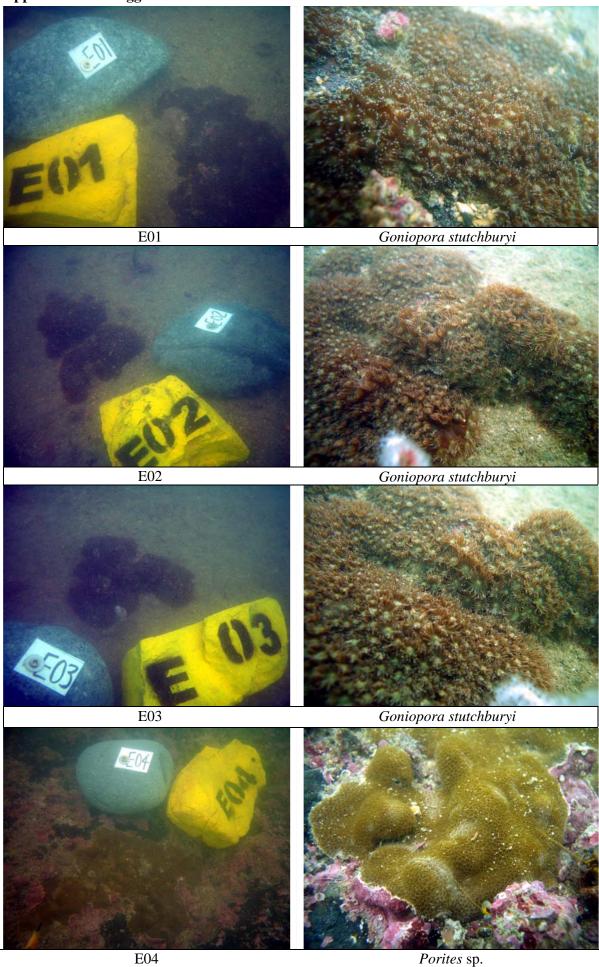
C09

Favites pentagona

Montipora peltiformis

C10

Appendix IVd Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 4.

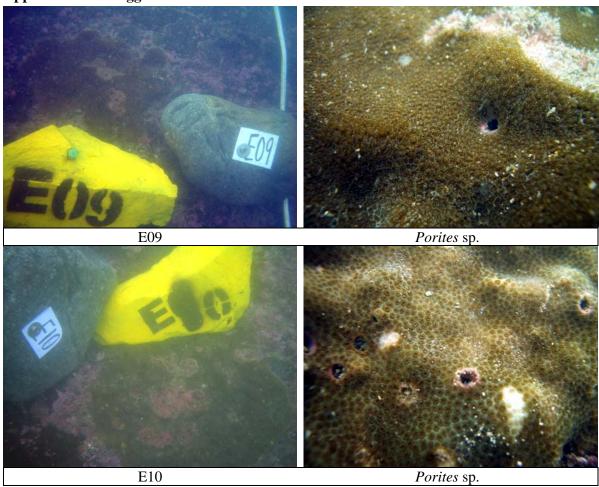


Appendix IVd **Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 4.....continued.** E05 Goniopora stutchburyi E06 Goniopora stutchburyi E07 Favia speciosa

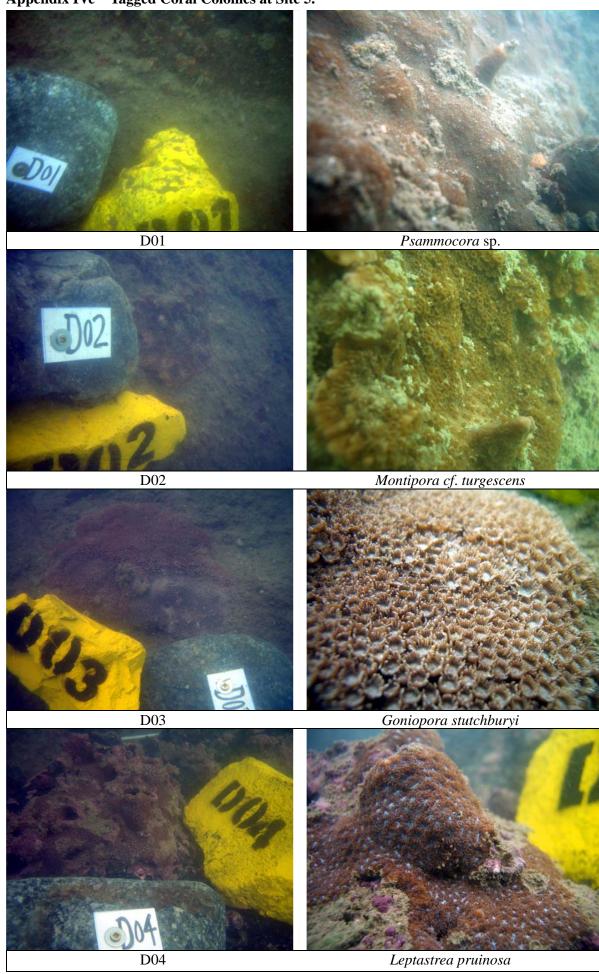
Porites sp.

E08

Appendix IVd Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 4.....continued.



Appendix IVe Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 5.



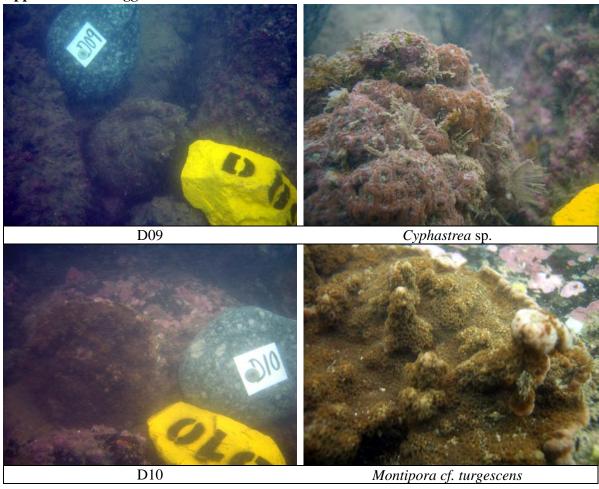
Appendix IVe

Appendix IVe Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 5.....continued. D05 Porites sp. **D06** D06 Plesiastrea versipora D07 Leptastrea pruinosa 208 D08 Plesiastrea versipora

Appendix IVe

Appendix IVe Tagged Coral Colonies at Site 5.....continued.

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Appendix IVe



Appendix IVf Tagged coral colonies at Control Site.....continued. F05 Cyphastrea serailia F06 Psammocora sp. F07 Plesiastrea versipora

Favites speciosa (left side)

F08a

Appendix IVf Tagged coral colonies at Control Site.....continued.

