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David Graham Patriquin

January 14, 2024 .

...

To.. "The Little Beach"/Vauxhall Reef, which we "discovered" in 2015, then & until 2023, a very healthy fringing reef
<http://versicolor.ca/barbados/mpa/vauxhall-reef/>

[Edit](#)

June Trenholm



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



Jan 15, 2023

Jan 12
2024

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David Graham Patriquin

January 14, 2024



Breakwater built from Nova Scotia rocks supported healthy corals up until a year ago, then SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease) hit...Documenting its arrival on Vauxhall Reef was my "project" in 2023 <http://versicolor.ca/.../stony-coral-tissue-loss-in.../> Scientifically interesting but not uplifting! A glimmer of hope- in the bottom pic there are 2 corals that seem unaffected by the disease.

Edit



Norman Phinney, June Trenholm and 2 others

4



Most relevant



James Boyer

At least there are some healthy Pillar Coral.

1y Like Reply



David Graham Patriquin replied · 1 Reply



Norman Phinney

beats the snow and cold

1y Like Reply



Graham Patriquin

There is hope for the corals. What I also find



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



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David Graham Patriquin

January 14, 2024

...

To the Reef Crest Zone to view *Acropora prolifera* colonies I found in 2015. Snorkel tour boats beyond

Edit

Like June Trenholm, Graham Patriquin and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



>



X



April 24, 2023



Edit



14



Most relevant ▾



David Goddard

Sea temps the past summer should be reviewed as a contributing factor. Never have I felt the sea that warm in Bim

1y Like Reply Edited



David Graham Patriquin replied · 3 Replies



Anne Mills

Mystery to be researched and solved!

1y Like Reply



David Graham Patriquin replied · 1 Reply

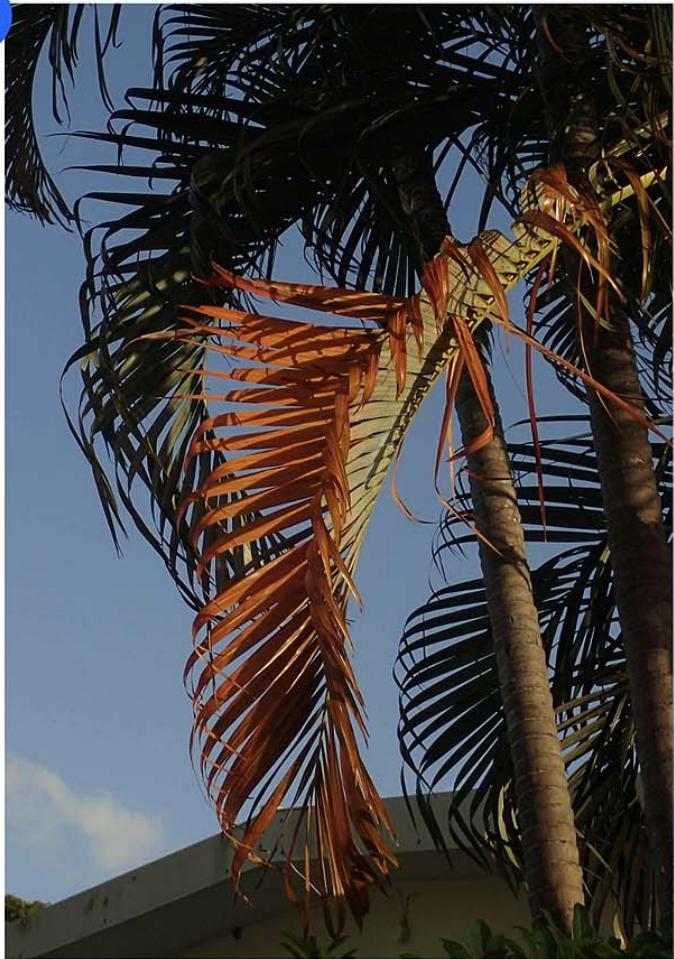


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David Graham Patriquin
January 31, 2024 .

...

So Many Thanks to Sandy Crest Medical Centre, Friends, & of course Nina for helping me get through a bout of dengue, several of those friends themselves afflicted.

It was only my 3rd day in the water since arriving, I had been very saddened to see on two earlier days (Jan 12, 15) the effects of extreme coral bleaching in 2023; today (Jan 31) I was looking for some elkhorn coral on the reef by 'The Club', fully expected it to be completely dead; I couldn't find it. It was... [See more](#)

Edit



Dumitru Leica, Karen Dodge and 56 others

35



Most relevant ▾



Bev Wigney
Sorry to hear you've been unwell, but glad to hear you are better!

1y

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Sheila Stevenson replied · 1 Reply



Mora Stevens
Hope you feel better soon Dave. Happy hunting for the hopefully healthy coral.

1y

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



David Graham Patriquin

February 9, 2024 .

...

My 'Wave of the Day' (a la Mimmi Henriksen) & Thx to the 3 guys at Surfside who hauled me up on the beach after it dumped me on shore (Or Tell an 81 year-old 3 months after back surgery he's not 60 anymore)... [See more](#)

Edit

14 47

29 2



Most relevant



Helga Guderley
Looks beautiful!

1y Like Reply



Eva Torsteinson
Omg! Maybe it jiggled some bits in place good again 😊

1y Like Reply



Sydnee Lynn
Wow, please be careful.

1y Like Reply



Sandy Martin
Mother Nature has a strange way of telling you to "give your head a shake" 🙄 I hope it was a good ride tho... 😊



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





David Graham Patriquin

February 12, 2024 .

...

A calm sea day in 2018. With James Boyer who captured this scene on a canvas..... [See more](#)

Edit

17

4 1



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Graham Patriquin

Such a nice boardwalk. And who is that little lady? LOL.

1y Like Reply



James Boyer

We've been thinking of you and Nina. I love this picture. Thank you for remembering. I saw pictures of the flooding over by Surfside. It must have been very high surf. Glad you are okay.

Looking forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks. ... [See more](#)

1y Like Reply



Maria Jessica Patriquin

oh my heart nice memories

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

February 14, 2024

...

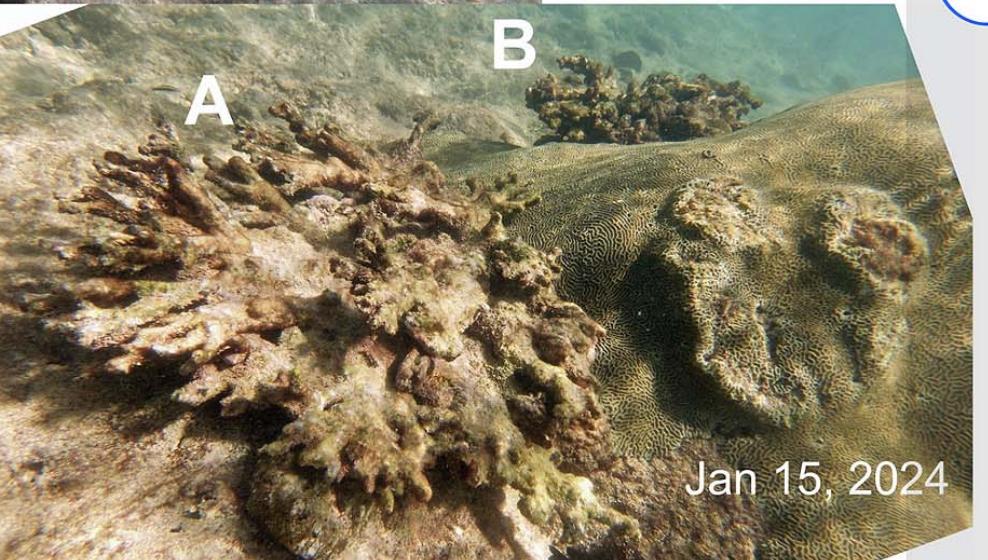
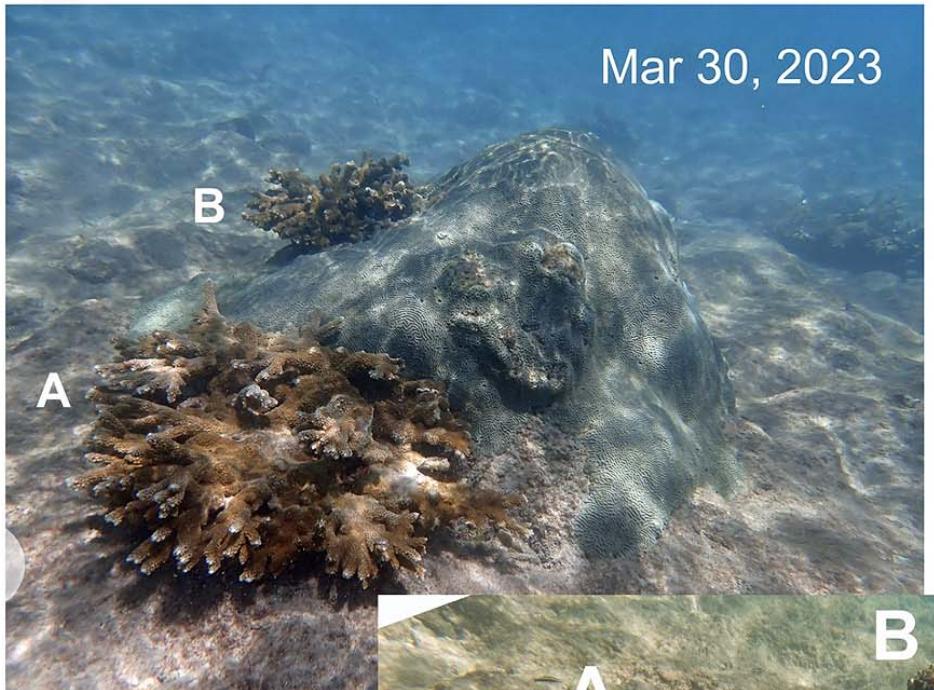
Good and Not-So-Good News from the Reef Flat (not covered on CBC or CNN!). The Reef flat is that area of shallow, barren-looking rocks extending out 50+ meters from shore, generally not good for snorkelling because it is shallow and waves break over it, but its one of my favourite place to explore. It's been hard to post anything this year because most of the news from underwater is bad, but life goes on as they say... so I will try to present a bit of good news with each ... [See more](#)

