**Vocabulary: Coral Reefs 2 – Biotic Factors**



**Vocabulary**

* Biotic factor – the living components that affect an ecosystem.
	+ Examples of biotic factors include disease-causing bacteria, *invasive species*, and humans.
	+ *Abiotic factors* are the nonliving components of an ecosystem. Examples include temperature, salinity, and pH.

****

**Black band disease on brain coral**

* Black band disease – a disease characterized by a narrow band of microorganisms that gradually spreads across a coral, completely destroying coral tissue as it moves.
	+ Black band disease mainly affects massive corals such as star corals and brain corals.
	+ Corals that are stressed by high water temperatures or other factors are more likely to become infected with black band disease.
* Invasive species – an introduced species that is harmful to native species.
	+ Introduced species are organisms that do not naturally occur in a given region.
	+ Not all introduced species are invasive species. Only species that have harmful effects are considered invasive.

****

**White band disease on elkhorn coral**

* White band disease – a coral disease that generally proceeds from the base of the colony up toward the branch tips, destroying coral tissue as it goes.
	+ White band disease affects two branched coral species in the Caribbean: staghorn coral and elkhorn coral.
	+ The cause of white band disease has not been identified yet.