

# Measuring coral health using virtual reef poster

**CORALWATCH Virtual Reef**

This virtual reef shows you different coral shapes and the difference between bleached and healthy corals. You can use the Coral Health Chart to measure the health of these corals.

**CORAL HEALTH CHART**  
The Coral Health Chart is based on the actual colours of bleached and healthy corals. Each square on the Chart corresponds to the concentrations of symbiotic algae which live in the coral tissue.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
For each coral, use the Coral Health Chart to record:  
• darkest and lightest colour scores  
• coral type

plate (PL)   soft (SO)   boulder (BO)   branching (BR)

**WWW.CORALWATCH.ORG**  
Visit our website to see worldwide data for reefs and compare coral health scores over time.

© 2011 CoralWatch  
Continental Shelf Institute  
The University of Queensland  
This poster is part of the CoralWatch Reef Education Package. For more information contact:  
Prof. Neil Stevens, Reef Group,  
The Heron Building, St. Leonards,  
Queensland 4072, Australia  
www.coralwatch.org

## Instructions

- Following the instructions on the back of the Coral Health Chart, match the coral colours on the virtual reef poster with the colour scores on the chart.
- Record your colour scores and coral types on a data sheet that you can download from [www.coralwatch.org](http://www.coralwatch.org).

You can also download the CoralWatch 'data entry' mobile phone app and enter your data in **demo mode**.



## DATA SHEET

Group name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation field:  dive centre /  scientist /  environmental /  school or university /  tourist

Country of reef: \_\_\_\_\_ Reef name: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS if possible: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ m / feet Sea temp: \_\_\_\_\_ °C

Date of survey: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Time collected: (ie. 14:00 or 2pm) \_\_\_\_\_

Weather:  sunny /  cloudy /  raining Your activity:  reef walking /  snorkelling /  diving

\*Please note: data will not be accepted on the website if any of these fields are left blank

Coral Number	Colour Code		Coral Type			
	L=Lightest	D=Darkest	Br=Branching	Bo=Boulder	Pl=Plate	So=Soft
example	L: D2	D: E5	Br	Bo	Pl	So
1	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
2	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
3	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
4	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
5	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
6	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
7	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
8	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
9	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
10	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
11	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
12	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
13	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
14	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
15	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
16	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
17	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
18	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
19	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So
20	L: D:	D: D:	Br	Bo	Pl	So

Check out these resources...



Reid, C., Marshall, J., Logan, D., Kleine, D. (2012)  
**Coral Reefs and Climate Change: the guide for education and awareness.**  
CoralWatch, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Siebeck, U.E., Marshall, N.J., Kluter, A. and Hoegh-Guldberg, O. (2006)  
*Coral Reefs* 25(3):453-460

Any other relevant information, e.g. average diving depth, species of coral, pollution, long term weather such as drought, flood, heat-wave.