[Edit](#)



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin

February 14, 2024 .

...

So here is the Bad News. A & B are colonies of *Acropora prolifera*, the Fused Staghorn Coral. It is a hybrid between 2 species I "discovered" on the Vauxhall reef (at Beachlands) in 2015, and have been following every year since as it grows and spreads. These 2 specimens (A & B) were fully healthy on Mar 30, 2023 BUT not on Jan 15, 2024....in 2023 there were record warm temperatures and several "coral bleaching events"... and one or more of those apparently killed all of these... [See more](#)

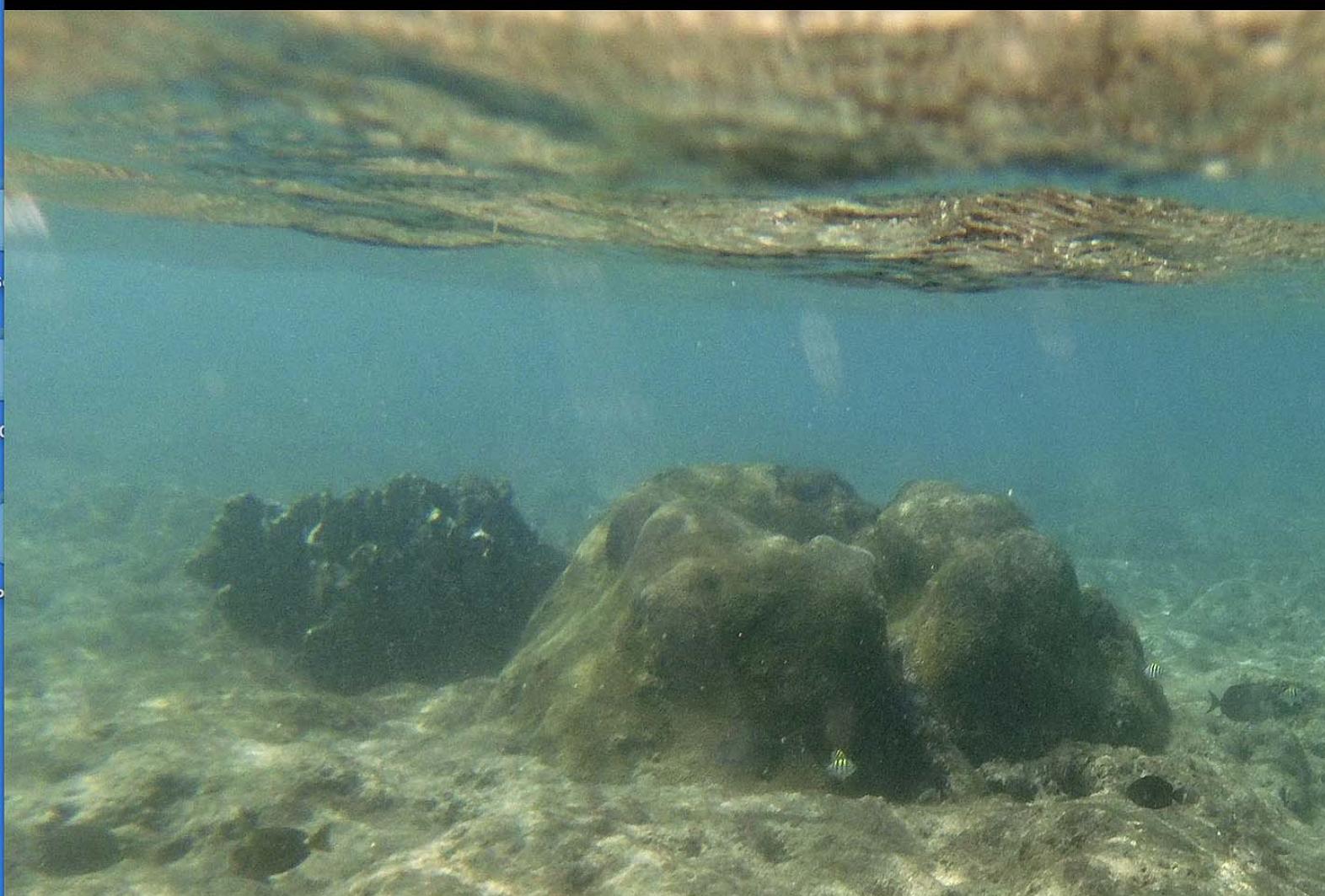
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David Graham Patriquin

February 14, 2024 .

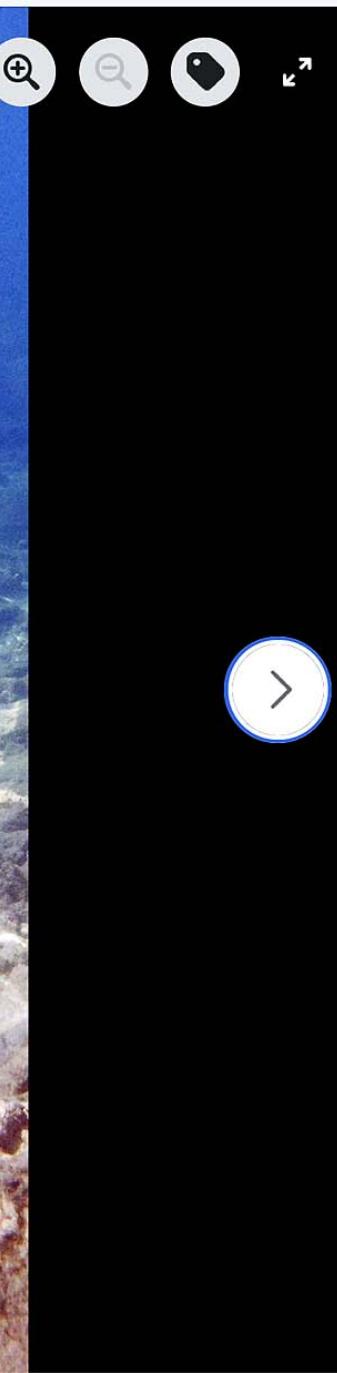
...

The Knobby Brain Coral, at right. It has wonderful curves and different colours and shades and is prominent in these shallow waters, at least at Beachlands/Vauxhall, the healthiest fringing reef in the MPA (marine Protected Area). I am so happy to see it unscathed by the heat, probably because it has been an occupant of that habitat for a very long time, and there are often extremes of temperature associated with very low tides etc. The Fused Staghorn Coral was a newcomer (probably cura 2005). To the left is a colony of Stinging Coral -to my surprise it did NOT survive the warming events unscathed...(more on that later) [See less](#)



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin

February 25, 2024

...

My fish-like G'son Kai; after accompanying me at Vauxhall Reef for several days (documenting what survived and what didn't survive the vicissitudes of 2023), I said Ok let's go to Surfside and see some Oohs and Ahhs... [See less](#)

[Edit](#)

Dumitru Leica, Shuming Zhang and 14 others

1



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Mihaela Oncel
Beautiful picture!

