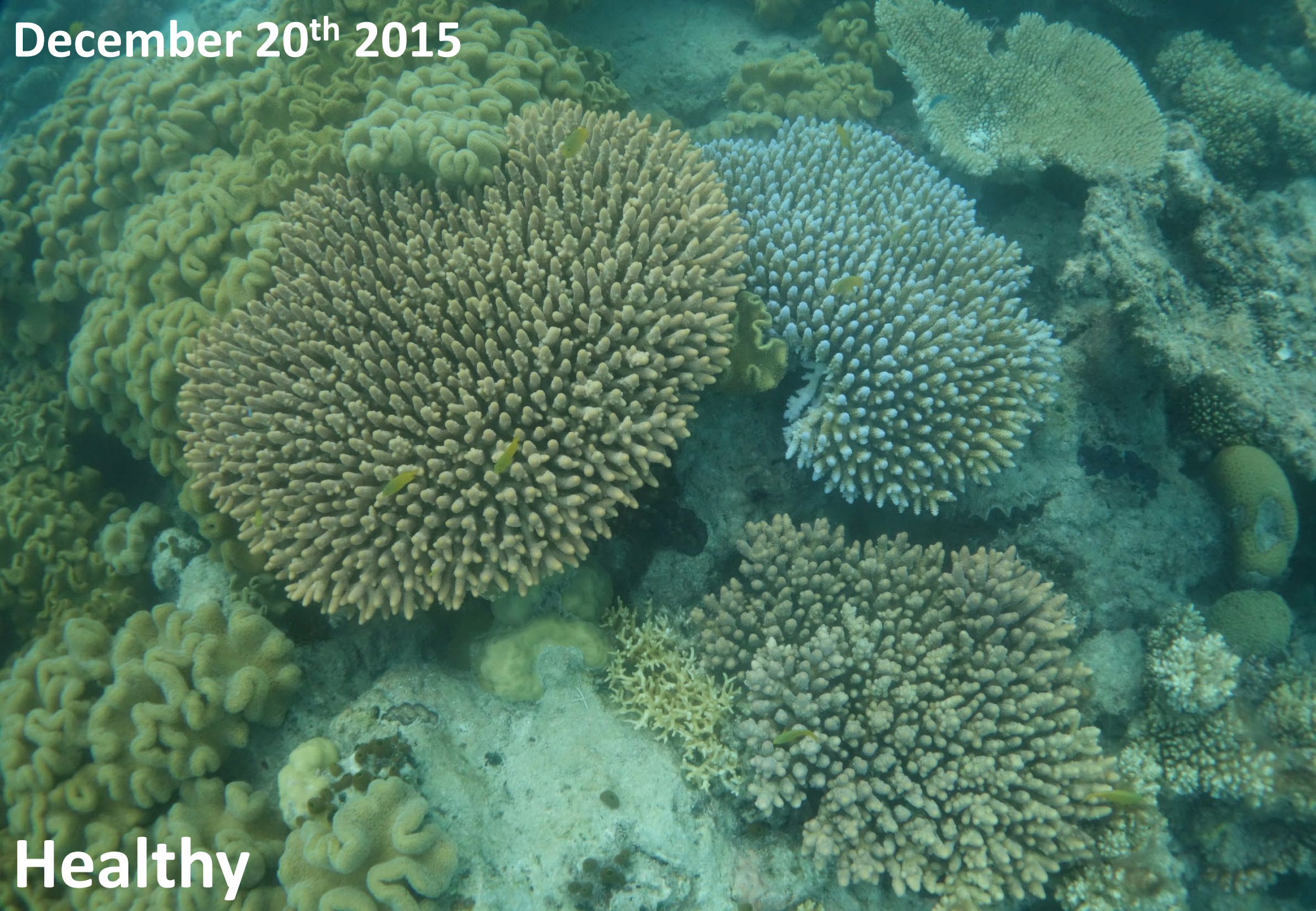




Before – During - After Bleaching  
Lizard Island 2016

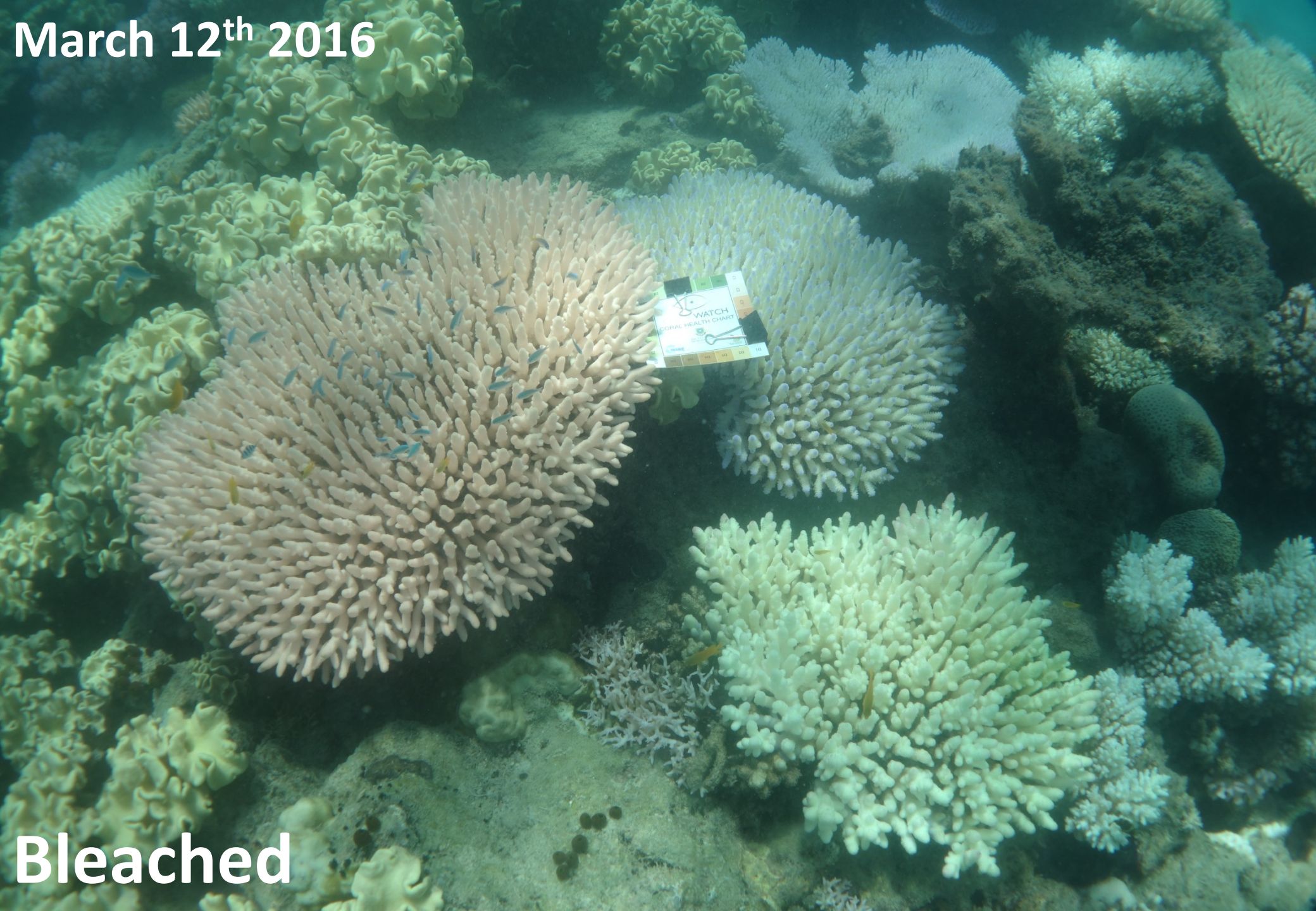
# The Great Barrier Reef

- These sequences show what is most likely happening over the majority of the top 1000km of the GBR and over large areas further south right now.
- The 2016 bleaching event is the worst on record but is still being largely ignored or brushed aside by mainstream politics, media and other groups.
- Ignoring a bad thing does not make it go away. Look at the facts, move forward in a positive way that preserves the reef for generations to come. Doom and gloom comes from ignoring the facts, not stating them and understanding them.
- Some reef areas are recovering and some reef areas remain in excellent condition but this must not be used as an excuse to ignore what we are losing.
- Based on current estimates, coral on an area of the GBR equivalent to Scotland will die. Its recovery depends on us and how we treat the reef.
- The starting point before the bleach of 2016 was a Great Barrier Reef already stripped of 50% of its coral cover, where will we be after this year's damage is assessed?
- All indications suggest we will lose more reef and more rapidly than it can recover, unless we address climate change and much faster than our current governments are currently delivering.
- With the Paris Agreement signed by 190 countries to limit temperature increase to less than 2°C, we need to demand and support our leaders to drastically reduce carbon emissions to achieve this.
- The way forward must include both climate change (leaving coal in the ground) and addressing other local resilience inhibitors such as water quality poor farming practise and sediment.
- Only taking care of the local factors – as the *Reef 2050 Plan* does – is pointless. There will be no reef in 2050 if we do not move to renewable energy much more rapidly than anticipated.



December 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

Healthy



March 12<sup>th</sup> 2016

Bleached



April 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

Algae begins to grow  
returning colour is not recovery

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

Heavy algal overgrowth and eventual  
disintegration, loss of habitat and food.



