

Project Update: October 2018

March 2018

Justin Baumann and Colleen Bove from UNC Chapel Hill travelled to Placencia, Belize to check on corals they had fragmented and transplanted to two reef environments in December, 2017. This transplant project was begun in collaboration with Fragments of Hope LTD, a Belize-based coral restoration NGO. Justin and Colleen were able to partner with Fragments of Hope to learn valuable field out planting and coral restoration techniques. In the end, the goal is to identify if corals from nearshore locations in Belize: A.) grow faster than offshore corals; and B.) possess more phenotypic plasticity than corals from offshore reefs due to their exposure to more variable conditions throughout the year.



Justin and Colleen collecting corals for fragmentation. © Mary Lide Parker—ML Parker Media.



Justin Baumann (UNC) and Mariko Wallen (Fragments of Hope) sampling in the back reef. ©Mary Lide Parker- ML Parker Media.



Coral transplant table built by Fragments of Hope containing Justin Baumann's experimental fragments. ©Mary Lide Parker—ML Parker Media.

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After months analysing data, Justin and Colleen headed back to Placencia, Belize in order to collect a 9 month post-transplant time point of data on their corals. Again, through a partnership with Fragments of Hope, this research with very successful. Each coral was cleaned, weighed, and one fragment of each genotype from each transplant site was collected for further measurements in the lab.



Coral table before cleaning



Coral table after cleaning.