



CTA-073-Chasing Coral-World's Oceans

[Join WFCRC](#)

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation
Vic Ferguson Executive Director

281.971.7703
512.986.1902

P.O. Box 311117
vic.ferguson@wfcrc.org

Houston, TX 77231
info@wfcrc.org

Reprinted 8/17/17

Scientists will discuss issues raised in 'Chasing Coral'

Special to the Democrat Published 2:26 p.m. ET Aug. 8, 2017 | Updated 2:59 p.m. ET Aug. 8, 2017



(Photo: Special thanks to the Democrat)

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) COMMENT EMAIL MORE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The ecological and economic value of coral reefs has long been understood, and the negative impacts of human activities on reef systems are well documented. This wealth of knowledge however, has not prevented the devastating and widespread decline in coral reefs.

The new documentary “Chasing Coral” about coral reefs will have its Tallahassee premiere from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Challenger Learning Center. After the film Dr. Sandra Brooke, coral researcher with FSU Coastal and Marine Lab, and Budd Titlow, professional wetland and wildlife biologist, author and photographer will participate in a 20 minute question and answer session. The movie is free; doors open at 6:30 (donations accepted).

Coastal development, fertilizers and pesticides have caused chronic water quality degradation that has increased turbidity, nutrient levels and pollutants in waters that were once crystal clear. To sensitive marine life, this is the equivalent of us breathing badly polluted air.

Coral bleaching is a natural phenomenon that occurs when temperatures reach a certain threshold, and corals expel their symbiotic algae. Under ‘normal’ circumstances, the algae re-associate when temperatures cool down, and the corals generally survive. In recent years, extreme and persistent high temperature events have caused severe bleaching, which has resulted in significant coral mortality.

Biological systems are resilient, but the projected rate of environmental change may be faster than the rate that many species can adapt. Coral diversity will continue to be lost as the more sensitive species succumb to changing conditions. The ‘weedier’ species will persist for a period of time, and some species may be able to adapt to a new environment.

There is an urgent need for more effective coastal management, which reduces local stressors and makes reefs as healthy as possible in the hopes they can cope with future climate changes. This is not an easy task; millions of people depend on reef ecosystems for food and income. Management of multiple and often conflicting objectives is complex, and often compounded by ignorance and political apathy. However, if we do not soon do something to reduce the rate of reef decline, the next generation may witness the final demise of one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth.

This event is sponsored by Big Bend Sierra Club, ReThink Energy Florida, Apalachee Audubon Society, Surfrider Foundation and Citizens' Climate Lobby - Tallahassee Chapter.

For additional reading see [The WFCRC Document Gallery](#) for articles about:

- Public Service Announcements (PSA)
- Coral Alert Network (CAN)
- Emergency Reporting Reports (ERR)
- Call to Action (CTA)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
- Marine Life Alert (MLA)
- Seismic and Oil Production Threats
- Natural Science Reports (NSR)
- Oil Spill Alerts (OSA)
- And other miscellaneous documents

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