# The Great Barrier Reef



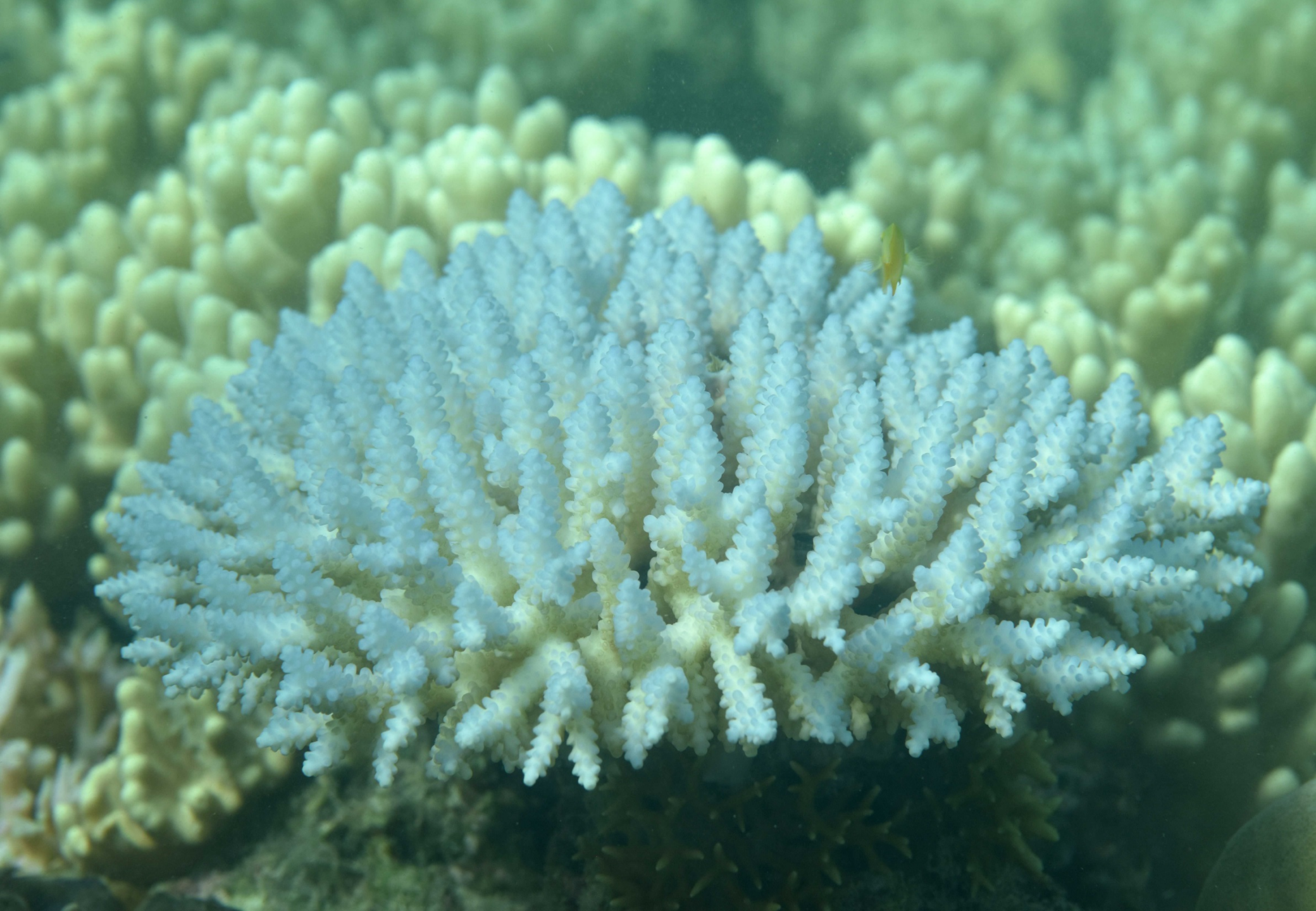


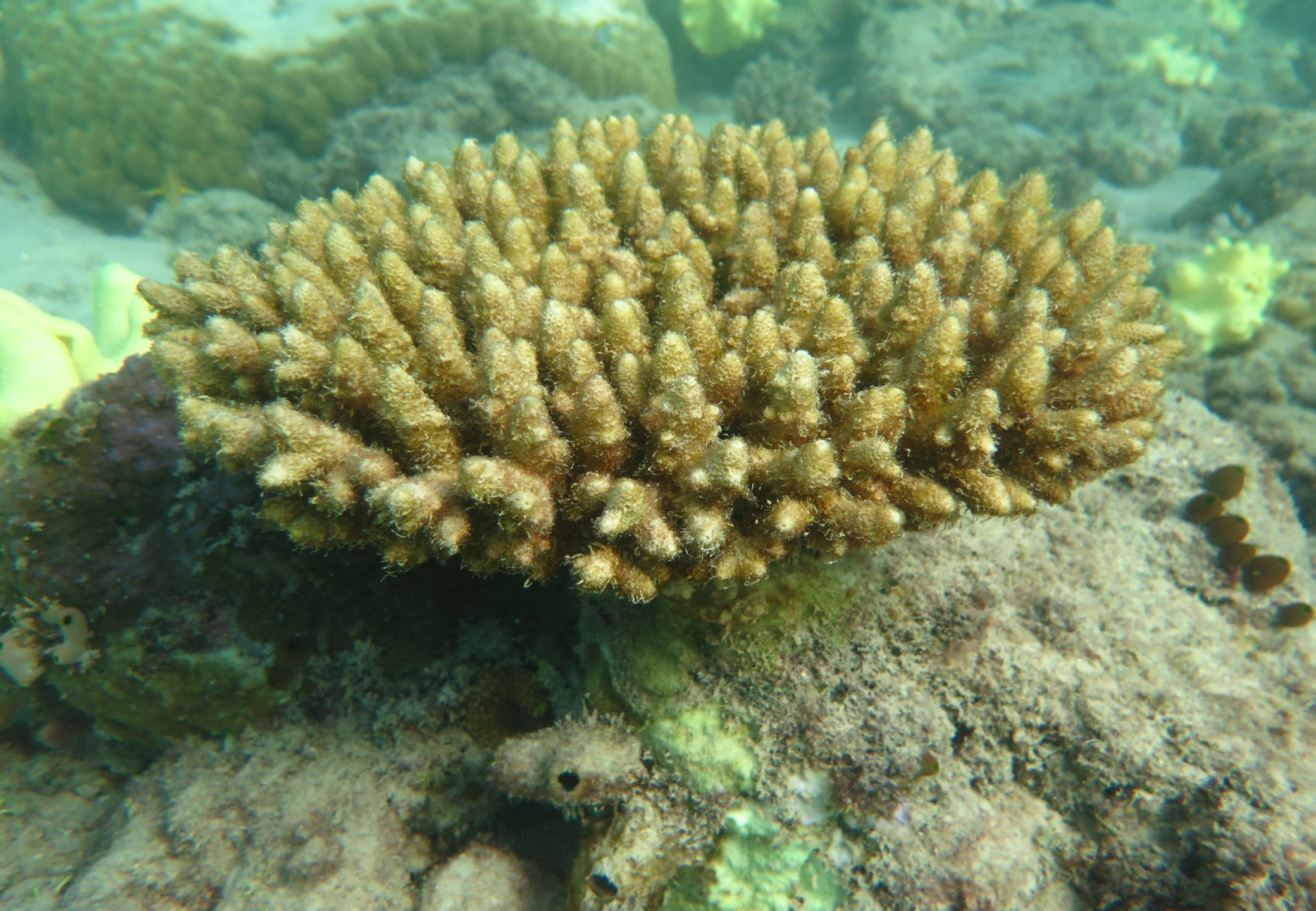




# The Great Barrier Reef









# The Great Barrier Reef



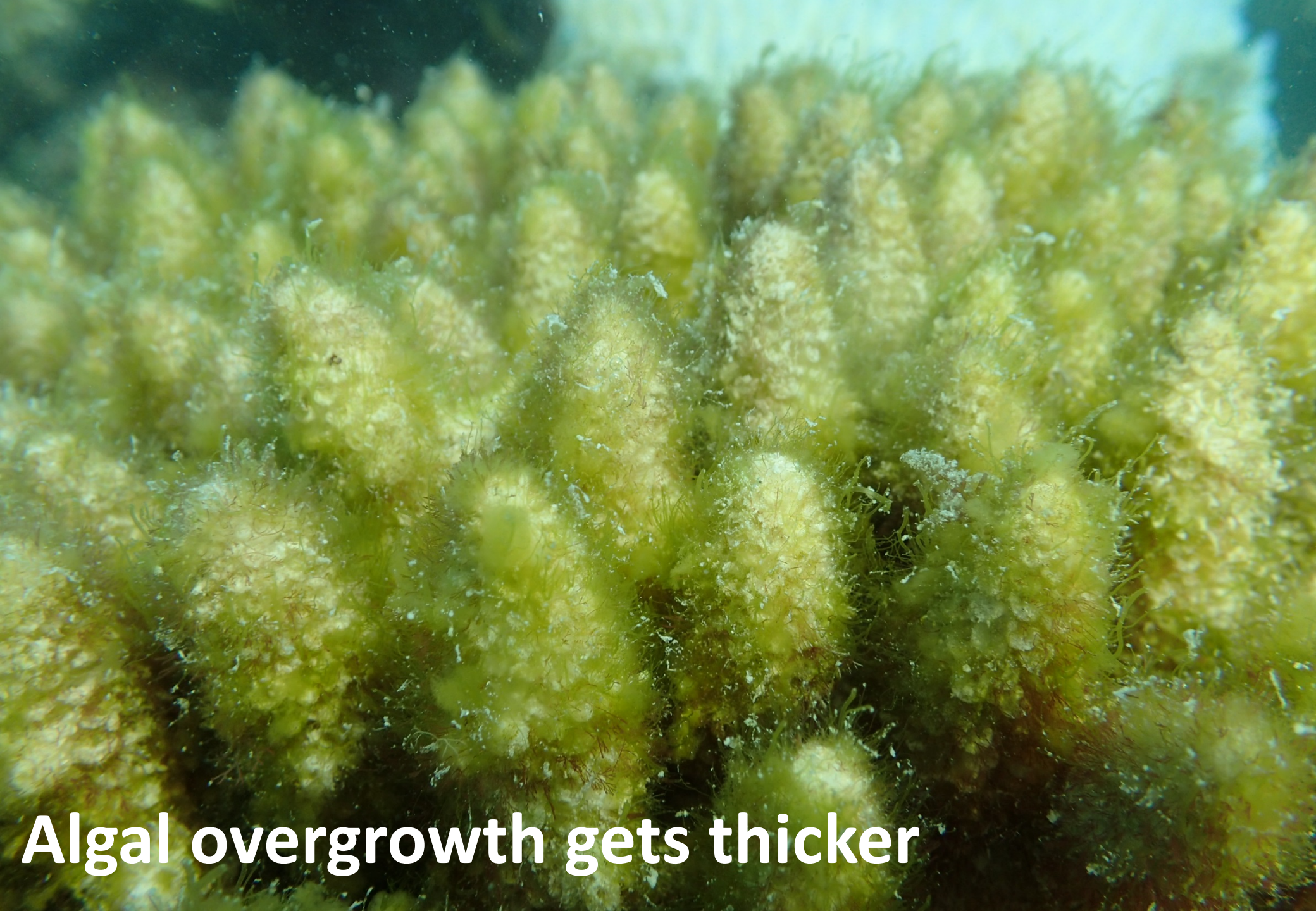
