MAJOR MARINE ECOLOGICAL DISTURBANCES

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Major Marine Ecological Disturbances (MMEDs) seem to be increasing in both frequency and intensity. Last year the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean conducted a session on Coral-Reef Bleaching. This year we have a Bleaching Session and a Mortality Session. There is growing concern that many MMEDs may have shared or related causes. Regional or worldwide MMEDs may also be related to or indicative of global climatic changes. At least 14 MMEDs are currently in progress. A die-off of Brown Pelicans and a new bout of the unending (?) Coral-Reef Bleaching have recently occurred in parts of the Caribbean.