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



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David Graham Patriquin

February 25, 2024 .

...

They were waiting for us, attracted by fish wastes thrown in the water just as we got there. Tarpon and Sting Rays. [See less](#)

[Edit](#)

8

1



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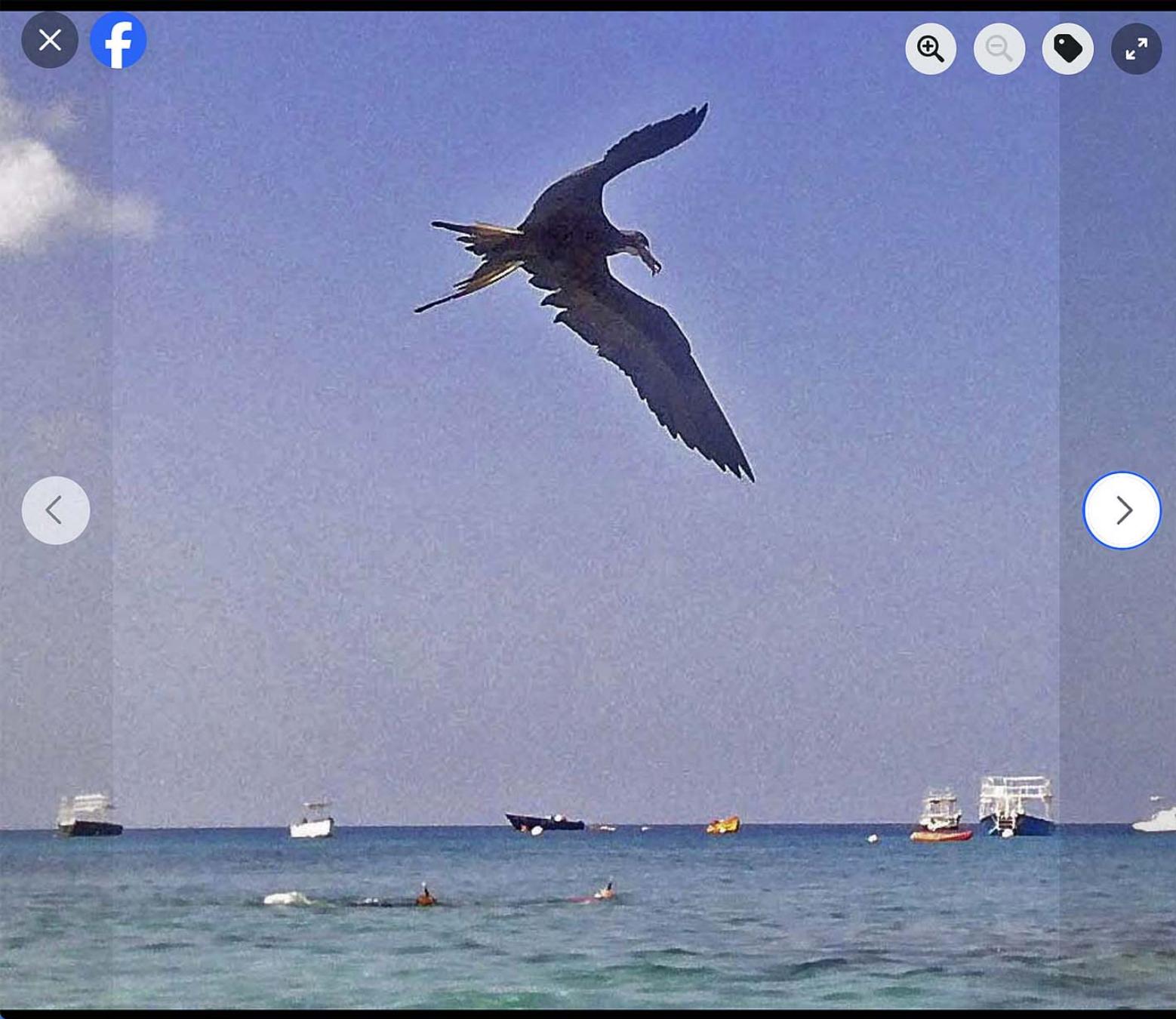
Anne Mills
Neat!

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin

>



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David Graham Patriquin

February 25, 2024 .

...

Even the Frigate Birds joined the feast. Because of the stinging plankton, we couldn't go further and see the over-fed turtles and puffer fish and hordes of bat-like gunards. (Obviously not my favourite place to snorkel; I can't help but notice the many signs of eutrophication (excess nutrients.) [See less](#)

[Edit](#)

Joshua Barss Donham, Gail Storey and 5 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



Edit



21 1 1



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Bev Wigney

Wow! What a beautiful fish. What species?

1y Like Reply



Maria Jessica Patriquin

OMG daddy its huge!

1y Like Reply



David Graham Patriquin

I believe a Queen Parrotfish

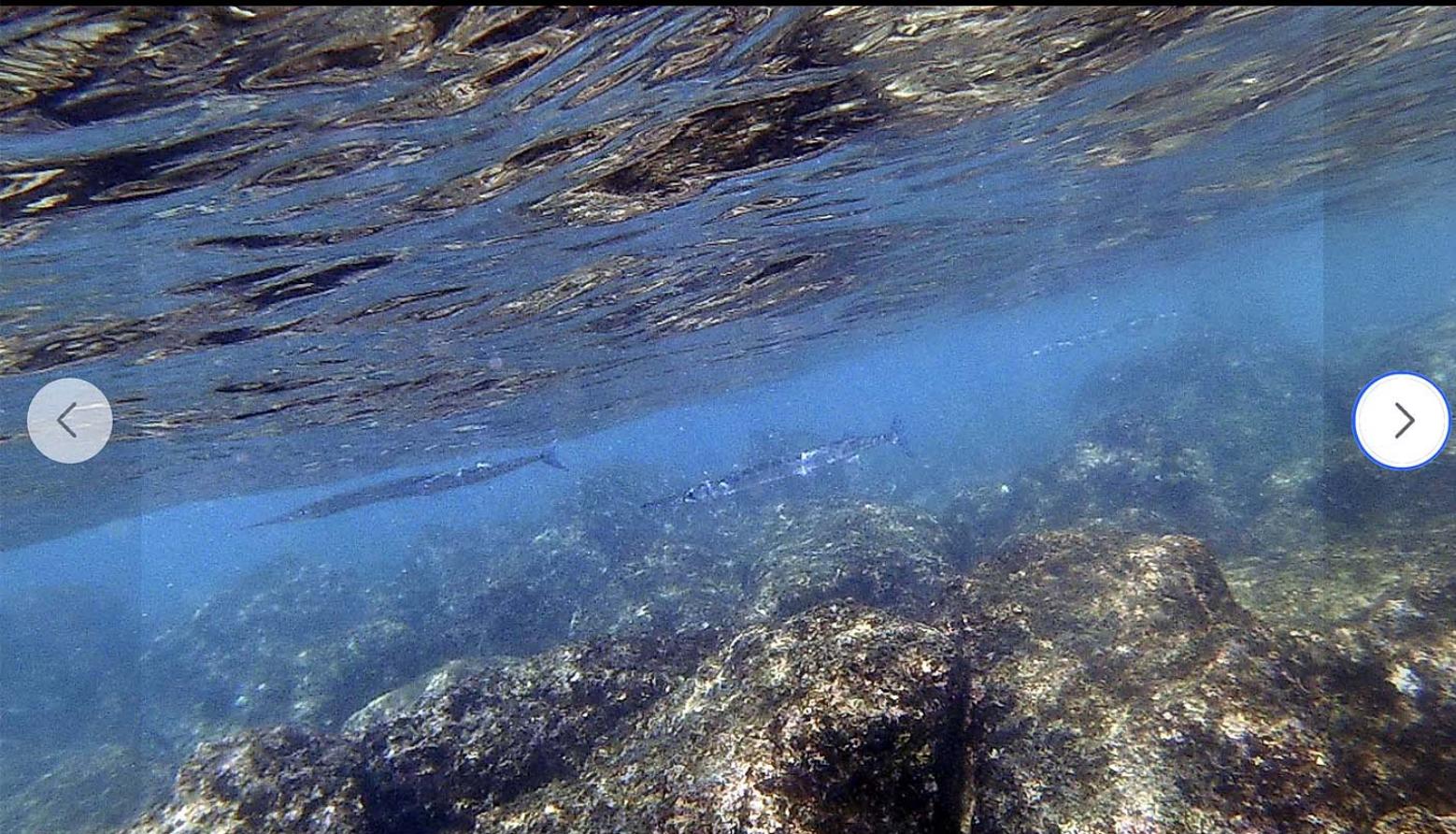
1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

March 3, 2024.

