

What Can You Do?

Hawaii's coral reefs are fragile, vulnerable, and only grow 1-2 cm. per year. Help us protect this incredible natural resource as you snorkel, swim, kayak, or dive.

DO NOT's:

- **Hawaii State Law:** It is **ILLEGAL** to remove live coral, dead coral, or live rock!
- Do **NOT** walk or stand on reefs. Stepping on coral can kill the polyps.
- Do **NOT** drag kayaks, SUP, or canoes over reefs. Keep 2 feet of water between watercraft and coral.

DO's:

- Anchor only in sandy areas.
- Use Reef-Safe Sunscreen (oxybenzone/octocrylene-free).
- Properly discard plastic bags, old fishing line/nets and other debris that can damage and suffocate marine life.
- Use your eyes, not your hands! Touching coral reefs and its inhabitants can be seriously harmful to you and the natural environment.

Over millions of years of adaptation and evolution have caused Hawaiian reefs to become unique and complex systems; home to animals found nowhere else in the world.



ENDEMIC SPECIES

(found only in Hawaii):

24% of fish species

20% of coral species

21% of marine snails

25% of marine sponges



Marine Corps
Base Hawaii
Environmental
Dept. 257-7000

Help us Protect our Coral Reefs

Marine Corps Base Hawaii



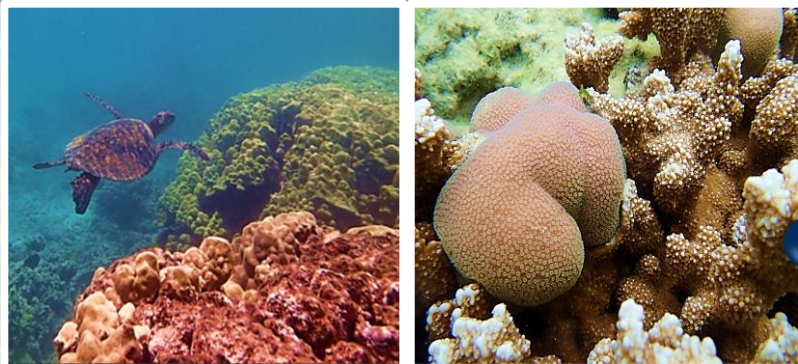
Animal? Plant? Mineral?

Corals look like rocks but they are actually living **ANIMALS** (related to sea anemones)!

Benefits of Coral Reefs:

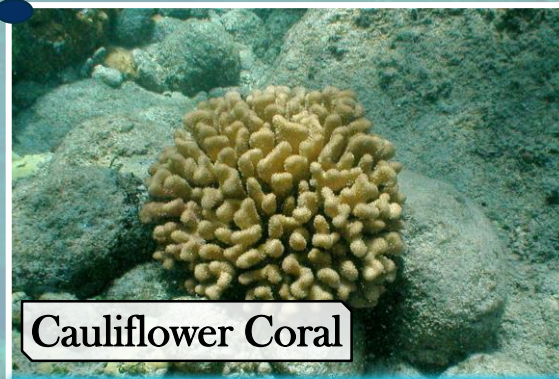
Marine-life Habitat
Food Source
Tourism
Shoreline Protection
Medicine

Coral Reefs are also known as the “Rainforests of the Sea” due to their biodiversity and oxygen-producing properties.



The Hawaiian islands were formed in the middle of the Pacific Ocean by volcanic activity, making them the most isolated island chain in the world. Separated by more than 2,000 miles from any continent and far from the major flow of ocean currents, it is very difficult for marine and terrestrial species to reach the islands.

Photo Credit: Keoki Stender



Cauliflower Coral

(*Pocillopora meandrina*)

The most common *Pocillopora* in Hawaii, this coral prefers wave-agitated environments, and is found at depths of 150 feet. This coral received its namesake from the cauliflower-shaped head the colonies form.



Lace Coral

(*Pocillopora damicornis*)

This delicate coral forms small bushy clumps up to 6 inches in diameter. Usually found in protected areas, this species appears to strongly depend on sunlight, as it is rarely found below 30 feet.

Common MCBH Coral Species



Finger Coral

(*Porites compressa*)

Finger-like branching helps to identify this coral, although it has many growth forms. This species is most common in wave-protected areas like bays or deep reef slopes to depths of 150 feet.

Take only
photos.
Leave only
bubbles!

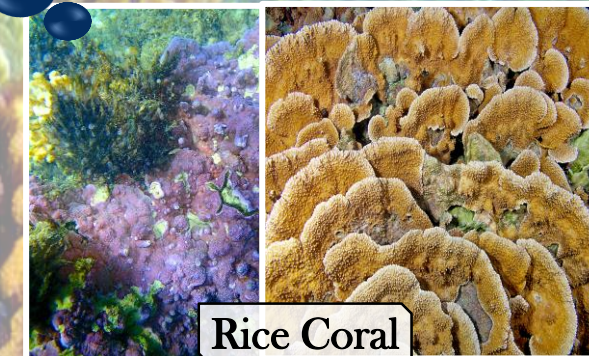
Hawaiian Reefs
make up ~80% of all
reefs in U.S. waters.



Lobe Coral

(*Porites lobata*)

Lobe coral produced many encrusting or massive forms on the reef from the intertidal zone to depths of over 180 feet. Long narrow cracks found on the coral heads are produced by a type of alpheid shrimp.



Rice Coral

(*Montipora capitata*)

This coral is found at depths to about 150 feet. It has a number of growth forms ranging from plate-like to branch-like and encrusting types. The most obvious characteristic of the coral is the nipple-like projections that cover the surface.