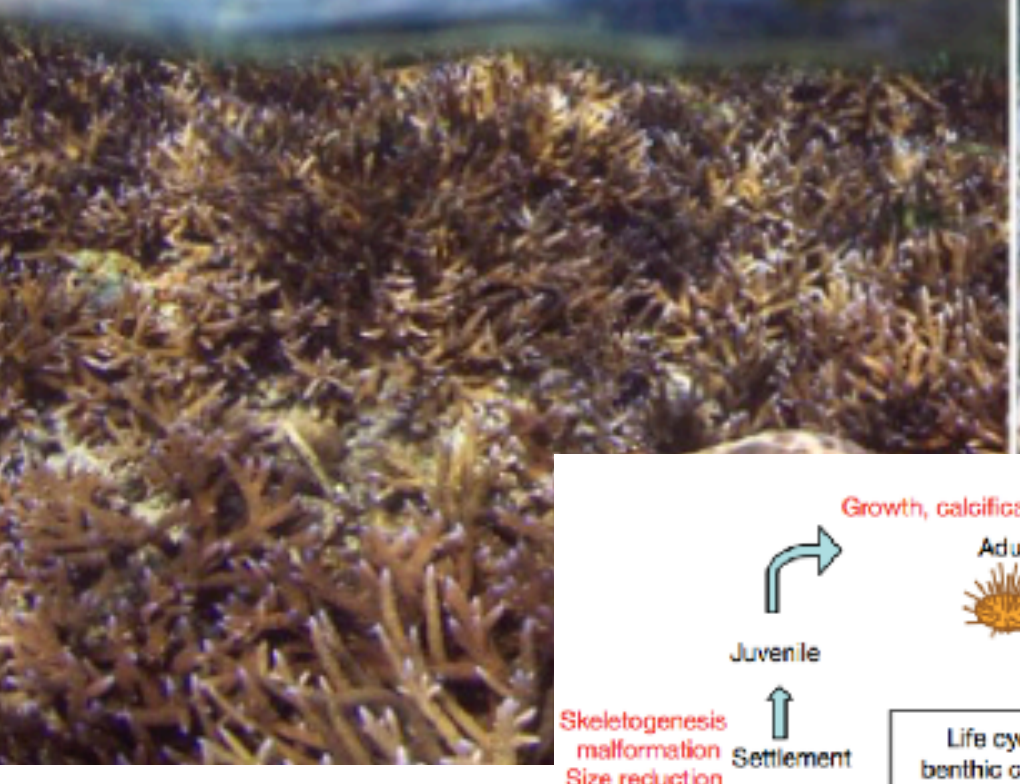
Ocean Acidification

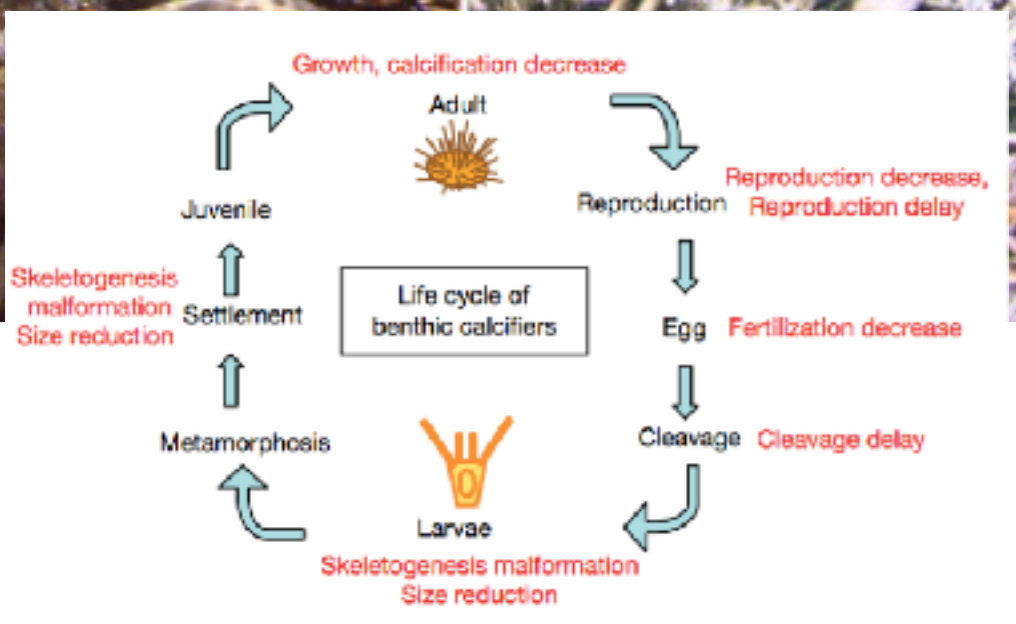
Key Players:

