

## Mating game sidelines beachgoers

FRISKY coral is being blamed for closing a Sunshine Coast beach yesterday. Swimmers were evacuated from Caloundra's Bulcock Beach after reports of a substance in the water described as a "chemical spill". But a later inspection indicated the unusual contaminant may in fact have been coral spawn.

Coral spawning usually happens four to six nights after the full moon in November. The last full moon was on

Tuesday and the next is not until late November. During the event, coral polyps release sperm and eggs en masse.

A surf lifesaving spokesman said the beach would not be reopened until tests were done. "It looks like it could be coral spawn but they think there might be something else mixed with it so the beach will stay closed," he said.

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