

FRRP DRM IN-WATER TRAINING

Prior to conducting a benthic transect survey, a surveyor should be proficient in: coral identification of all major reef building coral species on the DRM datasheet, distinguishing colony boundaries, estimating diameter and heights, and estimating partial mortality. In addition, they should be familiar with different types of condition (e.g., bleaching, disease, predation). To maintain and quantify accuracy and consistency between benthic observers during the survey, the surveyors should calibrate standards every other day of the survey or as many times are necessary to attain >90% accuracy.

Standard calibration for DRM transects:

- 1) Using a set transect line or pre-identified coral colonies, have each observer estimate and record the following for at least 5 different coral colonies:
 - Species Identification
 - Maximum diameter and height
 - % recent and old mortality

- 2) To calibrate between observers, the following should be maintained:
 - Species identification should be consistent and accurate between all observers
 - Maximum diameter and height measurements should be within 10 cm
 - % recent and old mortality estimates should be within 10% for each

- 3) Compare results after the calibration and discuss differences (if any) and variations between observers while still at the site.

- 4) Assess additional coral colonies if necessary to maintain >90% accuracy.