...

Fish of the Day (Mar 3) I like to snorkel just seaward of waves breaking in the Reef Crest zone (the shallowest part of the reef) of the reef just north of 'The Club', late in the day when fish are feeding on debris stirred up by the waves and on the fish feeding on the debris. Today lots of these 'long fish' moved in, 3-5 ft long. As well as I can figure, they are "Bluespotted Cornet Fish". See less

[Edit](#)



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

March 3, 2024 .

...

They move quickly and it's hard to get close to them, so this is the best pic so far.

"The bluespotted cornetfish is usually a solitary predator, stalking and feeding on small fishes, crustaceans, and squid. Sometimes, they feed in small groups along the bottom on small, bottom-dwelling fish which their long snouts are very efficient at sucking up." [Wikipedia](#) [See less](#)

[Edit](#)



Bev Wigney, Gail Storey and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin

March 6, 2024 .



MY fish of the day, a pair in the lower center of photo, Spotfin Butterfly Fish. 'tricky to see. (Next Photo is a close-up), It's a a new one for me. Banded Butterfly fish and Foureye Butterfly fish are relatively common on Vauxhall reef. Butterfly fish almost always seen in pairs. The habitat is the seaward end of a "spur" in the "spur and grooves" characteristic of the Seaward Slope zone of the Reef, floor circa 6 m depth. Its the most actively growing part of the reef and at Vauxhall; this one has circa 90% living coral cover. It's like a reef 'should be'; one exception the yellow brain coral was probably a victim of coral bleaching in the fall of 2023, some stinging coral likewise affected here, but overall still lookin good. [See less](#)

Edit

Ann Jamieson and James Boyer



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin

March 6, 2024 .

...

Spotfin Butterfly Fish. The "Spot" is apparently the key distinctive feature. It's the small black mark at edge of dorsal fin. Bfly fish feed on coral polyps. "Generally diurnal and frequenting waters less than 18 m (59 ft) deep (though some species descend to 180 m (590 ft), butterflyfish stick to particular home ranges. These corallivores are especially territorial, forming pairs and staking claim to a specific coral head." - Wikipedia. [See less](#)

[Edit](#)



Bev Wigney and James Boyer



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



David Graham Patriquin
March 8, 2024



Some Good News from Vauxhall Reef: this really stunning species of Stinging Coral was largely unaffected by the extreme warming/coral bleaching that occurred in Oct Nov. 2023. Just finished some documentation of effects on fire corals
<https://versicolor.ca/.../effects-of-2023-extreme.../> See less

Edit

Like, Sad, Heart, 5 others
Greg Watson, Lisa Proulx and 27 others

5



Most relevant



James Boyer
I'm hoping to head out there today.

1y Like Reply



David Graham Patriquin
Plan to go tomorrow circa 11 with A&M

1y Like Reply



James Boyer replied · 1 Reply



Finn Sander
Impressive, indeed!

1y Like Reply

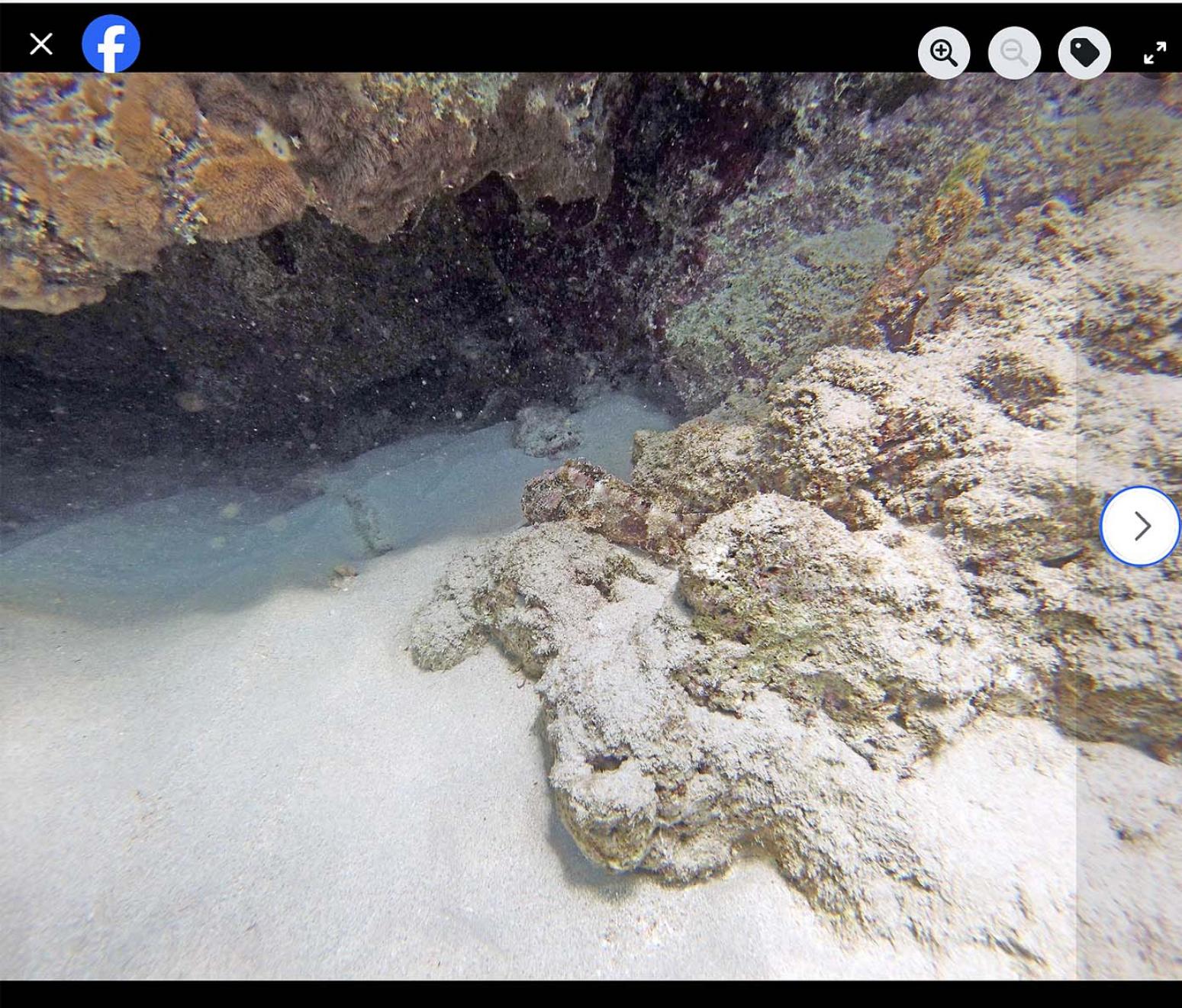


Anne Mills
Fascinating reading, Dave



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin

March 12, 2024

...

I had to convince myself it wasn't an old piece of coral! . "The spotted scorpionfish sits quietly on the sea floor, preying on small creatures that venture too near its well-camouflaged exterior. If touched or stepped on, wounds from its spines cause infection and great pain." [See less](#)

[Edit](#)

 Mary Manley, Bev Wigney and 4 others

1



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James Boyer

How some creatures evolve is really incredible. Well spotted!

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



This photo is from a post.

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David Graham Patriquin

March 12, 2024 .

...

Fish of the Day. Look, see it if you can but don't touch! The Spotted Scorpionfish or 'stonefish' [See less](#)

[Edit](#)

Mimmi Henriksen, Alan McHughen and 10 others

11



Most relevant



Bev Wigney

It's quite well camouflaged. 😊

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#)



James Boyer

It's a great example of camouflage in nature. Wonderful that you were able to spot it. Even in the picture it's hard to find.

Better a picture than stepping on it!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#)



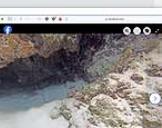
Gail Storey

I found these and moray eels scarier than barracuda/sharks - altho the latter got all the "publicity"

1v [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X

**David Graham Patriquin**

March 13, 2024 .

2



The brown and grey colour forms of *Orbicella annularis* (Mountainous Star Coral) have always intrigued me, here side by side at Vauxhall. From recent venture with James Boyer See less

Edit

Terry Moodie, Sybil Nunn and 15 others

8



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**James Boyer**
Thank you David!

