COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

# Great Barrier Reef

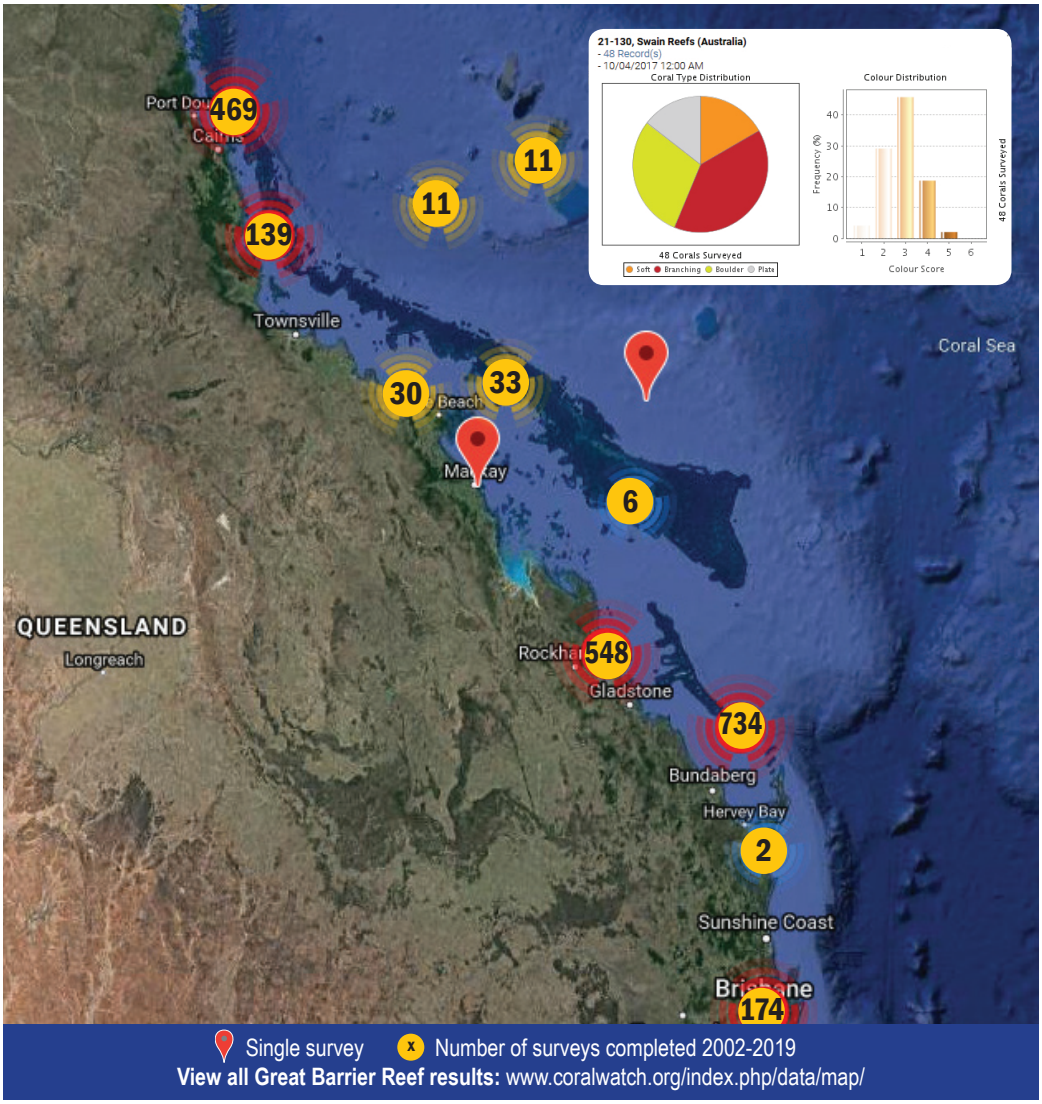
## CORALWATCH DATA OVERVIEW 2018

CORALWATCH

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

WWW.CORALWATCH.ORG

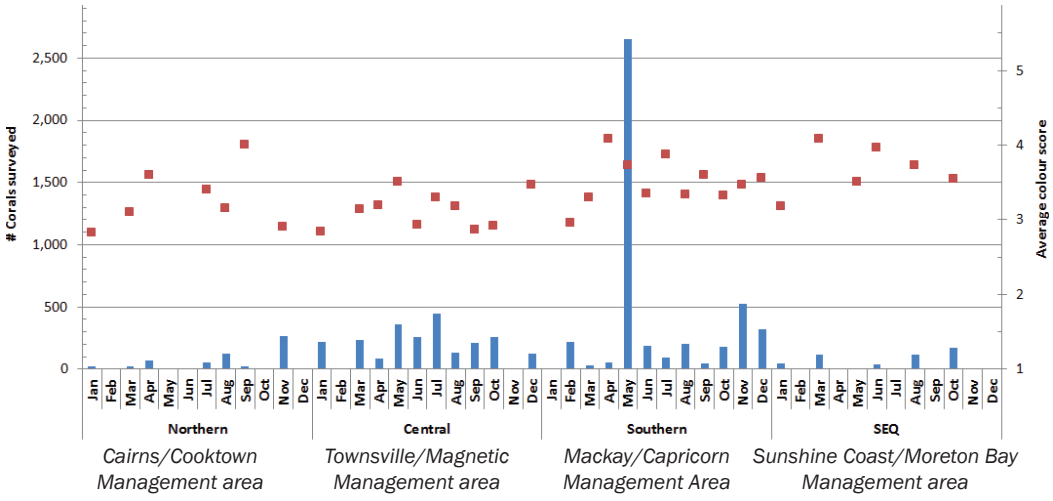

CoralWatch uses the Coral Health Chart to measure changes in coral colour associated with coral bleaching. The chart is easy to use, you can help collect data and contribute to the CoralWatch global database.




Single survey  Number of surveys completed 2002-2019

**View all Great Barrier Reef results:** www.coralwatch.org/index.php/data/map/

## COLOUR SCORE data 2018

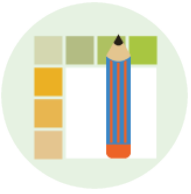



