

Figure 3. Single colony of *A. cervicornis* found at Western Sambo reef on October 12, 2021.

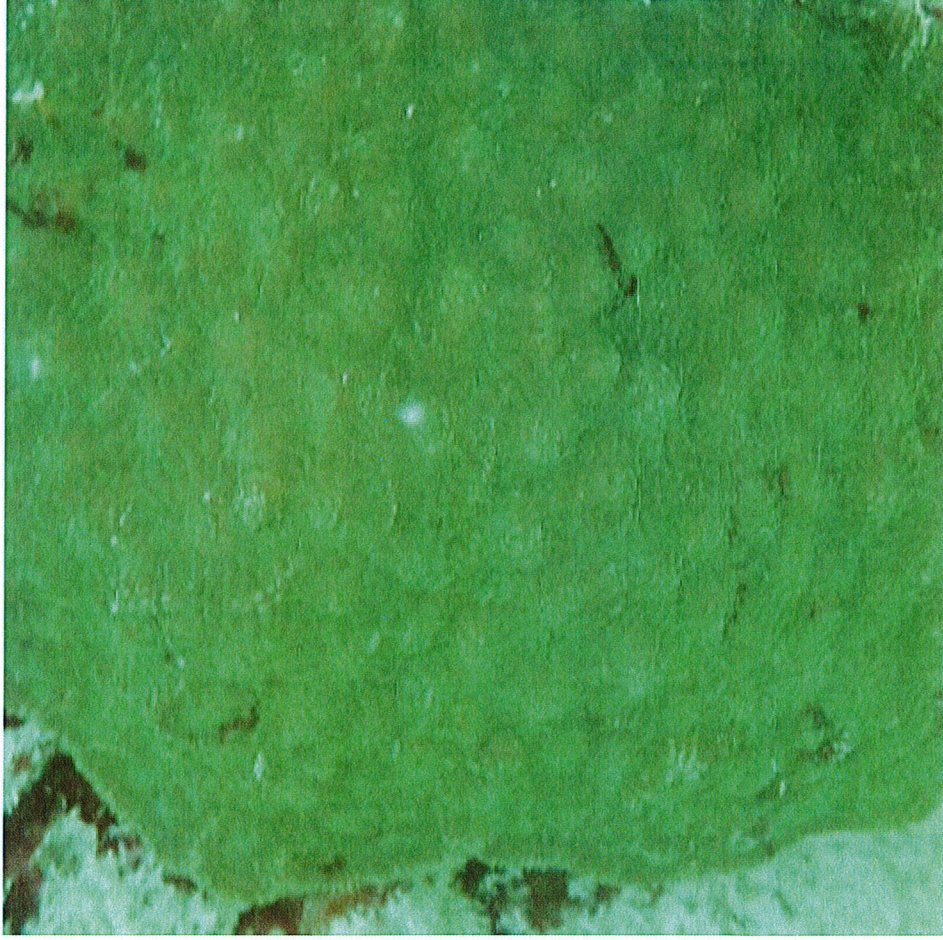


Figure 5. Underwater photograph of colony of the coral, *Mycetophyllia reesi*, living on the base of a piling fronting the cruise ship dock on Mallory Pier. This is the first observation of this Caribbean coral species living in Florida waters.

