

## Compromised Health in Octocorals (CHO)

- Unhealthy looking tissues with clear signs of recent mortality or "necrosis". Forms bands, focused or sparse spots or irregular areas of different sizes.

**Pathogen(s):** Unknown, might be caused by pathogens or environmental stress.

**Host range:** At least 6 species of octocorals.

**Distribution:** Wider Caribbean (2-20m).

### Commonly confused with:

- Other disease problems in octocorals, aspergillosis.

### Key ID characteristics:

- Unhealthy looking tissue usually showing signs of mortality and clean bare endoskeleton is exposed. Polyps retracted in affected areas and interphase and healthy-looking area may show pigmentation response. Tissues might be sloughing off the branches.

**Rate of advance:** Unknown but low and variable.

**Prevalence:** Low.

**Seasonality:** No apparent seasonality.

**Impact:** Partial to total colony mortality.

