

Project Update: March 2018

In December 2017 I began a coral transplant experiment wherein corals from a nearshore reef in Belize were transplanted to an offshore reef and corals from an offshore reef were transplanted to a nearshore reef.

All corals were sectioned into 12 pieces, six of which were transplanted to the new reef environment and six of which remained on the home reef to serve as controls. I collected one piece of each colony to serve as a control and conducted physiological measurements of symbiont and coral health on these pieces.

In March 2018 I returned to the experimental sites to weigh each coral. These weights tell us how much each coral has grown. Growth indicates a healthy coral. Additionally, we photographed each coral to quantify any changes in surface area and we cleaned our transplant sites, as they had a lot of algae growing on them.



Transplant table before cleaning. Note the high abundance of algae.



Transplant table after cleaning. Corals are visible and happy!

We will monitor the site over the coming months and return for more measurements during the summer.