

LIFE

BELOW WATER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL #14 AIMS TO CONSERVE AND USE THE WORLD'S OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY

HOW ARE OCEANS CHANGING?

70% of the world's surface is ocean



How many pieces of plastic are thought to be floating in the ocean?

5,250 BILLION



By **2050** it is estimated that the volume of accumulated plastics in the oceans could be greater than that of fish

of global GDP is from marine and coastal industries



1 BILLION

people rely on marine and coastal diversity for their livelihoods

3 BILLION

people depend on oceans for their protein



the annual damage of plastics to marine ecosystems is at least **USD 13 billion** per year



the cost of ocean plastics to the tourism, fishing and shipping industries in Asia is estimated to be **USD 1.3 billion**



the global plastics sector will account for **15%** of the global annual carbon budget by **2050**



90% of the total heat from global warming is absorbed by the ocean

1°C

is the amount that global sea surface temperature has increased by over the past 35 years

16%

of the world's coral reefs were destroyed during a bleaching event caused by El Niño in 1997-98

HOW IS HEALTHY CORAL FORMED?

Tiny plants called zooxanthellae feed animal polyps through photosynthesis on the coral



These interactions generate the bright colours that characterize coral

HOW IS CORAL BLEACHED?

When water temperatures increase persistently, the polyps reject their plant parents and the coral appears bleached



If this continues, then the coral will die

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CORAL DIES?

Algae grow on dead coral making it impossible for new colonies to form

Fish can help clean the algae away and allow the corals to return

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the world's biggest structure made from living organisms



It supports more than **11,000** species including **1,600** fish species

It generates an annual revenue of **AUS\$6 BILLION** from tourism and **AUS\$1 BILLION** for fishing



In **2016** the Great Barrier Reef suffered the worst bleaching event ever recorded

At Lizard Island in Far North Queensland, around **90%** of the coral died