1y Like Reply

**Roger Samson**
Is it a depth thing Dave? Is the lighter coloured one found more often near the surface and has more heat tolerance. Usually lighter coloured plants are found in more stress environments (like beach grasses).

1y Like Reply Edited



Roger Samson replied · 2 Replies

**Maria Jessica Patriquin**
Incredible photo dad!

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





David Graham Patriquin
March 13, 2024 .

2

Yellowtail Damselfish & Wrasses on *Millepora alcicornis* at Vauxhall Reef, Mar 2 with Maria Jessica Patriquin At Vauxhall, this species of Fire Coral at Vauxhall was not killed/bleached by extreme warming events in the fall of 2023 while the more common species. *M. complanata* was... curiously, in the lit., *M alcicornis* is reported to be highly susceptible to coral bleaching. See less

Edit

Terry Moodie, Mimmi Henriksen and 22 others

2



Most relevant ▾



Nina Patriquin
It is the beautiful world, we want to keep

1y Like Reply

2



James Boyer replied · 1 Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



David Graham Patriquin

March 13, 2024



Trumpetfish are still common on Vauxhall Reef. Mar 11, with James Boyer. Slow moving, often stationary, they change colour and orientation with their surroundings to blend in; vacuum cleaner snout sucks in small prey. [See less](#)

Edit



Karen Dodge, Terry Moodie and 30 others



Most relevant



Maria Jessica Patriquin

the colour change thing is amazing. Missing you and the fish lots

1y

Love

Reply



James Boyer

Thank you for a great snorkelling trip. So interesting and certainly appreciate your expertise.

1y

Like

Reply



Joshua Barss Donham

Look quite a bit like our northern pipefish up here.

1y

Like

Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



Vauxhall Reef 2015-2024

David Patriquin

Prof. of Biology,
Dalhousie University (retired)

Naturalist/CORALL volunteer

**CORALL AGM
Mar 14, 2024**

*Annotated slides from
the presentation*

www.versicolor.ca/barbados



David Graham Patriquin
March 16, 2024 .

...

Some folks have been asking about my recent presentation on Vauxhall Reef - I posted an annotated version online <https://versicolor.ca/.../bb.../vauxhall-2015-2024/> For more photos, see <https://versicolor.ca/.../photographs-2015-2016-vauxhall/> See less

[Edit](#)

Sybil Nunn, Christina Corkett and 5 others

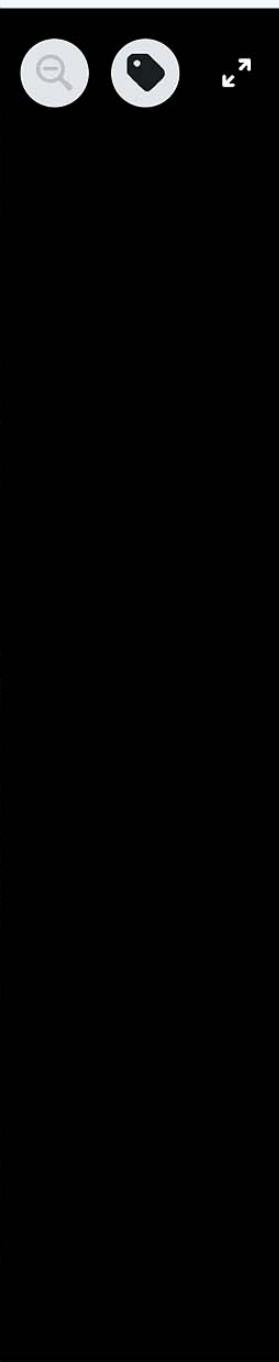
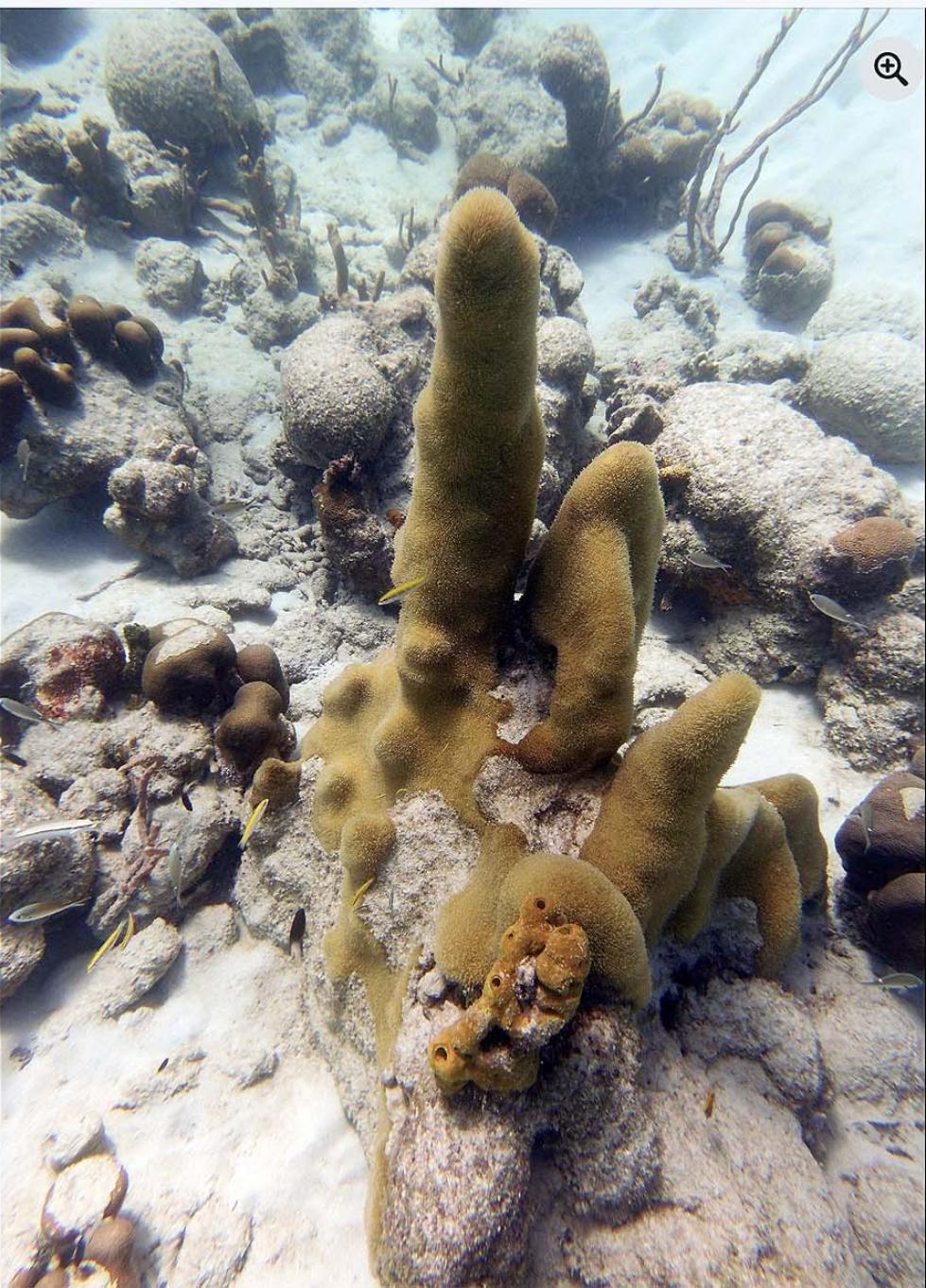
3



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



David Graham Patriquin
March 23, 2024 .

2



It's a rare day when I spend time at Vauxhall Reef and don't find "something new" or get an especially good photo of a species I have been chasing for a while.

Yesterday's (Mar 22, 2024) find was an entirely healthy colony of Pillar Coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) in the Reef Front zone. Read More <https://versicolor.ca/.../still-thriving/pillar-coral/>

Edit

Helen Taylor, Lisa Proulx and 31 others

1 1



Most relevant ▾



Lisa Proulx
Wow! How exciting to be able to see and document these up close!

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



>

X



David Graham Patriquin
March 25, 2024.

...

This school of "ocean fish" moved quickly through the Reef Flat of the reef just south of 'The Club' yesterday. Fish circa 40 cm length. Dunno what they are, except they are not "Reef Fish". Very distinct black margins on tails.

Edit

Like Heart Karen Dodge, Shuming Zhang and 27 others

8



Most relevant ▾



James Boyer
It is wonderful to happen across a large school especially of this size. I like the 'clouds' of Blue Tang.

1y Like Reply



Maria Jessica Patriquin
Wow so different let me know when you figure out what they are !

1y Like Reply



James Boyer
Do you think they might be Bar Jacks?

