

Coral Monitoring Report # 2

Safaniya Coral Relocation Project

Date and time of Survey: 23 July 2009, 16:00

Survey by: Mr Abdulsalam Al-Abdulsalam

Findings and Observations

Extreme low tide at time of visitation. The centre of the nursery had a depth of 1m (normally 2.4m) and the tide was still going out. As a result, the combination of low water and high summer temperatures and sunlight are likely to be stressing the corals, however the majority appear fine and are actively feeding.

Coral head #6 was leaning over and was righted and re-stabilized. Slight bleaching of the polyps (<5% of total) where it rested on the sediment but this shouldn't be a major threat to the colony. The reason for tipping over is unclear however this coral head has a shape that is prone to tipping and it could have been caused by burrowing gobies or crabs burrowing under the coral head.



Figure 1. Left photo: Coral head #6 that was found leaning on side. Reason is unclear. No sign of disturbance to the seabed around it. Right photo: Coral with no number and small broken nub. Reason for break unknown. High resolution photos will be provided to Aramco.

A small nub was broken off a coral head with no number. The cause is unknown and minor.

Other Observations

Lowest tide witnessed at the site thus far.

No dredging activity has commenced in the nearshore but a jack-up barge was working offshore and may be the dredge moving from the midzone – to be confirmed.

Number of fish have continued to increase around the small artificial reef called 'Larry's Reef' and there is a lot of crab activity under coral heads as well as many gobies creating burrows under coral heads.

Scheduled Monitoring Dates

The following dates may vary if extreme weather or actions require a site visit.

Nursery Monitoring	Date
Monitoring #1 - DONE	3 July 2009
Monitoring #2 - DONE	24 July 2009
Monitoring #3	5 August 2009
Final Monitoring to end 60 day period	20 August 2009

Actions for Next Monitoring Trip

Conduct quick survey of non-relocated corals near to the nursery and either side of the dredge zone to compare colouration with corals in the nursery.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards



David J Lennon
Director