Event

Large scale coral bleaching

+3 white or

-3 color

Coral bleaching occurs from warm water temperatures, and is becoming more frequent due to climate change

Event

Crown of Thorns outbreak

+2 white or

-2 color

Crown of Thorns starfish are voracious coral predators

Event

Perfect weather conditions for coral

+2 color or

-1 white

Coral can grow more quickly when water temperatures are normal and water is clear and clean

Event

Sewage spill

+2 white

Untreated sewage discharged in the ocean is a primary way that water quality is compromised

Event

Shipwreck

-1 color and

-1 white

Shipwrecks can directly smash coral reefs in small areas, but can also provide artificial reef habitat in some areas

Event

Excellent year for coral spawning

+1 color

Corals reproduce by releasing sperm and eggs into the water. Larvae then must find a suitable spot to settle and grow

Event

Algae-eating fish school recruits to reef

+1 color or

-1 white

Algae can overgrow and smother coral; algae-eating fish keep it in check

Event

Algae-eating urchin population explosion

+1 color or

-1 white

Algae can overgrow and smother coral; algae-eating urchins help keep it in check

Event

Coral disease outbreak

+3 white or

-3 color

Coral diseases can spread quickly and devastate reefs. Disease is more common after bleaching events.

Event

Hurricane passes near reef

-2 white if occurs after bleaching event, but

-2 color if not

Hurricanes can directly damage corals, but can also stir up cooler water to relieve coral bleaching

Event

New sewage treatment plant

-1 white or

+1 color

Untreated sewage discharged in the ocean is a primary way that water quality is compromised

Event

Fishing trawler comes over reef

-1 color or

+1 white

Fishing trawlers drag nets across the bottom and can damage reefs catastrophically