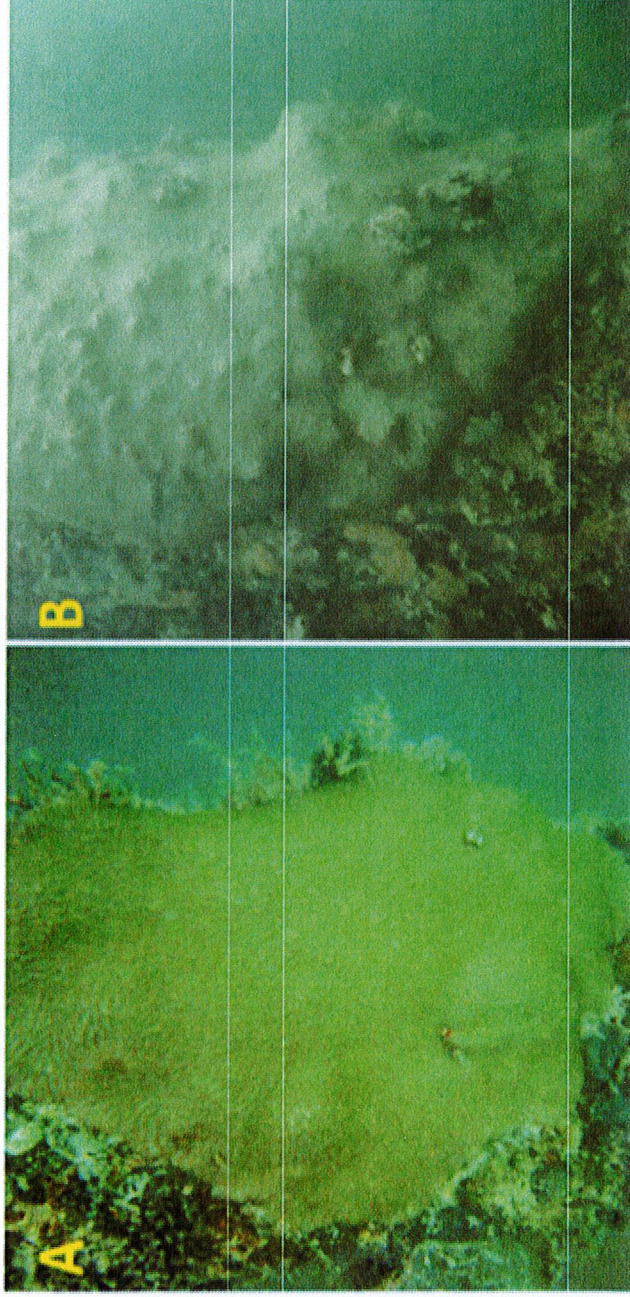


Figure 6. Underwater photograph of same colony of *Pseudodiploria clivosa* taken 14 years apart. Photo on left (A) taken by Dr. Phil Frank of Terramar Environmental Services in 2007, photo on right taken on October 11, 2021.

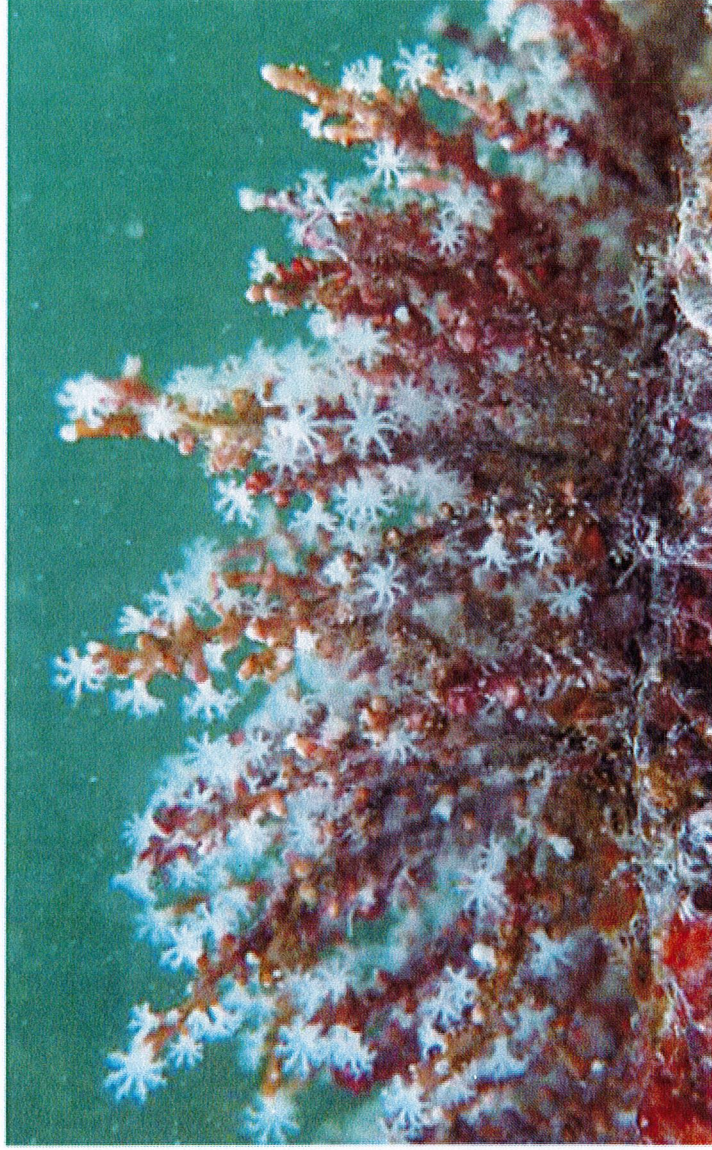


Figure 7. Underwater photograph of the octocoral, *Didogorgia nodulifera* taken on January 5, 2022, at Pier B. This colorful species is plentiful on the wharfs, piers, and pilings fronting the cruise ship docks in Key West Harbor. Note the beautiful eight-fold symmetry of the extended tentacles on each of the polyps.

