

# MASS MORTALITY EVENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

During 2018, Sea Surface Temperature in the Mediterranean registered the highest values ever recorded in many areas. Divers are reporting several areas affected by the **mortality of macroinvertebrate species** such as gorgonians, sponges and bivalves, which are continuously increasing.

During the last years, similar mass mortality events were reported affecting large areas and numbers of species and were linked, as this year, to thermal stress.

Gorgonians, sponges and bivalves are affected by mass mortality events linked to thermal stress

The aim of this document is to engage diving clubs and divers in the observation of the effects of mortality over the Mediterranean Sea.

To do so, we are asking diving clubs and divers from different geographic areas of the Mediterranean to report any observation on mass mortality in their diving sites.

To collect the information, we prepared a form that can be filled in or printed and filled in by hand. To support your observations a series of images of *Non-affected* and *Affected* species are provided in the last page of this document. Besides, more visual resources are available at a specific devoted website to the 2018 mass mortality event: **mme2018.medrecover.org**.

The filled form must be sent to **mme2018.med@gmail.com**.

Likewise, we would appreciate if you can upload the images of mass mortality in this shared folder: **bit.ly/mme2018-folder**.

We recommend you to upload either zip file with the images or copy directly the folder with several images. Always indicate your name and date in the file or in the folder in order to be able to sort out and track properly the files. For *example* a name of file/folder 20181021\_John\_Smith

The final aim of this action is to collate all information available on the ongoing 2018 mass mortality event

**This is an initiative of an international scientific group of experts working on the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean.**

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**WEB · mme2018.medrecover.org**

**CONTACT MAIL · mme2018.med@gmail.com**

**SHARED FOLDER · bit.ly/mme2018-folder**

# MASS MORTALITY OBSERVATIONS

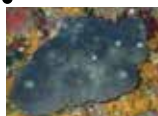
## Contact information:

Name:	Phone/E-mail:
Organization:	Website:

<b>OBSERVATION PERIOD:</b>
<b>COUNTRY:</b>

Gorgonians

Sponges



Dive site	Red	White	Yellow	<i>Leptogorgia</i>	<i>Cladocora</i>	Grey	Violet	Other species	Filamentous algae
<i>Ej: Medes islands</i>	A (25-40m)	A (30-40m)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		++

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**Filling codes:**

- A Affected - Indicate depth range of affectation
- NA Non affected
- NO Not observed

**Abundance:**

- None
- + Low
- ++ High

# Red gorgonian - *Paramuricea clavata*

✓ NON AFFECTED



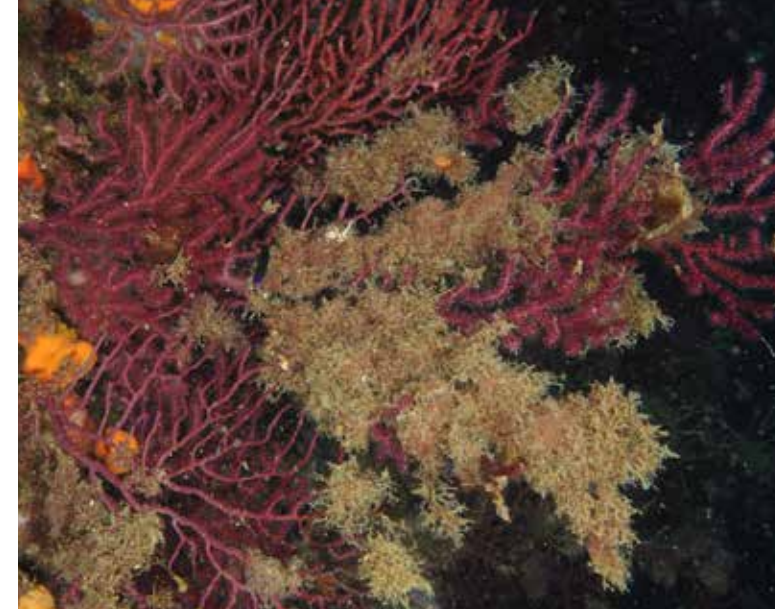
✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED





# White gorgonian - *Eunicella singularis*

✓ NON AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



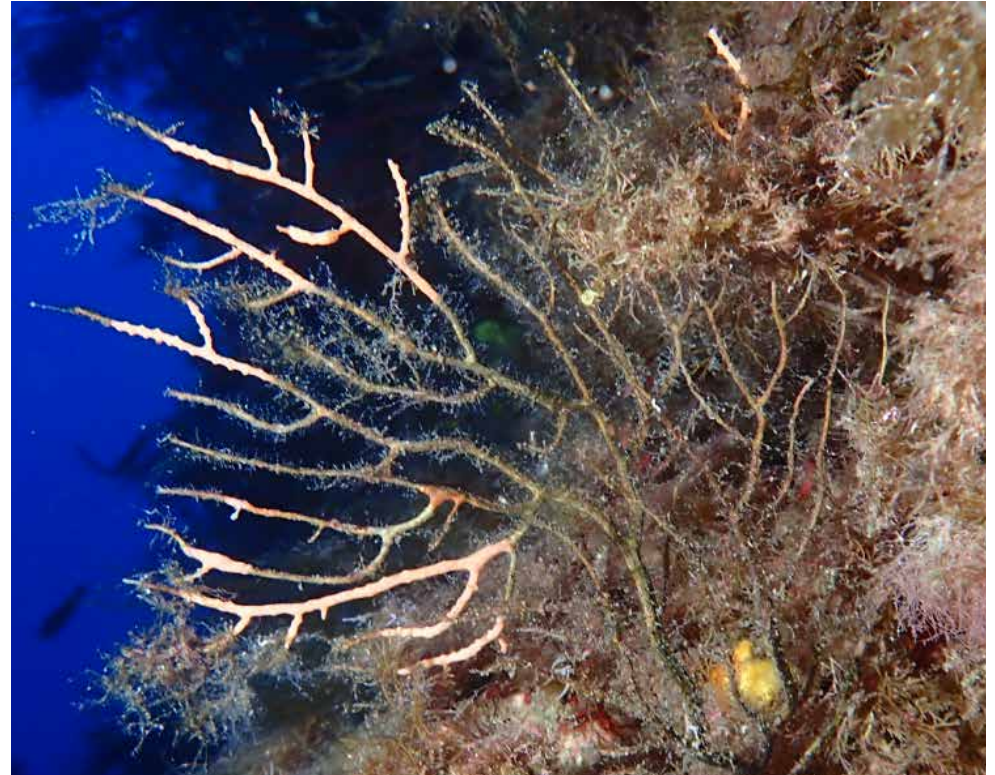


## Yellow gorgonian - *Eunicella cavolini*

✓ NON AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED

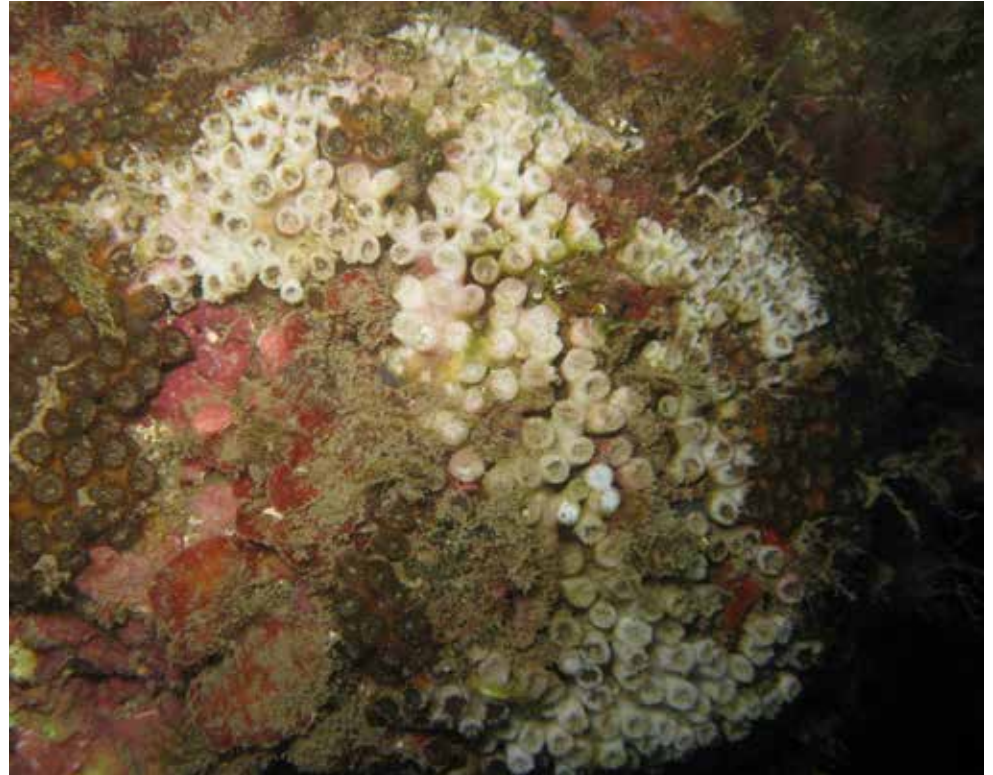


# *Cladocora caespitosa*

✓ NON AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED





# Grey sponges

✓ NON AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED





# Violet sponges

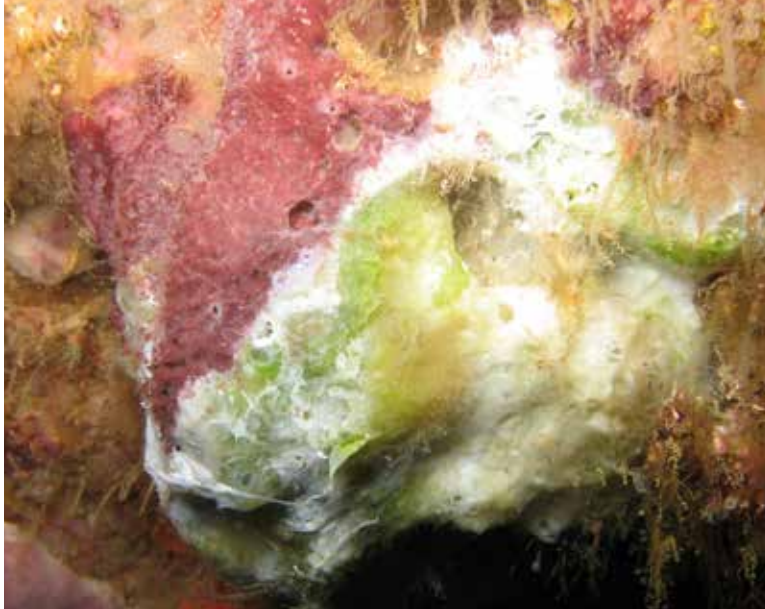
✓ NON AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED



✗ AFFECTED





# *Leptogorgia*

✓ NON AFFECTED



## Filamentous algae