*Cairns/Cooktown Management area* | *Townsville/Magnetic Management area* | *Mackay/Capricorn Management Area* | *Sunshine Coast/Moreton Bay Management area*

## GREAT BARRIER REEF 2018 STATISTICS

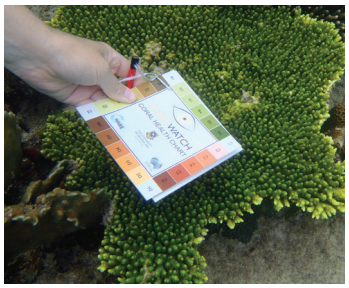
**Highest data contributor**
**Remote Sensing Research Centre, University of Queensland**

**67 reefs**



**261 surveys**

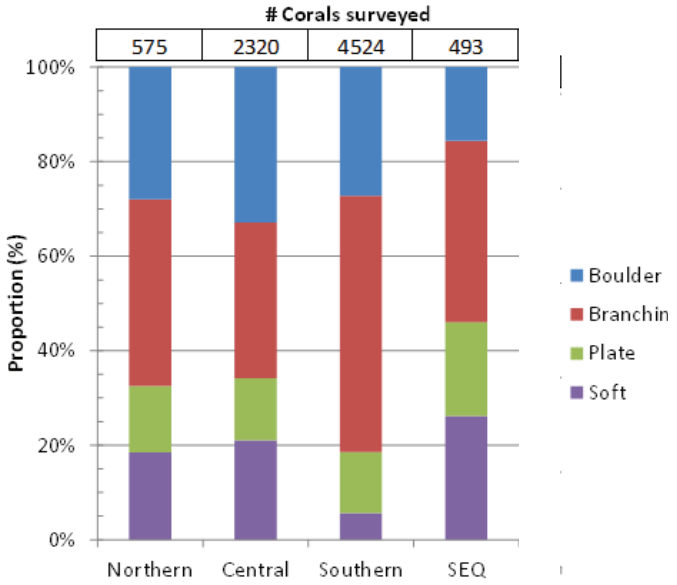
**7,419 corals**



### What does the data tell us?

The graph shows for each sector on the GBR (Northern, Central and Southern) and South East Queensland (SEQ), Australia, the number of corals surveyed (blue bar, primary y-axis) and average colour score (red dots, secondary y-axis) per quarter in 2018.