Healthy



**Bleached – these coral polyps are pink**



**Dead – a thin film of algal overgrowth,  
not recovery**



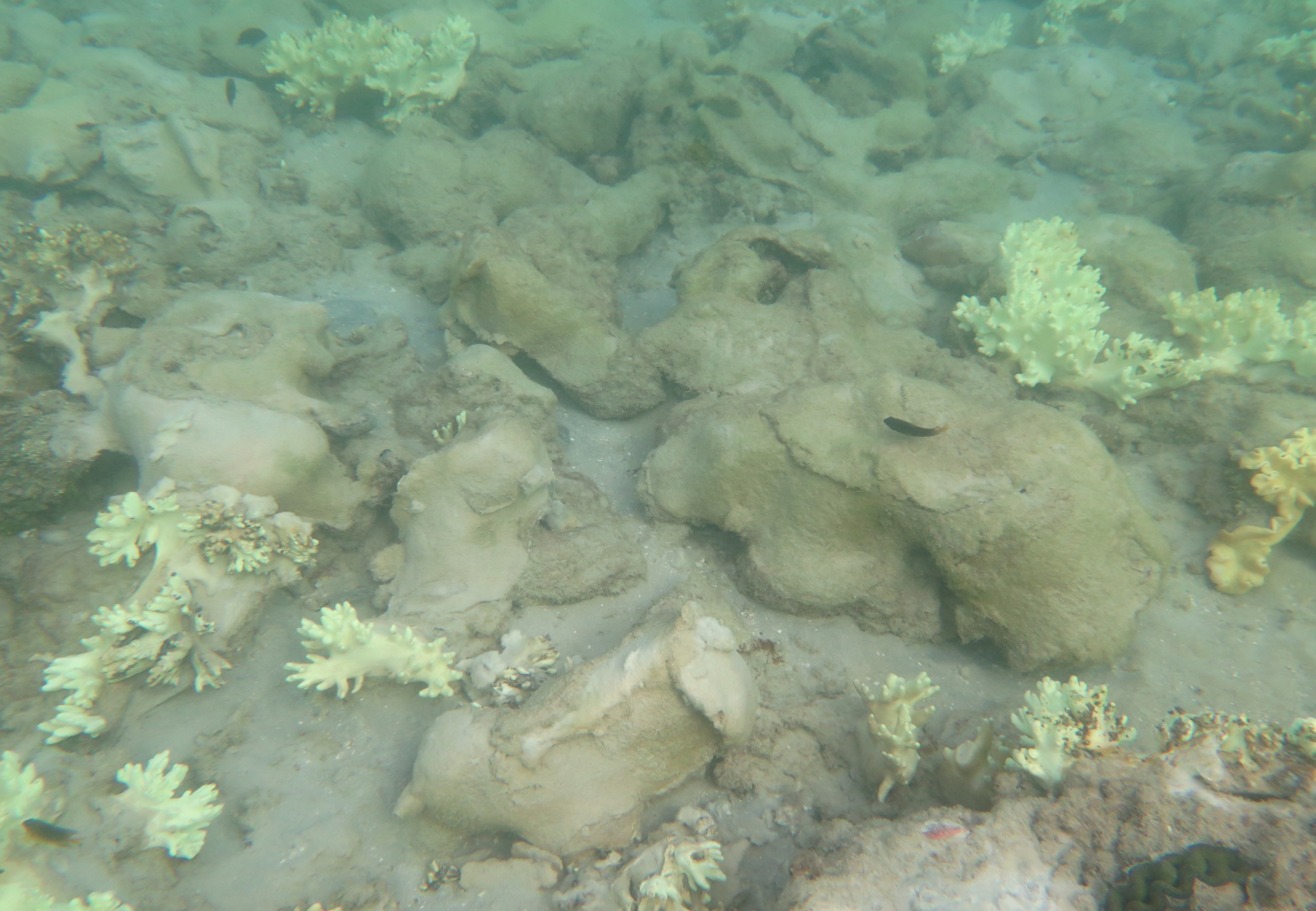