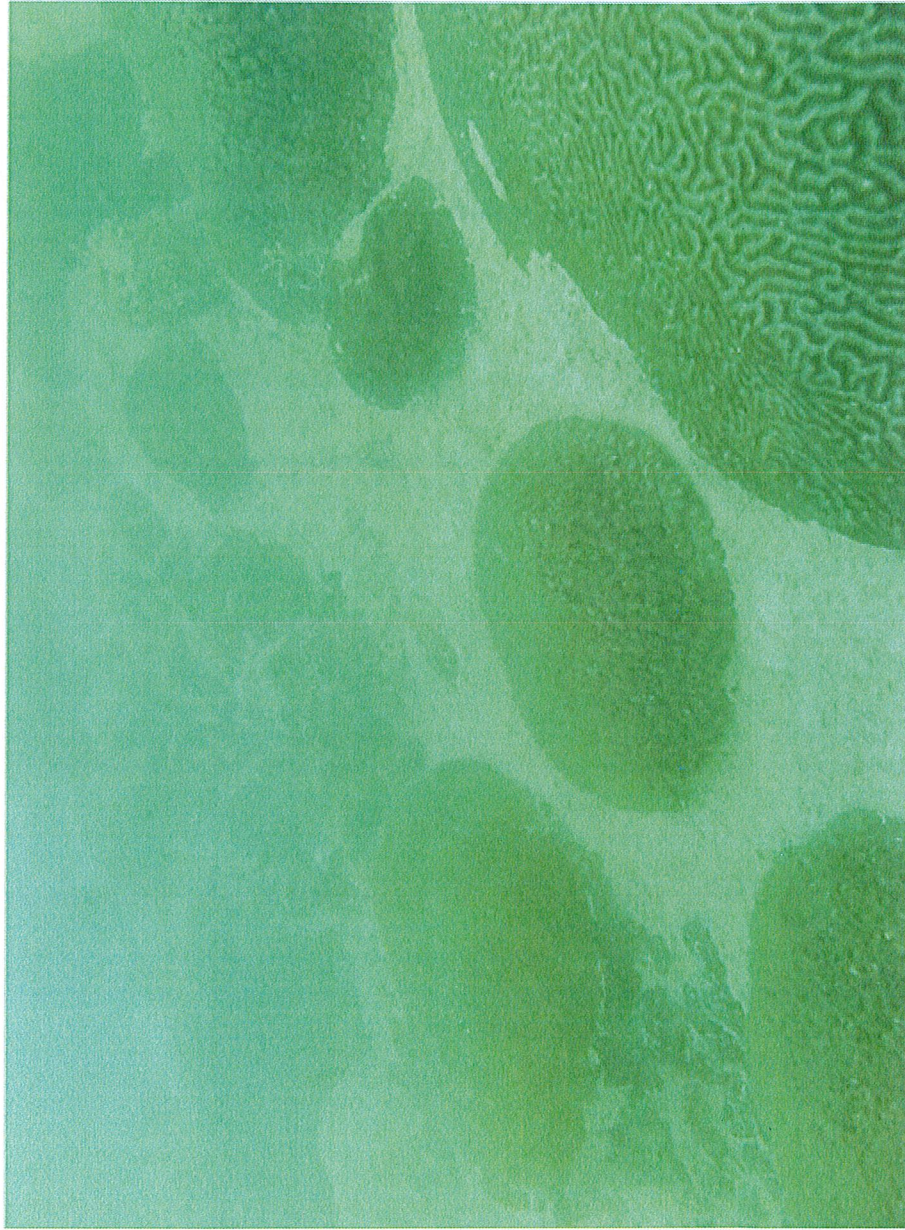


Figure 8. Diverse assemblage of relocated corals at the City of Miami Beach coral relocation site adjacent to Mallory Pier some 12 years after relocation. Note the abundance of natural sediment covering the concrete slabs in this photograph taken on October 11, 2021. This photo was taken toward the end of an almost 19-month period with no cruise ship arrivals in Key West Harbor.