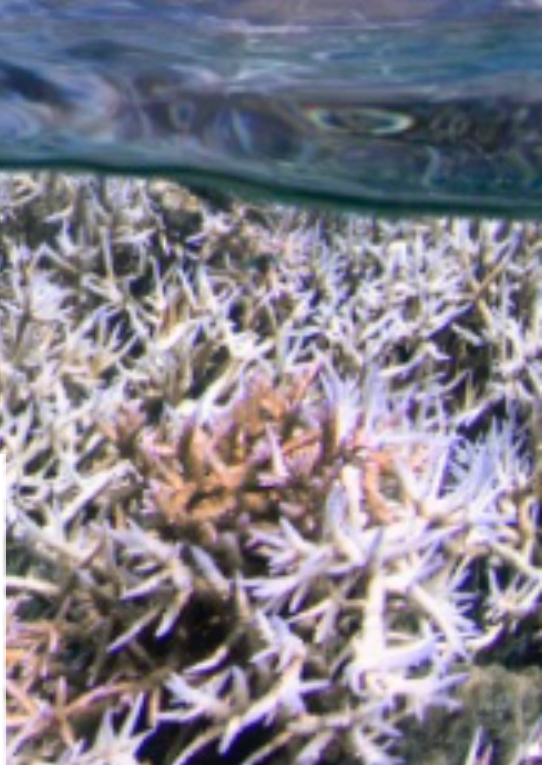
- Humans
- Carbon Dioxide
- Corals
- Oceans
- Climate Change
- Benthic Organisms (e.g. Crustaceans, Clams)

Fast Facts:

- Oceans absorb 1/3 of all CO_2 emissions
- 20% of Global Barrier reefs have been lost in the past few decades
- 21% of all marine species are found in corals
- 250 million people depend on corals for livelihood
- 27% of global coral is at a high risk for disappearing





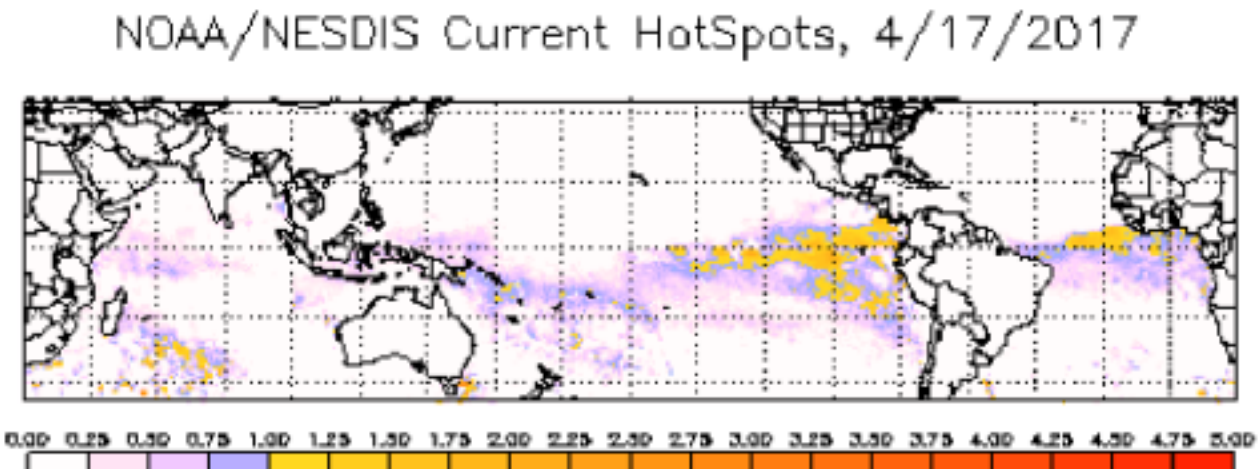


Picture Above: Shows a normal coral (Left) and a bleached coral (Right)

Figure to the left: Outlines a corals life strategy and effects they can undergo.

What is it?

- Ocean Acidification is a global threat to marine environments.
- Due to excess amounts of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, oceans are becoming more acidic (Kroeker, 2010).
- Research has found that this has negative effects on growth, survival, reproduction and calcification.
- The affects on organisms differ, however organisms that rely on calcification were most sensitive to changes in pH. This affects many life stages of marine invertebrates.



What can be done to help?

- Trying to minimize our use of fossil fuels (e.g. carpool, turn lights off when not in use)
- Write to legislators to create restrictions on fossil fuel emissions and/or to mandate research to help better understand how to mitigate the effects of Ocean acidification
- Spread the word!

Figure to the left: Shows the "Hotspots" (at most risk) for bleaching, generally in the tropics.