

Public Comments USCRTF 2015

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Ridge to Reefs

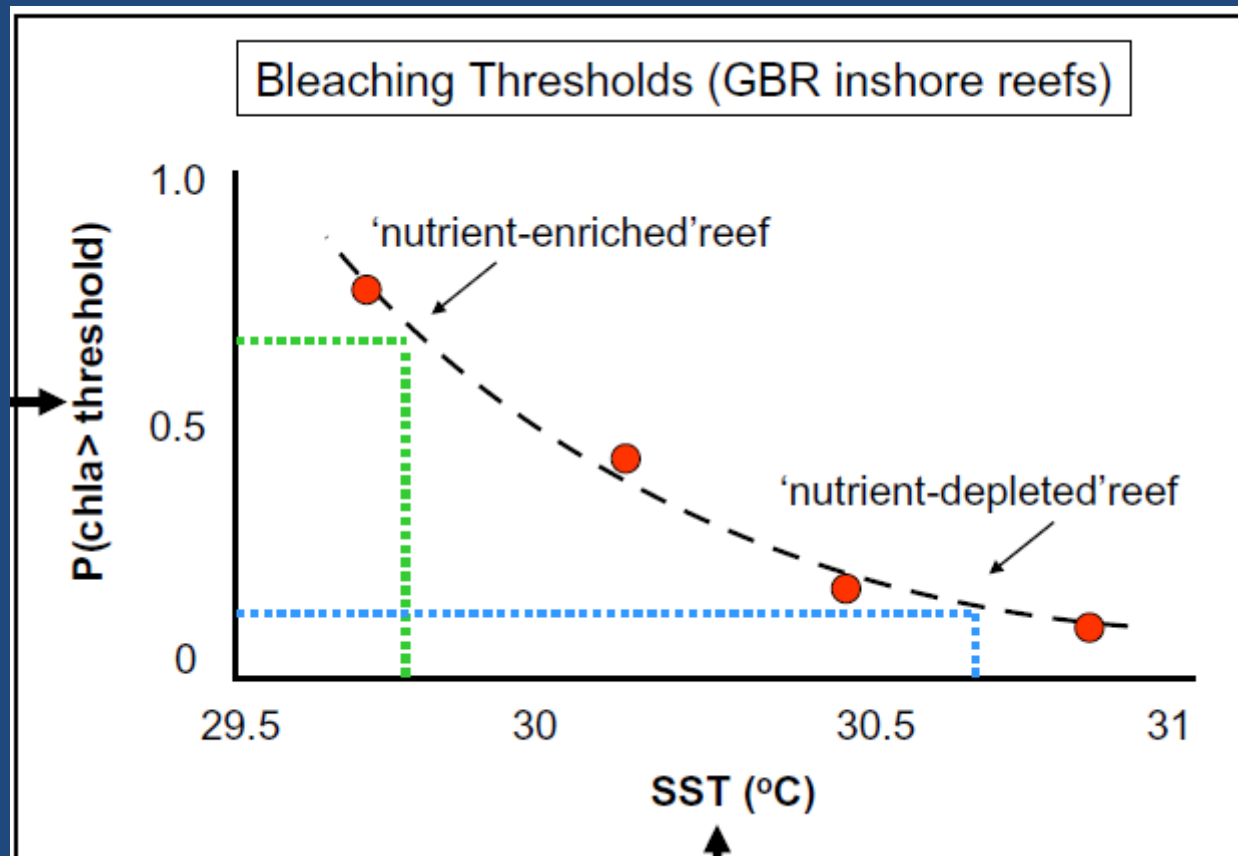


Treatment wetlands project

- Over 3 ½ years and 400 pages of documentation for an environmental restoration project
- 5.5 acres of treatment wetlands at WWTP
- Project would impact 1 acre of previously degraded wetlands
- Creation of tertiary treatment for > 1,000,000 gallons per day – of existing secondary treatment – reduce > 20,000 lbs of TN annually
- Same process as a development project

Evidence of Benefits

- *Florida Study by Vega-Thurber et. al. (2013) shows a exacerbated bleaching with the presence of nitrogen and rapid recovery without*
- *“concrete evidence for the belief that improved watershed management/nitrogen reduction will increase the survival prospects of coral reefs to global climate change”*



Recommendations

- Policy adopted in Florida to shorten process for restoration = < 90 days
- Jurisdictions to consider expedited process for restoration – particularly in light of climate change and bleaching events

Benefits

- More rapid response and achievement of benefits
- More efficient use of limited finite resources and time