



# Bleach Patrol

The world's coral reefs are threatened by the increased frequency of wide-spread bleaching events. Corals that experience thermal stress sometimes “bleach,” turning white as they expel symbiotic algae living in their tissue. In order to better understand coral bleaching, scientists need to know when and where corals are bleached and where reefs appear stressed.

The “**Bleach Patrol**” are citizen scientists, surfers, divers, and general enthusiasts working together to map out the extent of global coral bleaching. *Anyone with a smartphone or internet access and enthusiasm for being part of a global scientific campaign can help!*

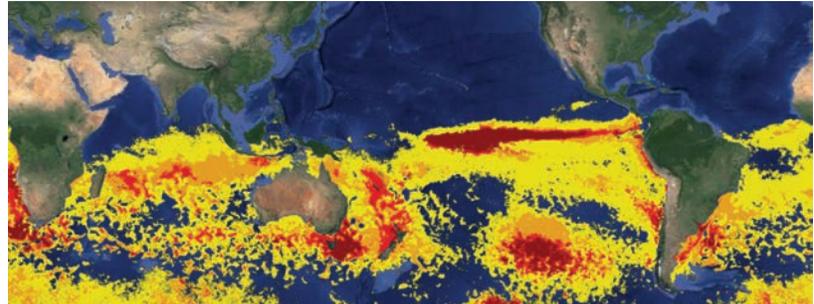
The project is a collaboration between the **World Surf League**, the social networking app **goFlow**, and scientists at the **Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University**. Our goal is to compile a global, constantly updated data set of coral bleaching and reef health.

[www.ideo.columbia.edu/bleachpatrol](http://www.ideo.columbia.edu/bleachpatrol)

[www.worldsurfleague.com/coral-bleach-patrol](http://www.worldsurfleague.com/coral-bleach-patrol)



*Bleached corals are easy to identify, even for non-experts. Acropora in foreground is bleached: Wikipedia*



*Above: Thermal stress map, showing where corals could be bleaching (Feb-April 2016) (Source <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/>)*

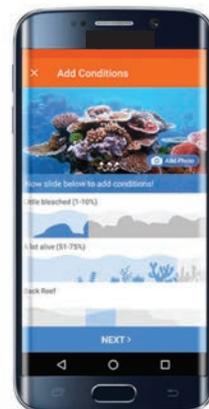
## You are the “Bleach Patrol”

To be part of the Bleach Patrol, observe reef status anywhere in the world, then **use the goFlow app or our website to upload a report**. We want to know your location, whether you see healthy corals, bleached corals, and where you are on the reef. ***Include photos if you can.***

### GET THE APP

*depending on your device and software, click or paste into your web browser*

[www.goflow.me/uct](http://www.goflow.me/uct)



### Contact us:

[bleachpatrol@ideo.columbia.edu](mailto:bleachpatrol@ideo.columbia.edu)