

Coral Reef Investigations in Abu Dhabi and Eastern Qatar

Legend:

- Sand
 - Dense live coral
 - Dense dead coral
 - Mixed rubble assemblage
 - Mixed seagrass and algal assemblage
 - Nearshore mixed algal community
 - Unresolved deep
- Unconsolidated carbonate sand. Coverage 100%.
- Dense coral colonies on hardground, typically consisting of *Siderastrea savignyi*, *Acropora clathrata*, *Porites lutea*, *P. harrisoni* intermingled with *Favia* spp. and *Rhizophora* spp. Commonly maintaining low-relief but in places forming non-framebuilding coral carpets. Live coral coverage 30-70%.
- Sparse to dense dead colonies of *Acropora clathrata* and *A. downingi*, heavily overgrown with algal turf and coralline algae. Dead coral coverage 30-70%.
- Predominately unconsolidated to consolidated rubble on hardground.
- Mainly *Halodule uninervis* with occasional *H. ovalis* often associated with a macro-algal community consisting of *Rhizoclonium tortuosum*, *Chaetomorpha gracilis* and *Cladophora coelothrix*. Live coverage 5-30%.
- Nearshore sand dominated by marco-algal community.
- Typically substrate at a depth too great to classify without ambiguity. Typically the assemblage consists of areas dominated by unconsolidated sand.

About the Project:

The main purpose of this three year project is to study the distribution, diversity, abundance, composition and health of the coral reefs and associated habitats in selected areas of the coastal and marine waters of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and Eastern Qatar. In addition to the direct scientific research and study, the project will include media awareness campaigns and specialist training of UAE and Qatari scientists. The overall goal of the project is to utilize the collated information to develop a conservation and management plan for the Southern Arabian Gulf coral ecosystems.

Project Managers:



Implementation Agencies:



Technical Advisor:



Project Sponsor:



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June - December 2005

Preliminary Map
(Satellite imagery of 2002)

