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TANYA STREETER World Freediving Champion



GREAT BARRIER REEF Gone in 100 years?



PROJECT DIRECTOR BRAD LOVE Project Director



THE CORAL REEF CRISIS



It's simple; the coral reefs are in trouble. Marine scientists lately have taken a hard look at the world's coral reefs, and they say 25 percent are already destroyed, and 70 percent could be gone just 40 years from now unless we change our ways.

Who cares if the corals go the way of the dodo? You should. Science has progressed to the point where we can understand this fact - we can not live without the coral reefs.

Why people need the Coral Reefs

Food. Coral reef zones are home to one quarter of all marine plants and animals. Nearly a million species of marine and plant life live on reefs or use them as nurseries to protect their young and collapse could mean famine.

Shelter. Natural harbors that take millennia to build, coral reefs provide people with living sea walls against tides, storm surges, and hurricanes.

Medicine and other resources. Like the tropical rainforests, coral reefs are a center of extreme biodiversity, a great reservoir of intriguing DNA we've hardly begun to explore and natural compounds we don't yet understand.

Fun and profit. Coral reefs are one big underwater amusement park for snorkelers and divers, a searingly colorful undersea world of Cousteauian delights-which drives a tourist industry worth tens of billions of dollars, in many cases propping up the economies of entire nations.

How we destroy the Coral Reefs

Overfishing. In areas blessed with an abundant human population, the collapse of the world's fisheries is a familiar story, and tropical regions are just another chapter.

Blast fishing. In depleted fisheries, people resort to desperate tactics to catch the fish remain. One of which is dynamite. The explosions send dead fish to the surface and destroy living reefs; they can be heard from the Philippines to Kenya to the Caribbean.

Sewage. Organic wastes from human cities flood to the sea,



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