



COTS STARFISH, A CURRENT ISSUE IN VANUATU

The large starfish *Acanthaster planci* (“crown-of-thorns” “COTS”) is a major predator of corals. In Vanuatu, very high densities of COTS (up to 8 000/ha!) have recently been recorded. These outbreaks can lead to the almost total destruction of corals in the affected areas, with serious impacts on the coastal resources and the tourism sector.

HELP US BY REPORTING ON COTS!

If you spot COTs, please connect to fisheries.gov.vu and simply fill the online form in the COTS section to send us a report.

The Vanuatu COTs monitoring initiative is part of the regional OREANET (« Oceania Regional *Acanthaster* Network ») network.

Your reports will be processed and stored at the Vanuatu Fisheries Department. The main objective is to collect and centralize all the information on COTS starfish provided by stakeholders, e.g. local divers, tourists, volunteers, researchers, yachties, NGOs, community monitors etc. Your contribution will really help us to develop an optimal strategy for COTs in Vanuatu.



Check out our interactive COTS map!

Visit fisheries.gov.vu

Zoom in/out on the reefs, click on any dot to retrieve the available information on COTs (including locations, numbers, clean-up events etc.) in Vanuatu!