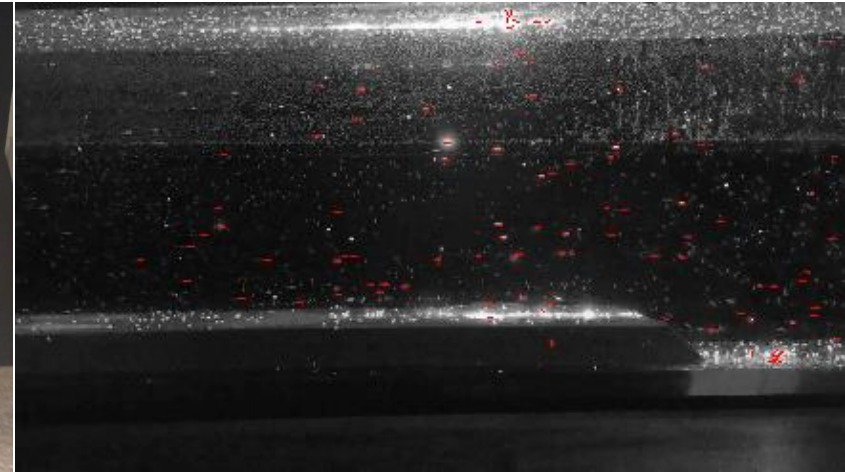
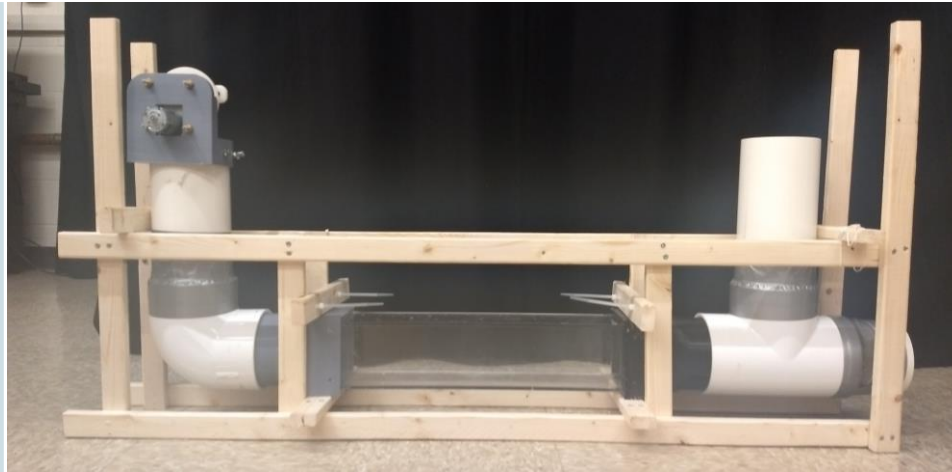
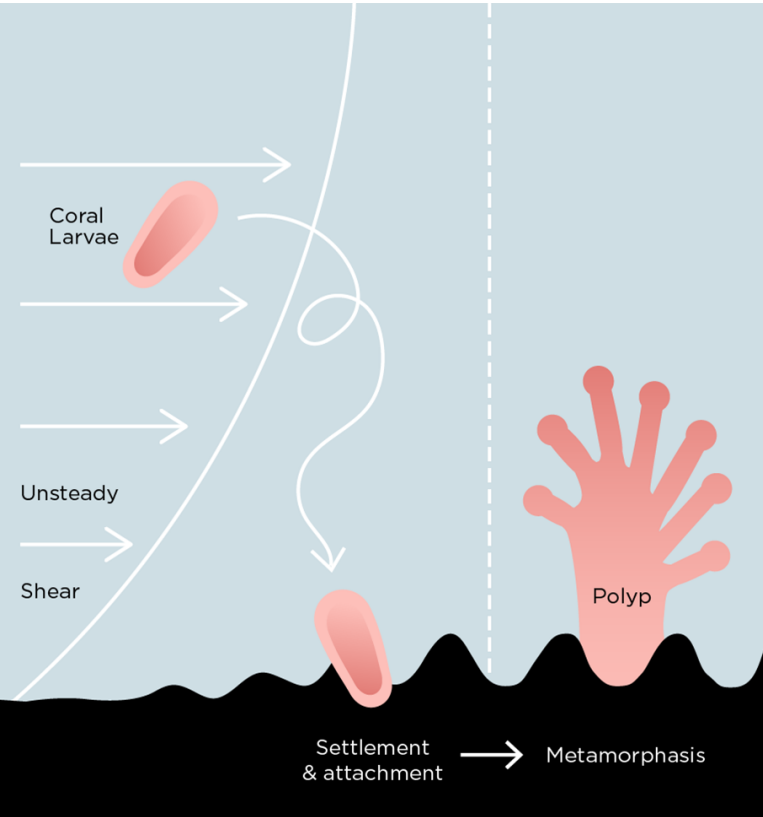


Why study coral in unsteady flow?



Coral larvae live near the ocean surface, but when they are ready to begin growing into adults the larvae sink to the ocean floor and find a spot to attach and settle. Many of these larvae do not settle and do not grow into adulthood, reducing the number of new coral that could grow and slowing reef recovery.

For this project, we:

- Use an oscillatory flume to mimic ocean flow patterns and take videos of the specimens inside, then track their movements to learn about swimming behavior.
- Place various artificial settling materials in the flume and make observations on the settling preference of the larvae.

Learning about the larval preferences and behavior will help us find or create better settling spots to encourage more larvae to settle and increase the number of coral growing to adulthood to replenish reefs.