

Dear CoralWatch Members

Welcome to the second edition of the CoralWatch Newsletter. In the last 6 months, various regions have experienced earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis, and potentially one of the worst coral bleaching events since 1998. Our CoralWatch office was closed briefly during the Brisbane floods, but we running as normal. Thank-you to all our members for your support over the last 6 months. We encourage you all to keep up the good work – especially important, as many countries consider taking action on climate change.

Keep on CoralWatching! CoralWatch Team

CoralWatch published the Bahasa edition of 'Coral Reefs and Climate Change'



CoralWatch and the University of Queensland have now published the Bahasa Indonesia edition of 'Coral Reefs and Climate Change'. This book 'Terumbu Karang dan Perubahan Iklim' was launched on May 20, 2011 in Jakarta. Close to 200 people attended the event. The book has been adapted from the English to Indonesia by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Affairs. Our wish for this book is to distribute it as widely as possible within Indonesia to raise awareness and increase the understanding of coral reefs, coral bleaching and climate change.

Photo from left to right; Australian Ambassador Greg Moriarty, Minister for Environment, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Affairs Fadel Muhammad and Vice Chancellor of The University of Queensland Paul Greenfield.

CoralWatch Up-To-Date

Current members: 1010
 Number of reefs surveyed: 595
 Number of surveys: 2075
 Highest contributor:
 Utila Dive Centre, Honduras



Teach, dive and certify your students in coral monitoring and data collection

The PADI 'CoralWatch Health Chart Distinctive Specialty' specialty in conjunction with Project AWARE, highlights the impact of coral bleaching and provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to identify coral health and record data. This course was developed in November 2010. Meanwhile, 34 PADI instructors have applied for the instructor rating!

PADI Instructors who are interested in applying for the instructor rating can contact us at info@coralwatch.org to apply for permission and should send this together with the PADI Specialty Instructor Application to their local PADI Training Department.



Today, 8 June 2011 is World Oceans Day – a day to celebrate the amazing biodiversity of all of our oceans and encourage those around us to help protect marine ecosystems. There are so many things you, your friends or colleagues can do:

- Reduce carbon emissions – increased atmospheric CO₂ compromises future health of corals, via increased sea temperatures and ocean acidification. Turning off unnecessary lights, using public transport instead of driving, contributing to carbon off-set programs, or writing to your local politician supporting action on climate change can all make a difference.
- Support Marine Protected Areas – research shows that Marine Protected Areas not only improve status of many fish species, they can also improve coral cover and coral resilience to other stressors.
- Reduce use of plastic products – plastic is a hazard for marine life, and also contributes to land-fill and carbon emissions. Take your own bags when shopping, and where possible, choose products with minimal packaging.
- Get involved in monitoring your local coastal environment. CoralWatch is one of many programs that allow individuals to assist monitoring health of marine environments.



Education Materials available in 10 Languages

Do It Yourself (DIY) Kit (includes datasheet)

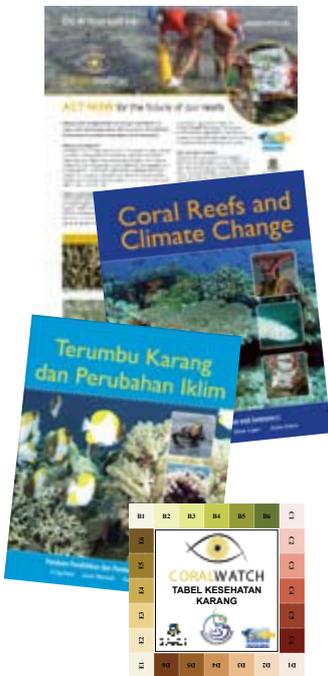
This DIY kit is now available in 10 languages, giving you all the information you need to start monitoring today! Downloadable for free from our website in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and **new** in [Bahasa Indonesia](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#) and [German](#).

Guide for Education and Awareness

The original guide 'Coral Reefs and Climate Change' is now available in Bahasa Indonesia: 'Terumbu Karang dan Perubahan Iklim'. To purchase a copy please visit our website.

Coral Health Charts

These charts cannot be printed for accuracy reasons, but you can apply for a FREE Coral Health Chart from our website! Charts are available in English, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish and **new** in [Bahasa Indonesia](#).



Upcoming events



26-29 August 2011 Australian Coral Reef Society Conference

The 86th Annual ACRS Conference will be held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort. For more info and registration visit www.australiancoralreefsociety.org/

5- 11 September 2011 Heron Island Dive Festival 2011

Heron Island is celebrating its status as one of Australia's top dive destinations with the launch of the Heron Island Dive Fest 2011. For more info www.heronisland.com/reef/festival-en.html?utm_source

26 - 29 September 2011 Lady Elliot - Marine Teachers Association of Queensland Conference

This is a conference for Marine Educators, registration and payment options are available online. CoralWatch will provide a practical workshop. For more info visit www.marineteachers.org.au/

7 - 9 October 2011 Brisbane, Oceania Dive and Travel Expo

The RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane will host ODEX 2011. ODEX showcases a variety of seminars and exhibits from suppliers, buyers and media from around the world in one massive event! The aim is to promote local, national and international diving destinations, tours, tour operators, equipment wholesalers and manufacturers, training agencies and conservation and environmental initiatives to YOU, the diver and traveller! Entry is a gold coin donation, with proceeds going towards the Ocean Kids Foundation. For more info, including a list of exhibitors, www.oceaniadiveexpo.com/index.html.

Research snapshots

Herbivore protection improves coral resilience: It is known that herbivorous fish are important for coral ecosystems, and contributing to reducing cover of competing algae. This study modelled the impact of herbivore protection across the Caribbean. Researchers found that protection of herbivores led to a slower rate of reef degradation caused by increased temperatures or storms, suggesting that effective local management of reefs can improve resilience of corals to global stressors. Edwards HJ et al. How much time can herbivore protection buy for coral reefs under realistic regimes of hurricanes and coral bleaching? *Global Change Biology* 2011; 17:, 2033-48

Small community based Marine Protected Areas can benefit reef-fish spawning aggregations: Marine protected areas (MPAs) can be valuable for protecting biodiversity and fisheries, but it is not clear whether small MPA benefit all types of fish, especially mobile species. Conducted by the Nature Conservancy in Papua New Guinea, researchers found when MPAs are located at important sites such as where fish spawning aggregations occur, small MPAs can increase the density of various grouper populations.

Hamilto, RJ et al Community-based conservation results in the recovery of reef fish spawning aggregations in the Coral Triangle. *Biological Conservation* 2011; In press.

The importance of data entry

Thanks to your efforts, new data is added to our database almost every day. A greater amount of data in the database increases its usefulness to our scientists, and ultimately, our coral reefs. A number of our members also use the Coral Health Chart for their own projects, and have asked us whether they should enter this into the online database. The answer is YES! It doesn't matter whether you are using the Coral Health Chart for your own research project, education project or specialty training, the data is always useful to us.



For more info

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