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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL



Figure S1. Calculation of the Bray-Curtis distance to pre-disturbance communities from the 1996-2017 time series: example of the first three reefs in the dataset. Where hard coral cover lies between its maximum, $\mathrm{HC}_{\max }$, and $\mathrm{HC}_{\max }-5 \%$ (dotted blue lines), coral communities are considered predisturbance. Sections of the time-series indicated in red correspond to hard coral cover decline / community disassembly, those in green to hard coral cover recovery / community reassembly. Letters (top panel) indicate acute disturbances with C: crown-of-thorns outbreaks; M: multiple (i.e., occurrence of more than one acute disturbance between two consecutive surveys).


Figure S2. Interaction plots for the hierarchical linear models of $\triangle H C$ as a function of $S H E L F$ and the Bray-Curtis distance to pre-disturbance communities corresponding to disassembly and reassembly respectively. For each level of $\Delta H C$ tested, asterisks indicate significant cross-shelf differences in disassembly or reassembly ( ${ }^{* *}$ : $\mathrm{P}<0.01 ;{ }^{* * *}$ : $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ).


Figure S3. Multicollinearity among water quality indices. Pearson's correlation coefficients are indicated above the diagonal; scatter plots and non-linear regression (GAM) are shown below the diagonal, and individual variable distributions (histograms) are indicated on the diagonal. With Chl: long-term average of chlorophyll-a concentration, Kd490: long-term average of light attenuation at 490 nm, NAP: non-algal particulates.

## DISASSEMBLY





## REASSEMBLY





Figure S4. Trace plots for posterior parameter estimates in the first model set based on three parallel chains and $N=5000$ iterations ( 500 for burn-in, not shown).

Hard coral cover in undisturbed years


Figure S5. Distribution of hard coral cover (HCC) in pre-disturbance years (i.e., when HCC differs from its maximum by less than 5\%) across shelf levels (I: inner shelf; M: mid shelf, O: outer shelf). Violin plots represent data density, with plot width being proportional to the amount of data. Thick vertical lines represent the interquartile range, and the white dot the median.