1y Like Reply



Finn Sander
How did they taste? 😊

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 ·

...

A walk down memory lane... to the headland. with **Nina Patriquin**

[Edit](#)

Lisa Proulx, Mary Manley and 9 others

2



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Eva Torsteinson
Wiw looka nice

1y Like Reply



Mihaela Oncel
That's so beautiful!

1y Like Reply



Comment as **David Graham Patriquin**



X



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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 ·

...

And the "Bellairs Reef" is very run down..., degraded with Nina Patriquin

[Edit](#)



James Boyer, Steve Fry and 3 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



...



X



2



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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 .

...

But some good 'finds'. Here a cluster of *Diadema antillarum*, the long-spined sea urchin; numbers had gone down to near zero because of yet another disease outbreak. With **Nina Patriquin**

Edit



Lisa Proulx, Gail Storey and 8 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



>

X



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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 ·

...

A pair of spotfin butterfly fish... only the second time I have seen them. With [Nina Patriquin](#)

[Edit](#)



Lisa Proulx, Alan McHughen and 8 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 . [Post](#)

...

& a very healthy colony of Elkhorn Coral. With [Nina Patriquin](#)

[Edit](#)



Lisa Proulx, Mary Manley and 7 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



2

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David Graham Patriquin

March 25, 2024 .

...

More "long fish" at the periphery of my vision. With **Nina Patriquin**. All in all a Good Day!

[Edit](#)



Mary Manley, Gail Storey and 7 others



[Comment as David Graham Patriquin](#)



X



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David Graham Patriquin

April 2, 2024 .

...

My "Catch of the Day" yesterday (Apr 1) on a brief outing at Vauxhall with James Boyer & friends -a mature Stoplight Parrotfish

[Edit](#)

Terry Moodie, Sybil Nunn and 4 others

3



Most relevant ▾



Bev Wigney
Beautiful!!

1y Like Reply



James Boyer
Thank you David for a wonderful day! Parrot fish are amazing colours.

1y Like Reply



Audrey Burton
Gorgeous ❤️❤️

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



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David Graham Patriquin

April 2, 2024 . [Post](#)

...

Another mature Stoplight Parrotfish. I saw prob a dozen all together.

[Edit](#)

Sybil Nunn, Mary Manley and 4 others

1



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Audrey Burton

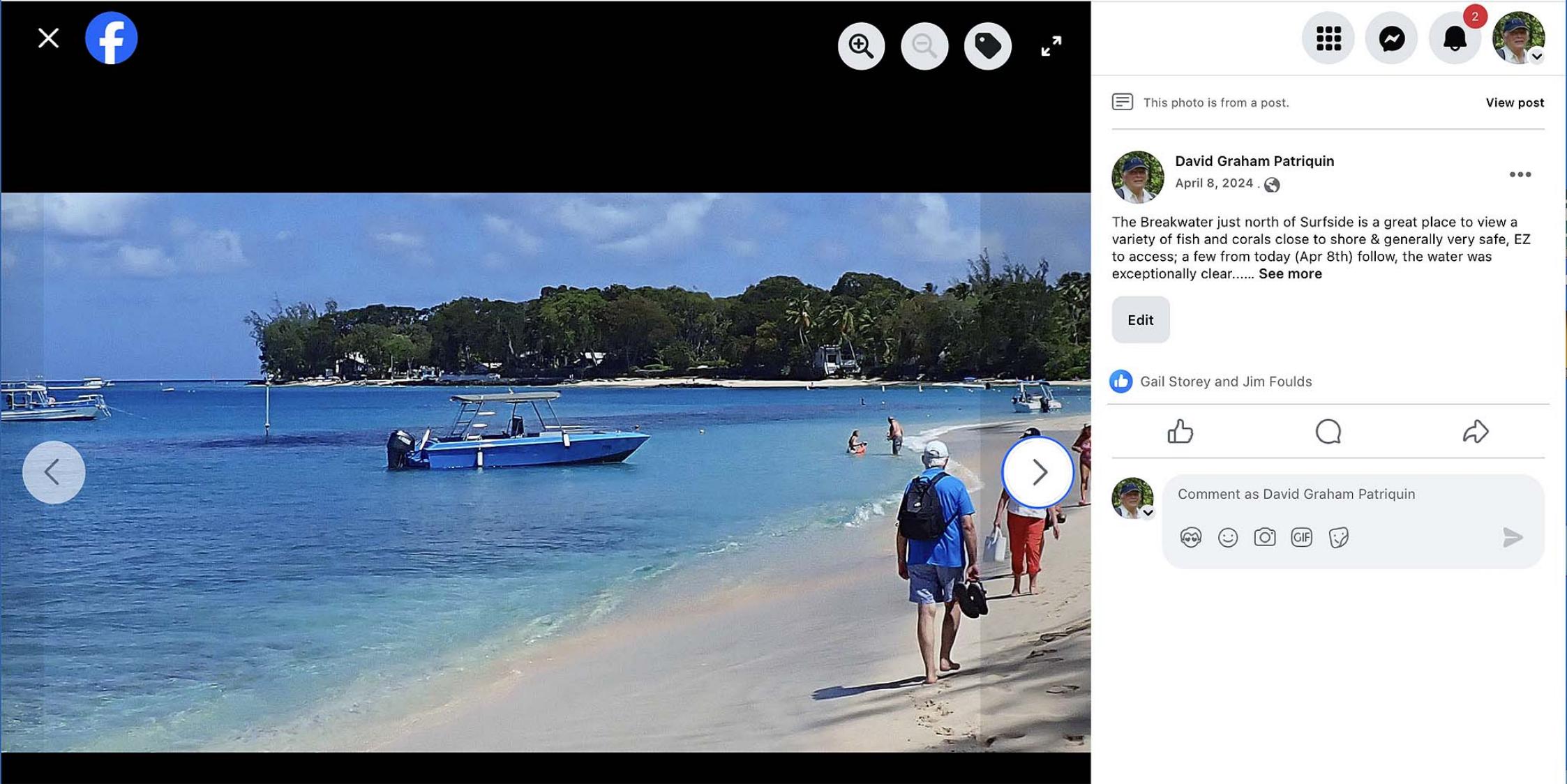
Wow these fish are so beautiful..

1y Like Reply



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





X



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 .

...

The Breakwater just north of Surfside is a great place to view a variety of fish and corals close to shore & generally very safe, EZ to access; a few from today (Apr 8th) follow, the water was exceptionally clear..... [See more](#)

[Edit](#)