Figure 10. Underwater photograph of a school of tarpon, *Megalops atlanticus*, living under the wharf at Pier B. This photo was taken on Monday February 7, 2022, the day after there had been three successive days with cruise ships docking at Pier B.

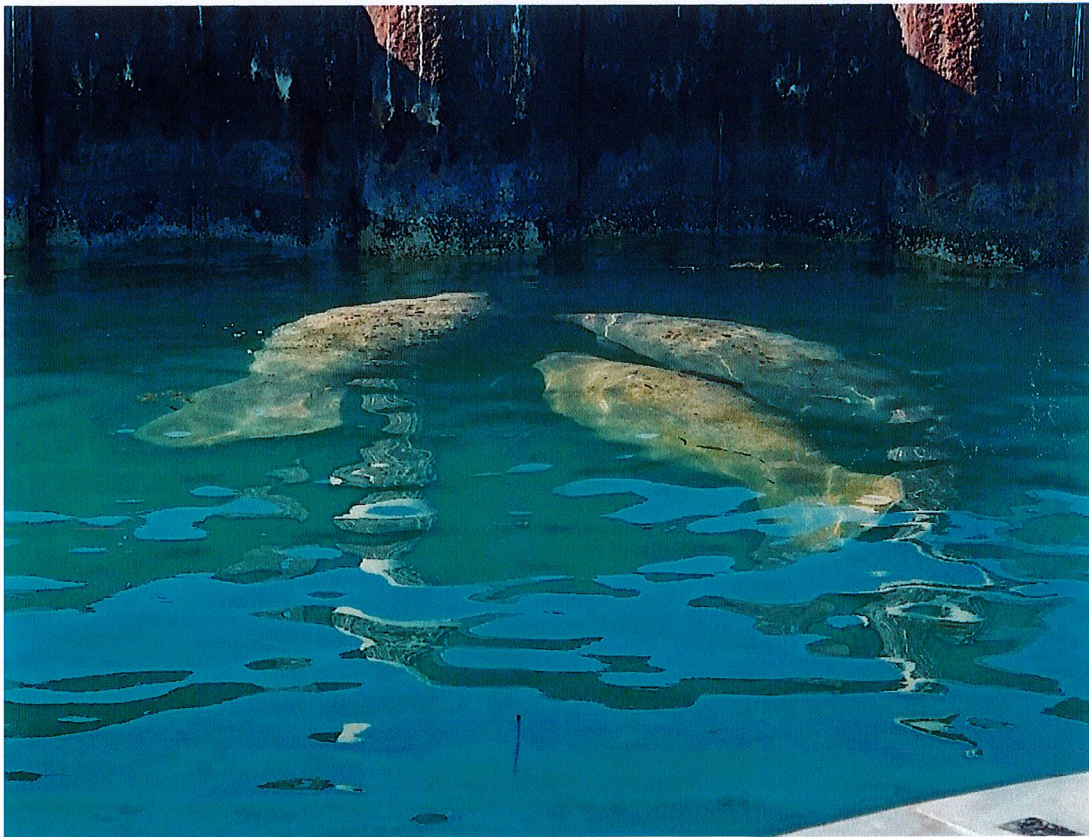


Figure 11. The West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) congregating within the Opal Resort Marina adjacent to Pier B on the morning of February 7, 2022.

In summary, there have been many unscientific claims about the purported impacts of the turbid prop-wash generated by cruise ships arriving and departing from Key West on the biological resources of the area. However, recent analysis of the biological communities living within Key West Harbor tell a very different story than the one most of you have been accustomed to hearing. While corals throughout the Florida Keys have seen catastrophic declines in coral cover and species diversity over the past five decades, the coral community living within Key West Harbor has been shown to be one of the most resilient to various coral stressors and most importantly, to the impacts associated with regional coral bleaching and disease outbreaks. Because of this, the corals living on the wharfs, piers, and pilings fronting the cruise ship docks in Key West are some of the most diverse and healthy coral assemblages remaining within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. In addition to corals, this biological community is replete with a plethora of other marine organisms making it one of the most unique habitats in all the Florida Keys.