



Gladstone
Healthy Harbour
Partnership

CORALS



FOUR FAST FACTS

1. Coral reefs provide spawning, nursery and feeding areas for fish and other sea creatures like sea cucumbers, molluscs and turtles.
2. Coral cover change has been included for the first time this year.
3. The Corals grade **IMPROVED** from an E in 2016 to a D in 2017.
4. Freshwater run-off reduces salinity levels in the water and is a recognised cause of Coral mortality.

THE GRADES

2016

E

2017

D

Grading system

- A** Very good (0.85 - 1.00)
- B** Good (0.65 - 0.84)
- C** Satisfactory (0.50 - 0.64)
- D** Poor (0.25 - 0.49)
- E** Very poor (0.00 - 0.24)



HOW IS CORAL MEASURED?

Coral surveys in Gladstone Harbour are conducted by a small team of divers and scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Four Coral indicators are measured to calculate scores for the Gladstone Harbour report card:

1. Coral cover — determines how much coral (hard & soft) are at each of the monitoring sites.
2. Macroalgal cover — large fleshy seaweeds (Macroalgae) compete with coral for space on the reef. The more macroalgae the lower the report card score.
3. Juvenile coral density — investigates the potential ability of a coral reef to recover from a disturbance. A high score for juvenile coral density indicates that a reef is growing.
4. Change in hard coral — measures the change in coral cover from one year to the next and allows long-term trends to be recorded.

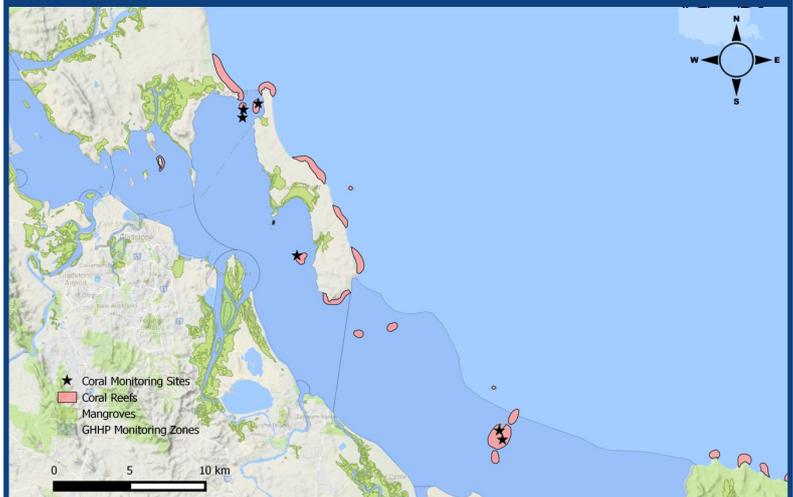


WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

Coral communities in Gladstone Harbour have improved from very poor to poor.

The current Coral condition is a result of flooding in 2013. Freshwater run-off (flooding) reduces the salinity levels in the water and is a recognised cause of Coral mortality. Although Coral is in a poor condition, there was an increase in grade from a E in 2016 to a D in 2017. This indicates that conditions for growth of juvenile corals has improved since 2014 and that Gladstone's Corals are recovering from previous impacts.

CORAL SITES MONITORED BY GHHP



Coral is monitored in two GHHP Zones: Mid Harbour and Outer Harbour



Gladstone Healthy
Harbour Partnership
Education Resource

Thank you to our contributing partner AIMS

For more information on Coral monitoring in Gladstone Harbour visit www.ghhp.org.au or visit our Facebook page.