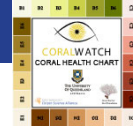


Fitzroy Island

CoralWatch data overview: July 2016 - December 2019

CoralWatch uses the Coral Health Chart to measure changes in coral colour associated with coral bleaching. The chart is easy to use, anyone can help collect data and contribute to the CoralWatch global database.



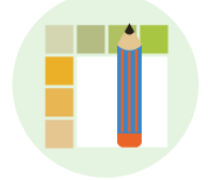
FITZROY ISLAND JULY 2016 - DEC 2019



Highest data contributor
Small World Journeys



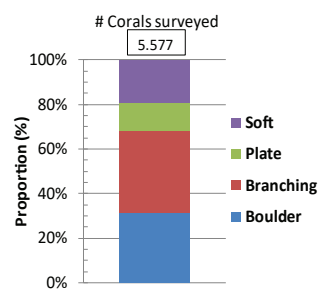
9 reefs locations



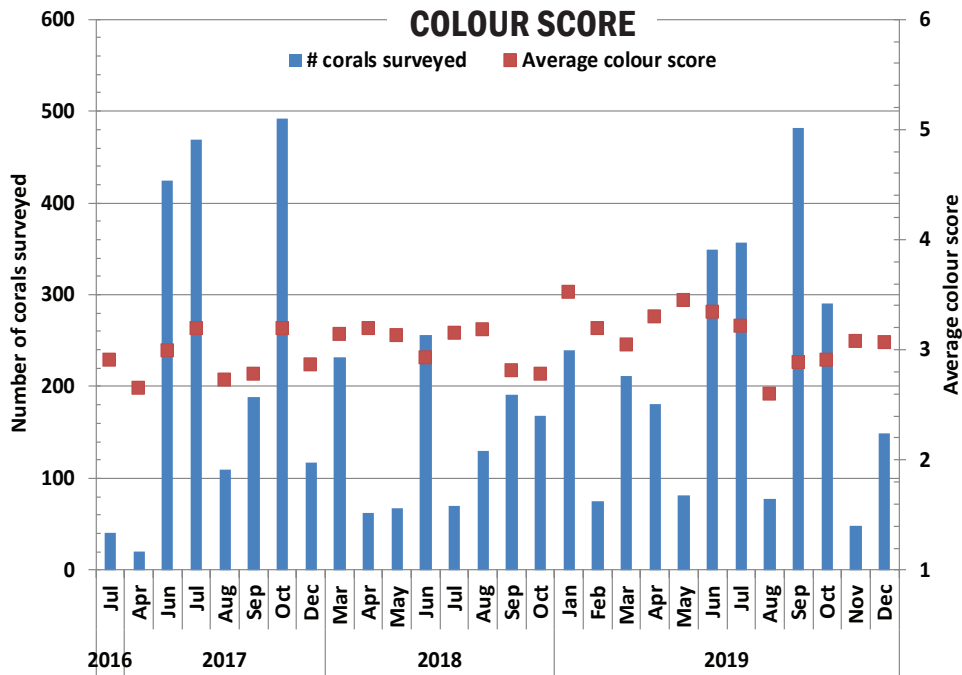
150 surveys



5,577 corals



CORAL TYPE



What does the data tell us?

At Fitzroy Island, 76% of the data is collected by schools and universities followed by conservation groups (23%). The graph above shows an average coral score around 3 indicating healthy reefs. Lower colour scores could indicate potential bleaching, but scores are not extremely low and long lasting. When interpreting the data, keep in mind that some corals are naturally lighter than others are. One survey is just a snapshot in time and regular CoralWatch surveys are needed to look at health over time or pick up trends in bleaching and recovery. The graph on the right shows that the dominant coral types monitored are branching and boulder.

FITZROY ISLAND CORALS



Branching coral, *Acropora* sp.



Boulder coral



Plate coral, *Acropora* sp.



Soft coral, *Sinularia* sp.

Fitzroy Island

LP

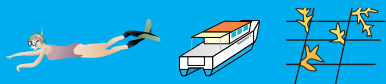
FITZROY ISLAND



**10-30% HARD CORAL
TURTLE REHABILITATION
CENTRE, CORAL NURSERY**

IMPORTANCE

**TOURISM
RECREATION
EDUCATION
CORAL PROPAGATION**



MAIN THREATS

**TERRESTRIAL RUNOFF
HUMAN IMPACTS: TRAMPLING,
ANCHOR DAMAGE AND
FISHING LINE ENTANGLEMENT**



SOLUTIONS

**GOOD REEF PRACTICE
RESTRICTING COMMERCIAL
FISHING**

**REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS
HELP SAVE REEFS FROM HOME**



Fitzroy Island, named by James Cook, is a continental island found 29 kilometres southeast of Cairns – only a day trip away. Fitzroy is a continental island, meaning it was connected to the Australian mainland by a grassy plain until the end of the last ice age. It has been the traditional fishing and hunting grounds of the Gurabana Gunggandji Traditional Owners.

The island is 339 hectares, of which 324 hectares are protected within Fitzroy Island National Park. The surrounding fringing reef is part of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Marine Park, and is a significant site for recreation. An established public appreciation area on the northwest part of the island restricts some commercial fishing activities. The island's waters support a large population of branching *Acropora* coral and boulder coral, giant clams, green turtles, and the island itself boasts a rehabilitation centre for sick and injured turtles. Parrotfish, butterflyfish, angelfish and wrasses are all commonly seen at Fitzroy, along with occasional blue-spotted rays, and white and black-tipped reef sharks. The Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin and Australian snubfin dolphin can be found in Fitzroy's waters, and in winter each year humpback whales migrate through the area.

Water runoff from Fitzroy and Little Fitzroy island's terrestrial areas into the marine management area is a key impact on the fringing reef. Fitzroy's fringing reef is also at risk from the effects of climate change, and other evidence of human impacts includes trampling, anchor damage and fishing line entanglement.

Surveys by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) indicate coral cover remains moderate (10-30% hard coral cover) on this reef despite the 2016 and 2017 back-to-back bleaching events. The Reef Restoration Foundation established a coral nursery in 2017 at Fitzroy Island, the first coral propagation project on the GBR. Coral fragments that survived the bleaching help restore the reef, and the first corals are already outplanted on the GBR.

Visit Fitzroy Island and help collect CoralWatch data

The best way to understand the importance and value the beauty of the reef is through your own experience. Visit the reef, it is an experience you will never forget. Visit www.coralwatch.org to get your free initial Coral Health Chart and find out how to collect and upload your data.



Citizen scientist collecting CoralWatch data.



Fitzroy reef showing various coral growth forms.

Read more

- Ocean-based coral nurseries are part of the solution for a healthy Great Barrier Reef <https://reefrestorationfoundation.org/>
- Look after the reef and find out what activities are permitted in which zone (Cairns region) <http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/604/4/Map5-EditionV-Cairns.pdf>
- Help collect valuable reef data there is a citizen science project for everyone <http://greatbarrierreefcitizenscience.org.au/>
- Fitzroy Island surveyed by Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) <http://apps.aims.gov.au/reef-monitoring/reef/16054S>



CoralWatch is a global citizen science organisation working with volunteers worldwide to increase understanding of coral reefs, coral bleaching and climate change. www.coralwatch.org

