

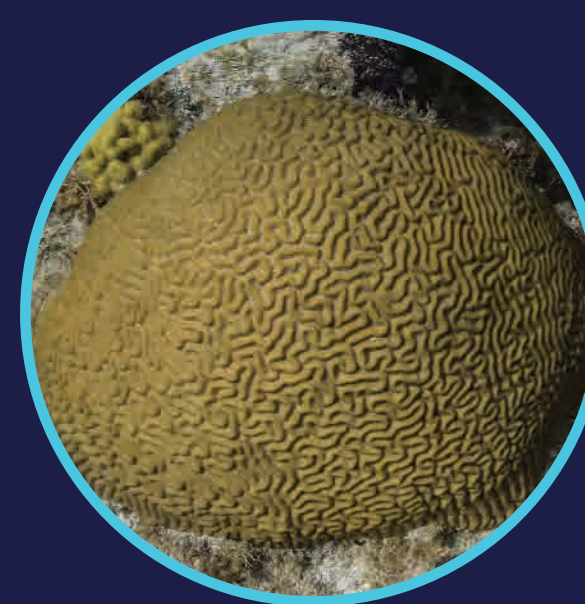
All Contact Counts!

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT NOT TO TOUCH THE REEF

In a 2004 study of over 100 divers, 88% made contact with the reef at least once per dive. Most contact was accidental and the divers were unaware that contact was made. But what impact does contact with the reef really have? Many sponges and corals we love seeing on the reef are incredibly slow-growing. Damage to these organisms from unintentional contact can have devastating effect. Take a look at these growth rates to gain an even deeper appreciation for the marvels of the underwater world.

DID YOU KNOW?

If your fins feel slimy after a dive, that's the **mucopolysaccharide** layer that protects coral from bacteria, sedimentation, and disease. Contact removes this layer, making them vulnerable for 48 - 72 hours, as they redevelop this layer.



Pseudodiploria strigosa
SYMMETRICAL BRAIN CORAL
0.32-1 cm/year

Siderastrea siderea
MASSIVE STARLET CORAL
0.5 - 1 cm/year



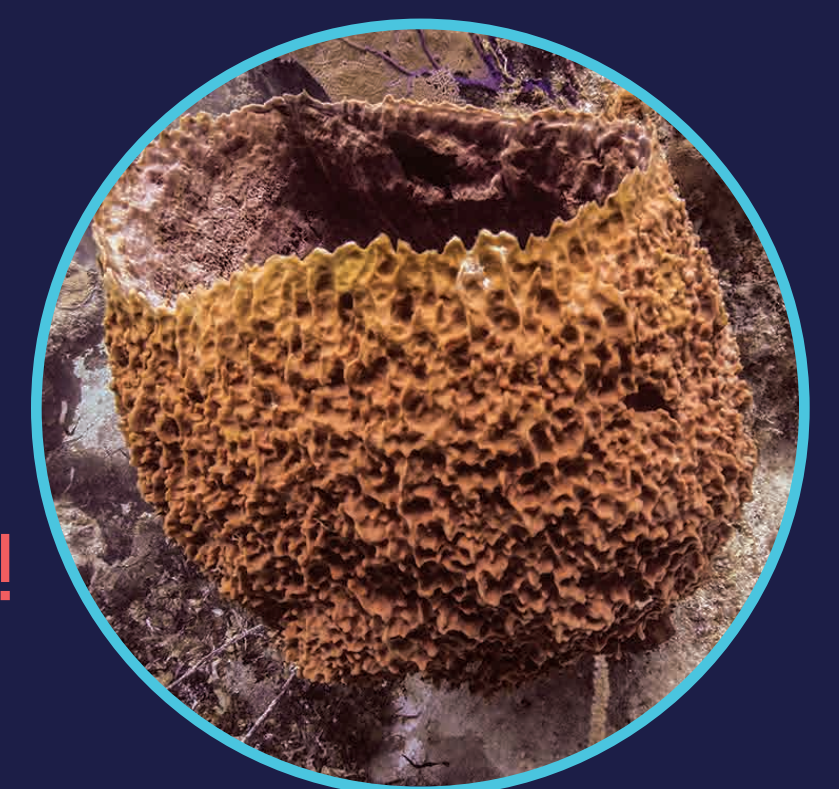
Undaria agaricites
LETTUCE CORAL
0.16 cm/year



Orbicella annularis
BOULDER STAR CORAL
0.62 - 1.12 cm/year



Xestospongia muta
GIANT BARREL SPONGE
0.52 cm/year (slows as ages)
Can live to be over 2000 years old!



Join CCMi's ZERO IMPACT effort:
reefresearch.org/iyor2018