## CORAL TYPE data 2018




## GREAT BARRIER REEF CORALS


*Branching coral*


*Plate coral*


*Boulder coral*


*Soft coral*

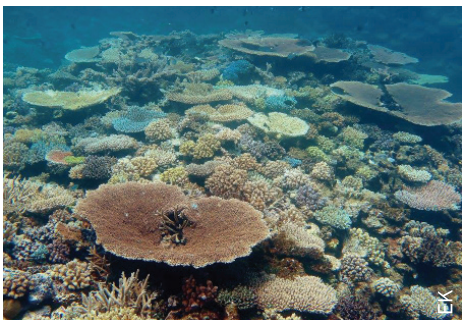
### What does the data tell us?

This graph shows all corals surveyed on the GBR and SEQ, with most surveys done in the Southern sector (4,524 corals) and least in the remote Northern sector (575). Corals were randomly surveyed and at each sector, coral colour of branching corals was most often measured (almost 50% of all corals measured), while soft and plate corals were measured the least (12% and 14%, respectively).
When interpreting the data, keep in mind that some corals are naturally lighter than others. One survey is just a snapshot in time. Regular surveys are needed to look at health over time or pick up trends of bleaching and recovery. Help surveying the reef with CoralWatch.

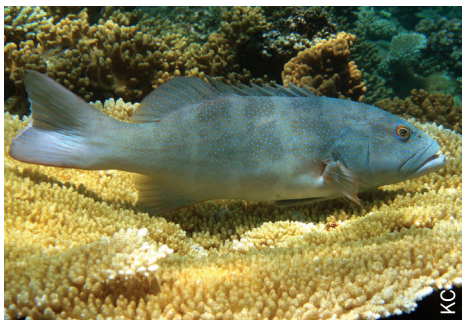
### Visit the Great Barrier Reef and help collect CoralWatch data

The best way to understand the importance and value the beauty of the reef is through your own experience. There are many operators that can take you for a daytrip from Cairns, Port Douglas, Airlie Beach, Townsville, Bundaberg or stay for a few days on an island such as Heron Island, Lady Elliot Island. Visit the reef, it is a memory you will never forget.


*Citizen scientist collecting CoralWatch data.*




*Reefscape with a variety of plate corals, Acropora sp.*




*Marine life rely on coral reefs as a habitat.*

### Read more

- For over 30 years, AIMS (Australian Institute of Marine Science) has been surveying the health of 47 midshore and offshore reefs across the Great Barrier Reef region. View https://www.aims.gov.au/docs/data/data.html to find data and additional information.
- The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) responds to the challenges facing the Great Barrier Reef and presents actions to protect its values, health and resilience, while allowing ecologically sustainable use. Developed by the Australian and Queensland governments, https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/d98b3e53-146b-4b9c-a84a-2a22454b9a83/files/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan.pdf
- *Great Barrier Reef Outlook report 2014*, GRBMPA. http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2856/5/InBrief_accessible_low%20res.pdf
- Look after the reef and find out what activities are permitted in which zone http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/access-and-use/zoning/zoning-maps
- Help collect valuable reef data, there is a citizen science project for everyone http://greatbarrierreefcitizenscience.org.au/

CORALWATCH

*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*

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Queensland Government

July 2019. Photos: Karen Cheney (KC), Karen Hofman (KH), Emma Kennedy (EK), Chris Roelfsema (CR).
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