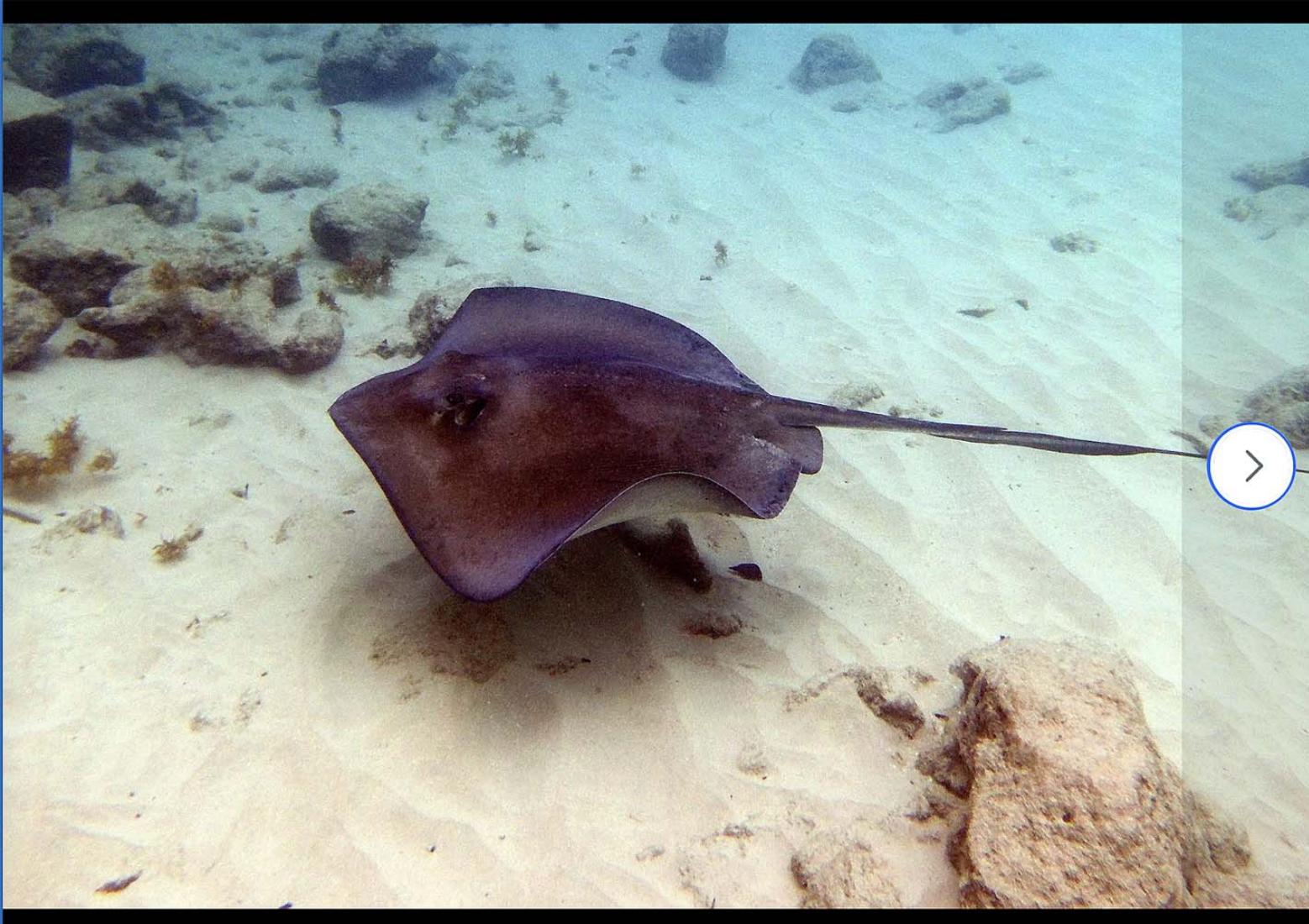
Gail Storey and Jim Foulds



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 · 

...

We were greeted by a large sting ray... [See more](#)

[Edit](#)



Bev Wigney, Gail Storey and 2 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 . [See more](#)

...

The corals have suffered from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, and coral bleaching both in 2023... but healthy corals remain. In this photo 5 are dead; one , top left, hit by coral bleaching; 3 healthy - my question how did they survive?... [See more](#)

[Edit](#)

Bev Wigney, Gail Storey and 2 others

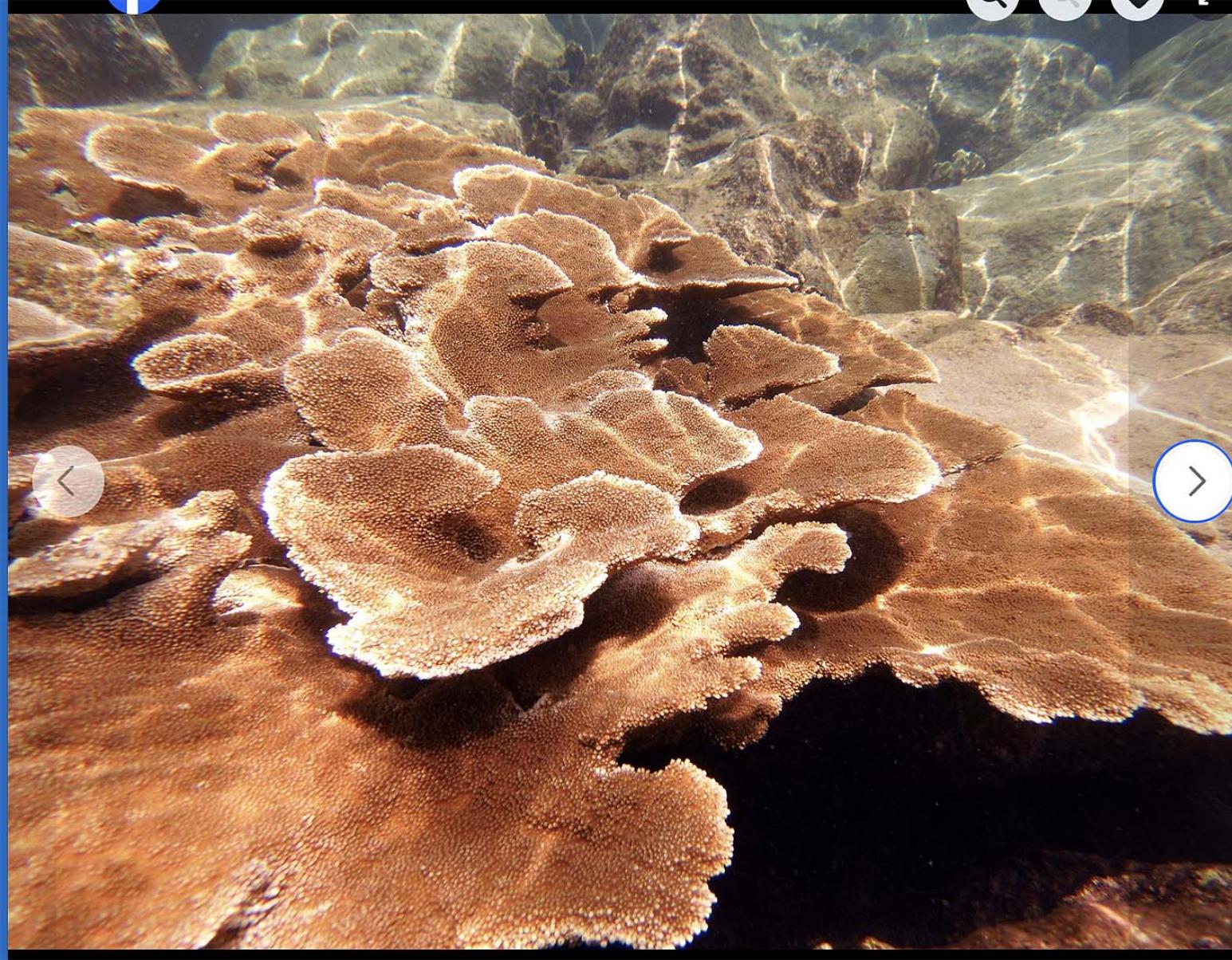


Comment as David Graham Patriquin



...

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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 .

...

A new sighting made poss. by the very clear water: a large healthy colony of elkhorn coral on the top/centre of the breakwater.... See more

[Edit](#)



Bev Wigney, Gail Storey and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





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David Graham Patriquin
April 8, 2024 · [See more](#)

...

Always lots of Blue Tang.... [See more](#)

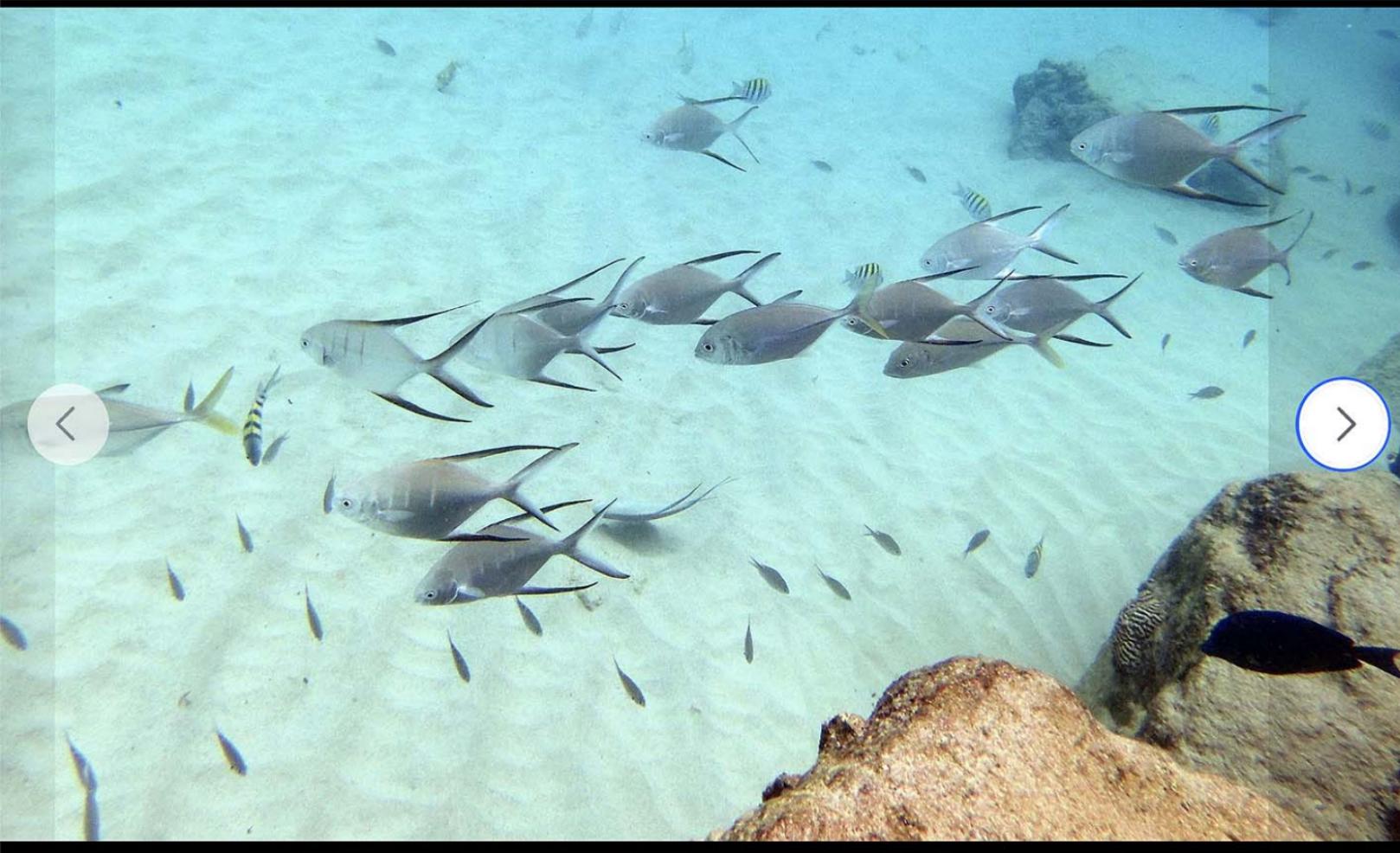
[Edit](#)

