High-resolution underwater 3-D monitoring methods to reconstruct artificial coral reefs in the Bali Sea: A case study of an artificial reef prototype in Gili Trawangan

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Artificial coral reef prototype and extension at Gili Trawangan shore, Indonesia.



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Introduction

What are artificial coral reefs?



Reef Ball Foundation placed Reef Balls™ artificial-reef-created-off-phuket-coast, Biorock© reef in Pemuteran Bali.

Introduction

Why do we need help repairing coral reefs?

Coral reefs are the worlds best shore line protection devices (Munk et al, 1948).

Habitat for corals and fish.

Major economical factor for local fishing-, snorkeling and diving tourism industry.

Currently they are threatened and already partly destroyed: rising sea temperature due to global warming, pollution and elevated levels of CO2 acidifies our oceans, dynamite fishing



Destroyed and bleached coral reef.



NOAA Coral Bleaching Alert Area 2017.

Munk, W.H., and Sargent, M.C. (1948). Adjustment of Bikini Atoll to ocean waves. Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union 29, 855–860. https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/analyses_guidance/global_coral_bleaching_2014-17_status.php 3

Goals for new artificial reef design

Sustainable approach to artificial coral reef design

Inspired by the geometry of natural coral reefs

Component based system (3-D puzzle) to enable underwater assembly

Adaptable to different topographies of the sea floor

Extendable

Design of an Artificial Reef Prototype (ARP)



Design of construction element with 3 connection points with a dimension of 140 mm length and 100 mm width.

Design of an Artificial Reef Prototype (ARP)



Push-fit connections for Artificial Reef Prototype.



ARP launch in Gili Trawangan, Indonesia





Maps of Indonesia, Bali and Lombok and the Gili Islands.

Artificial Reef Prototype (ARP) in 2012



Artificial Reef Prototype test launch at the beach during the 8th Biorock Reef Restoration Workshop in November 2012 in Gili Trawangan, Lombok in Indonesia. 100 construction elements were used.

ARP launch in Gili Trawangan, Indonesia



Artificial Reef Prototype underwater launch at our study area in the south east of Gili

Trawangan island.

ARP launch in Gili Trawangan, Indonesia



Attachment of broken pieces of coral.

Biorock© Technology



Artificial Reef Prototype works as cathode and a titanium mesh as anode in underwater electrolysis that dissolves minerals from seawater to build a calcium carbonate layer around our construction elements, where corals can start to settle (Hilbertz, 1979).

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Underwater Monitoring





Documented Artificial Reef Prototype growth over five years 2012-2017.

Artificial Reef Prototype Extension

Extension using 100 additional construction elements in October 2017.

Growth

Comparison construction element with and without grown calcium carbonate layer of ARP after 5 years. Calcium carbonate layer has grown 1.5- 2.5 cm around the construction element.

Conclusions- Design of ARP

Sustainable approach to reef restoration as it uses dissolved minerals in seawater (material) and sustainable energy resources (tidal, wave, wind and solar), and binds CO2 in calcium carbonate CaCO3

Component based system; compared to concrete elements lightweight and can be deployed underwater by a single diver

ARP works as cathode and accumulated calcium carbonate

ARP works as habitat for sea life

ARP can be extended using additional pieces that adapt to to the topography of the seafloor

ARP resisted strong storms each January and one earth quake of 6.9 (Aug 2018) and multiple aftershocks > 5.0

From design to monitoring

How to deeply understand such a system?

How to sytemize such an approach?

How to enable a growth- aware design approach for underwater artificial coral reefs purposes?

High- resolution monitoring: Typology of different 3-D Models

Original construction element, voxel model and surface model.

High-resolution underwater 3-D monitoring methods

CT Scan (Lab)

Extraction of sample, CT Scanner Nanotom M "research edition" at F.A. Finger-Institute for Materials

Science of the Bauhaus- University Weimar.

CT scan results

Grey scale analysis, Voxel model displayed in Volume Graphics VGStudioMAX shows growth of calcium carbonate layer and condition of metal piece inside of the artificial coral reef.

Resolution of 0.1333mm

Two experimental underwater setups for high-res measurements

Lab

Test setup at Dive4Life Center in Siegburg, Germany, August 2017.

Underwater Laser Scanning Underwater Photogrammetry

Field

Field setup at Gili Trawangan, Indondesia, September 2017.

Underwater Photogrammetry

Underwater laser scanning with M210UW Newton Labs

M210UW Underwater Laser Scanner; 22 individual scans of 610,000 points each.

Average deviation - submillimeter

Underwater photogrammetry at Dive4Life

Sony Cyper-shot RX100 II

Average deviation - ±1.8 mm.

Point cloud model of millimeter accuracy, 16,901,081 points. 185 still images processed in PhotsScan Pro Version 1.4.4.

Sony Cyper-shot RX100 II, CMOS sensor of 20 MP (5472 x 3648 pixel), Underwater Housing, one video light.

Canon EOS 5DS R

Average deviation - ±1.1 mm.

Point cloud model of millimeter accuracy, 16,399,865 points. 190 still images processed in PhotsScan Pro Version 1.4.4.

Canon EOS 5DS R , CMOS sensor of 50.6 MP (8688 x 5792 pixel), a Canon 50 mm 2.5 Macro Lens, SEACAM Underwater Housing 5DMKIII, two SEACAM strobes (SF150D) and one video light.

Comparison UW laser scanning vrs. UW photogrammetry

UW LS 22 point cloud models, precision five times higher than UW Photogrammetry

Handling in the field of UW LS equipment more difficult compared to UW photogrammetry equipment

UW laser scanning experimental setup needs greater financial resources

Underwater photogrammetry in the field

Data collection, September- October 2017 using Canon EOS 5Ds R in the field. 26

Underwater photogrammetry in the field

Following lawn-mower pattern of one of the faces of ARP, Portable plastic rulers with led attached were placed as reference next to ARP 1; about 200 manual measurements of ARP were taken and documented.

Challenges for UW photogrammetry in the field

High amount of moving objects

Shadows caused by sunlight and strobes

Moving particles by currents, backscatter

Visibility

Overall number of dives and resulting partial models

Underwater photogrammetry data processing results at low resolution

We aligned all 4058 still images collected at low resolution (each still 300KB).

Underwater photogrammetry reconstructed high resolution point cloud models

3-D reconstructed point cloud model from still images (8688 x 5792 pixels).

Conclusions

Developed techniques for close-range three-dimensional underwater survey processes.

Specific experimental setup including a computationally designed artificially constructed coral reef prototype.

Defined key parameters and constraints for design and monitoring.

Implementation of different state-of-the-art techniques to scan and model coral reefs in real-world underwater configurations.

Outlook

Underwater point cloud models could be converted into digital surface models, e.g. mesh models computational design studies, growth and structural analysis hydrodynamic modelling, and digital fabrication

3-D printing of coral reefs using calcium carbonate based additive manufacturing methods

Opening up new ways of thinking about computational design and threedimensional scanning and modelling

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