

# Citizen Science - Capturing Coral Bleaching

The third global coral bleaching event is impacting Australia's east coast. Volunteers across the Great Barrier Reef have been contributing data to help document the extent and severity of coral bleaching. Monitoring during and after a bleaching event is important to understand the immediate and long-term impacts. Citizen scientists play a crucial role in collecting data from areas not visited by researchers.



**EYE ON THE REEF**  
**533** | **87**  
**SURVEYS** | **PEOPLE**  
 across the **MARINE PARK**

**REEF CHECK AUSTRALIA** **45**  
 VOLUNTEERS CONDUCTED  
**globally standardised**  
**reef health surveys**

**CORALWATCH**  
 VOLUNTEERS CONDUCTED **121**  
**SURVEYS**  
 ON REMOTE **Torres Strait**  
**OUTER REEFS** to **Brisbane**

volunteers recorded  
**CORAL DATA**



**% BLEACHING OF POPULATION**



**% IMPACT ON EACH COLONY**

**SEVERITY ON GROWTH FORMS**



**more impacted**      **less impacted**

volunteers counted  
**9805**  
**corals**

**701**  
 coral bleaching  
**SURVEYS**



**CORAL COLOUR**

**From Torres Strait to the Gold Coast**

THE DATA FROM THIS INFOGRAPHIC RELATES TO 1 FEB - 31 MAY 2016

Citizen science programs are well-placed to rapidly respond to extreme events on the Reef. This approach collects cost-effective data, engages the community in reef science, increases community knowledge and builds partnerships to seek solutions to reef health challenges.

Learn how to get involved:

[www.greatbarrierreefcitizenscience.org.au](http://www.greatbarrierreefcitizenscience.org.au)



GREAT BARRIER REEF  
**Citizen Science Alliance**

# Become a Citizen Scientist: Boost Coral Bleaching Knowledge

Many citizen science programs can increase your knowledge and help contribute valuable data about reef health, including coral bleaching. Pick the program that's right for you and start collecting information today!



## CoralWatch

CoralWatch integrates citizen science monitoring of coral bleaching with education about reef science and conservation. Using the Coral Health Chart to measure coral colour, volunteers can monitor reef health and contribute to CoralWatch's global coral bleaching database.

Your data will help to answer questions about patterns of coral bleaching, severity of coral bleaching, and patterns of recovery.

Anyone can get involved, you don't need any special training. Simply download a 'Do It Yourself Kit' and order a free Coral Health Chart!

[www.coralwatch.org](http://www.coralwatch.org)



## Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Eye on the Reef database uses state-of-the-art science and monitoring tools to assess the nature, extent and severity of impacts such as coral bleaching. The suite of monitoring tools includes:

- Sightings App: Report interesting or unusual species or activities on the Reef at the touch of a button.
- Rapid monitoring: Complete the short online training course, then grab an underwater form to record the animals, habitat types and reef impacts you see on the Reef.
- More experienced surveyors can complete additional online and in-water training to conduct Reef Health and Impact Surveys (RHIS) to collect detailed assessments of Reef Health.

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)



## Reef Check Australia

Build your reef ecology and monitoring skills to collect information on reef composition, important animals and impacts.

- REEFSearch: Everyone can get involved in REEFSearch. The self-guided "How To" and underwater slate help you identify and share what you see on the reef.
- Experienced snorkelers and SCUBA divers can join the Reef Check survey team to annually visit more than 60 monitoring sites along the Queensland coast to collect globally-standardised reef health data.

[www.reefcheckaustralia.org](http://www.reefcheckaustralia.org)



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