 Bev Wigney, James Boyer and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 . 

Palometta like to circle the breakwater... [See more](#)

Edit



Petra Leica, Bev Wigney and 3 others



Comment as David Graham Patriquin





Calendar

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David Graham Patriquin
April 8, 2024 . 

...

Always some big parrotfish This one a Queen Parrotfish... See more

[Edit](#)

  Bev Wigney, Sina Adl and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 .

• • •

Banded butterfly fish; puffer fish to the left out of focus.... See more

Edit

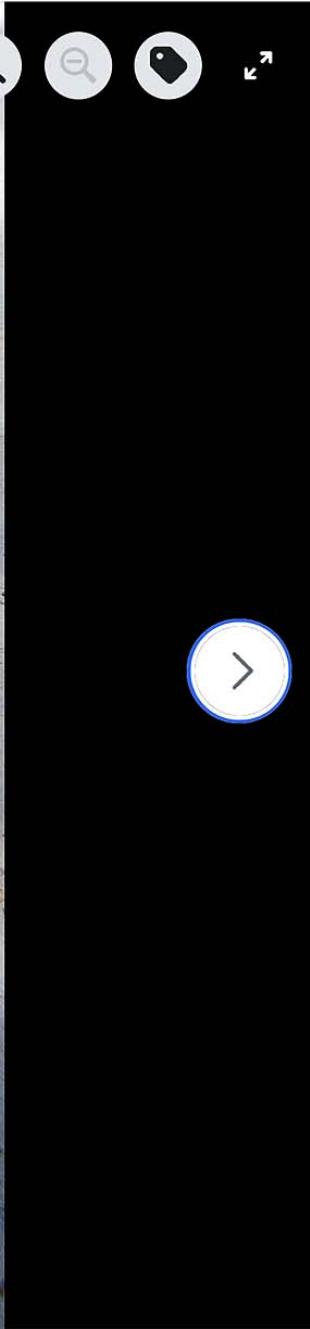


Sina Adl, Gail Storey and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin

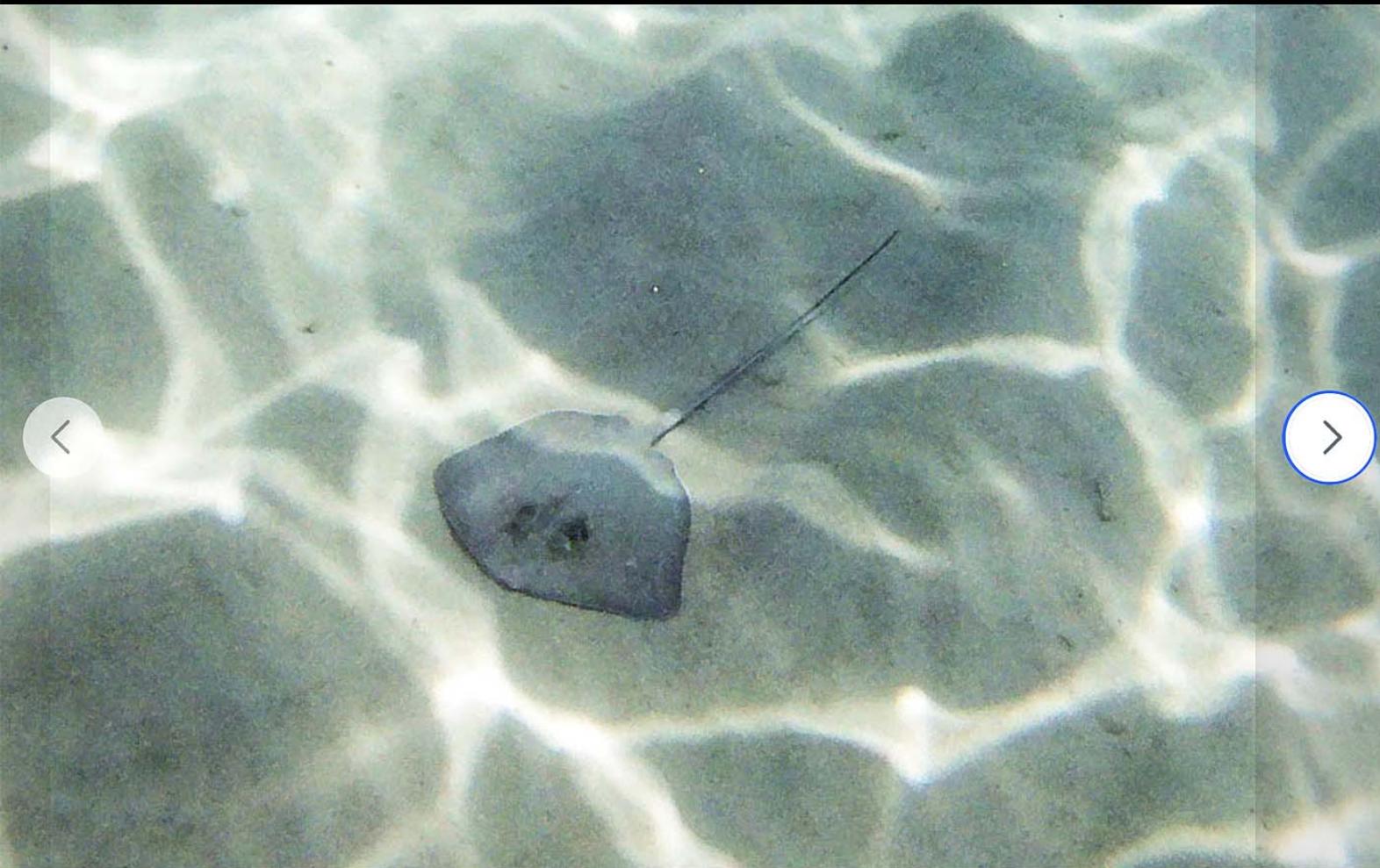




X



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 .



& a "Baby" stingray... [See more](#)

Edit



Gail Storey, James Boyer and 1 other



Comment as David Graham Patriquin



X



2



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David Graham Patriquin

April 8, 2024 .

...

Finally a Laughing Gull.... [See more](#)

[Edit](#)



Sydney Lynn, Bev Wigney and 3 others

2



Most relevant ▾



James Boyer

I was amazed as to how close you could get!

1y

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)



David Graham Patriquin replied · 1 Reply



[Comment as David Graham Patriquin](#)



X



David Graham Patriquin

May 14, 2024 .

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Happy to read about this: "TRADEWINDS: Canadian Navy goes underwater in reef research dive" – Barbados Today 12May2024 <http://versicolor.ca/.../tradewinds-canadian-navy-goes.../>. Photo is of Elon Cadogan on Mar 2 on Vauxhall Reef, a CORALL exercise in which I participated. Elon is the scientific leader for the project with the Canadian Navy – they surveyed most of the Barbados Folkestone MPA for coral bleaching over 2 days.... [See more](#)

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Christine Cedar

Now that is having a great life, Thank you David!



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