**Algal overgrowth gets thicker**



# The Great Barrier Reef





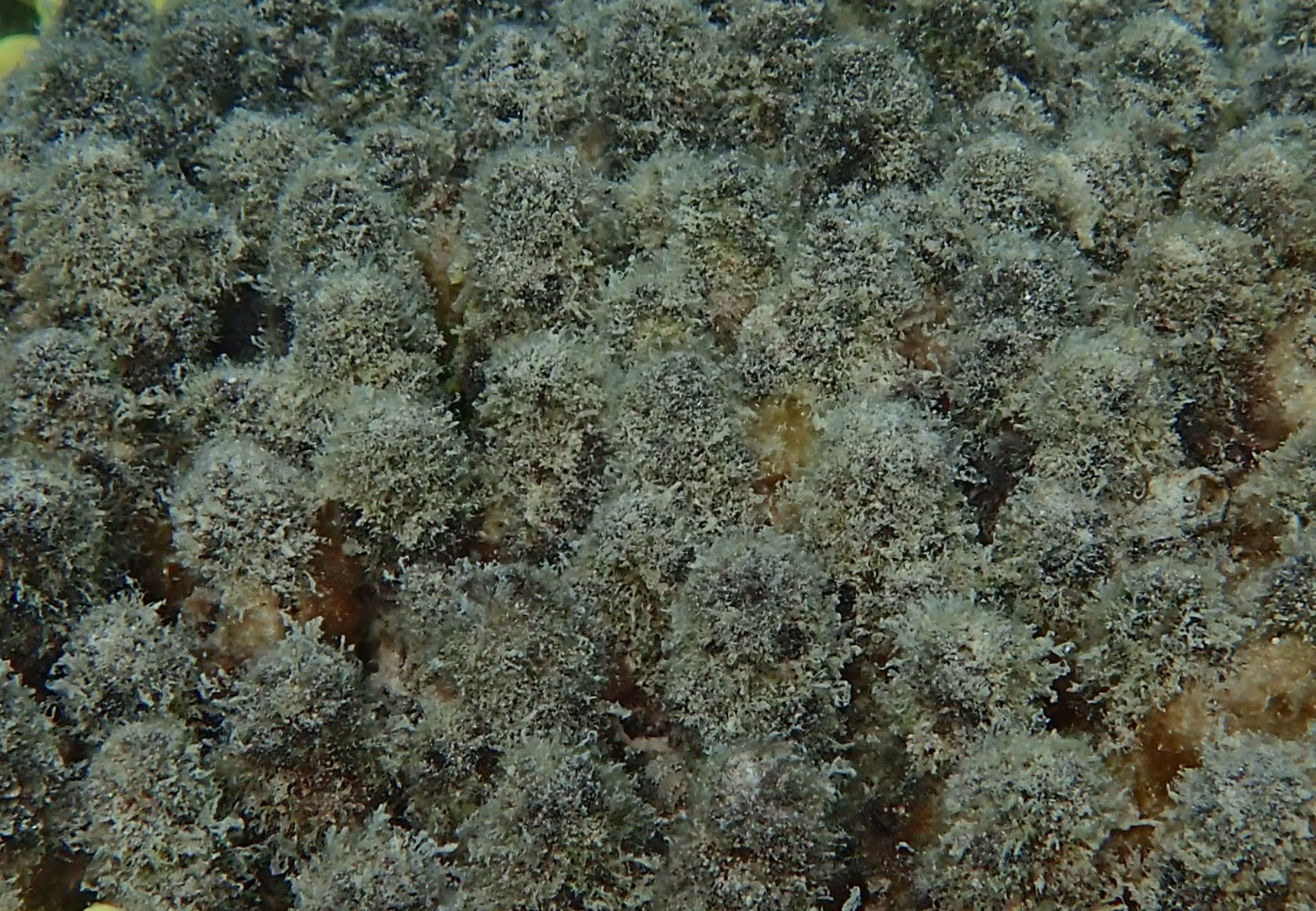


# The Great Barrier Reef



Many reef fish and other animals rely on coral for food and shelter





Over 500,000,000 humans  
also rely on reefs for food.

Where will they go and what will they  
eat?

The End?  
That is up to you.

Photographs by CoralWatch and Lyle Vail of the Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station.  
NB – successive photos are not necessarily of exactly the same coral area but are from the same reef and contain similar species.