

## **Coral Monitoring Report # 3**

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### **Safaniya Coral Relocation Project**

**Date and time of Survey:** 7 August 2009, 14:00

**Survey by:** Mr Abdulsalam Al-Abdulsalam

#### **Findings and Observations**

This is the last monitoring report before the final check of the corals and final report to conclude the 60 day monitoring period.

This session was cut short due to the Coast Guard stopping monitoring and requiring a meeting at their station which lasted 2.5hrs.

In general the corals are still looking either very healthy or in acceptable condition. There were a few noted, eg. #6, #183, #208, #268, and ten of the small coral fragments that may be showing signs of poor health. This may be normal for the summer period and these corals could still survive providing there are no increased environmental stresses. More information will be gained from the final monitoring session to help confirm their condition.

#### *Sediment*

A notable difference this time was the presence of sediment on top of the coral which was the first time it had been present during monitoring sessions and was fanned off by divers as much as possible in the time available. This sediment could be the result of wave action and currents, and a typical occurrence for the area, or due to increased turbidity due to the mid zone dredging which had commenced. Nearshore dredging had still not started at the time of this monitoring session.

#### **Other Observations**

Visibility decreased to 4m and the worst it has been since monitoring began.

Mid zone dredge could be seen several km away and could be heard underwater.

No nearshore dredging although significant land preparation was taking place.

## 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 – DONE	7 August 2009
Final Monitoring to end 60 day period	21 August 2009

## Actions for Final Monitoring

Request letter from Aramco for the Coast Guard explaining that diving will be taking place at the site. This will help ensure delays are minimal.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards



David J Lennon  
Director