In the webinar “Crumbling Reefs: A Natural Ocean Acidification Laboratory in the North East Pacific”, presented by Leslie Wickes, I was introduced to a type of coral called Lophelia Pertusa. The coral studied was found in the Southern California Bight. Wickes and her team used images and video collected by the California Cooperative Fisheries(CalCOFI.) The data collected from CalCOFI showed researchers that there were more coral blooms than originally expected. Through continued research Wickes was able to determine that there is a level at sea in which the Lopehlia Pertusa can survive, which is above aragonite saturation horizon. Unfortunately, recently that horizon level has been increasing. Due to warming waters the hospitable area has been shrinking. It is predicted that in upcoming years the water temperatures will continue to rise. Resting and even smaller hospital living space for these corals.

Another thing Wickes and her team noticed while researching the Lophelia Pertusa using CalCOFI data was that due to increased amounts of acid in the water the skin tissue was becoming more porous and breaking down the skeletal structures.

Though scientists believe that coral is resilient and can acclimate and adapt to the changing waters, unfortunately, 75% of the coral in the Northeast Atlantic is already dead.