



Crown-of-Thorns (COTS) Outbreaks

Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS)

- Aka *Acanthaster planci*
- Voracious coral predator
- Report sightings of 10 or more

**Don't touch
the COTS!**

They have venomous,
sharp spines





- Major driver of coral loss over the last decade
- Average coral cover has decreased from nearly 20% in 2003 to only 10% in 2011
- Likely due to climate change and COTS



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Eyes of the Reef

Report it online

1

CROWN OF THORNS SEA STAR (COTS)

Depth of observed crown of thorns sea stars

At what depth(s) did you observe the crown of thorns sea stars? Include units (feet or meters)

Estimated number of sea stars

COTS are a natural part of our reef ecosystem, so only report them if you see approximately 10 or more, as this could be a sign of an outbreak

Estimated size (diameter) of observed sea stars

For example: 4 inches, the size of a dinner plate, etc.

2

Type(s) of coral affected

See guide below for photos of coral types

- Small/Branching
- Massive
- Large Branching/Pillar
- Foliose
- Staghorn
- Encrusting
- Soft Corals
- Other:





3

Additional information

Do you have any other additional information about this reef impact that might be useful?

Do you have photos? Upload photos here: <http://goo.gl/eX57bR>

4

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Do you have any other impacts to report?

No - submit my report

Yes - report another impact