



## PSA-026-Stop Pollution-Worlds Oceans

How do we save coral reefs?

Vic Ferguson

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### **What you can do locally and globally.**

Such immense recreational activity, coupled with the pressures of coastal development, inland agriculture, and robust cruise and commercial shipping industries, threaten the very survival of our reefs. With your help, reefs will be protected from local stresses and future generations will be able to enjoy their beauty and economic benefits.

Coral reefs are highly diverse and productive, yet surprisingly fragile, ecosystems. They are built by living creatures that require clean, clear seawater to settle, mature and reproduce. Reefs provide safe havens for spectacular forms of marine life.

Unfortunately, reefs are vulnerable to impacts on scales ranging from local and regional to global. Global threats to reefs have increased along with expanding human populations and industrialization. Now, warming seawater temperatures and changing ocean chemistry from carbon dioxide emitted by the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation are also starting to imperil corals. These threats are serious, and we must take steps to control greenhouse gas emissions. In the near term, our best hope for sustaining coral reefs is to minimize as many local stressors as possible

### **Stop the flow of pollution from:**

- Homes by replacing septic systems with advanced, household-scale or municipal waste water treatment systems.
- Agriculture by controlling fertilizer use and disposal of animal wastes.
- Impervious roads, parking lots and driveways by substituting porous paving materials, adding swales and retaining nutrient-rich surface waters on site.
- Landfills by maintaining liners and leak detection devices, and by capturing emitted methane.
- Automobiles by carpooling more and expanding mass-transit systems.
- Boats by enforcing sewage no-discharge zones for all vessels in all state waters.
- Power plants by further developing renewable energy sources and energy conservation measures.



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### **Encourage people of all ages to:**

- Cherish our living coral reef treasures.
- Find solutions to help protect and restore our reefs.

### **Facilitate “best management” practices to:**

- Minimize discharges of toxic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and other contaminants from marinas, farmlands, residences, industries and businesses.
- Protect nearshore reefs during coastal projects.

### **Create and support:**

- Implementation of numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's estuarine and marine waters.
- Additional facilities for collection of hazardous wastes, recyclables, and wastes from boat holding tanks.
- Marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries management practices.

### **Restore:**

- Mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and other vegetation along waterways and shorelines.
- Natural and clean water flows from Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. Invest in the future by:
- Implementing comprehensive coastal zoning and management plans.
- Enforcing laws prohibiting runoff and dumping of chemicals and trash.
- Supporting long-term status and trend studies of coral reefs with comprehensive monitoring and research.
- Curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Your help is vital in saving our oceans....**

*Become a contributing member and partner with The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation by helping us share what we know about*



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conservation with the underserved and developing nations around the world.*

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*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"....Edmund Burke*