

© Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Science Team/IFE/URI/NOAA

Cold Coral Deep



© Mark Amend, NMFS SWFSC / NOAA Fisheries Ecology Division

Cold-water corals are found throughout the world's oceans, even in the tropics ...



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... the reefs and gardens they form are hotspots of marine biodiversity, including commercial fish.

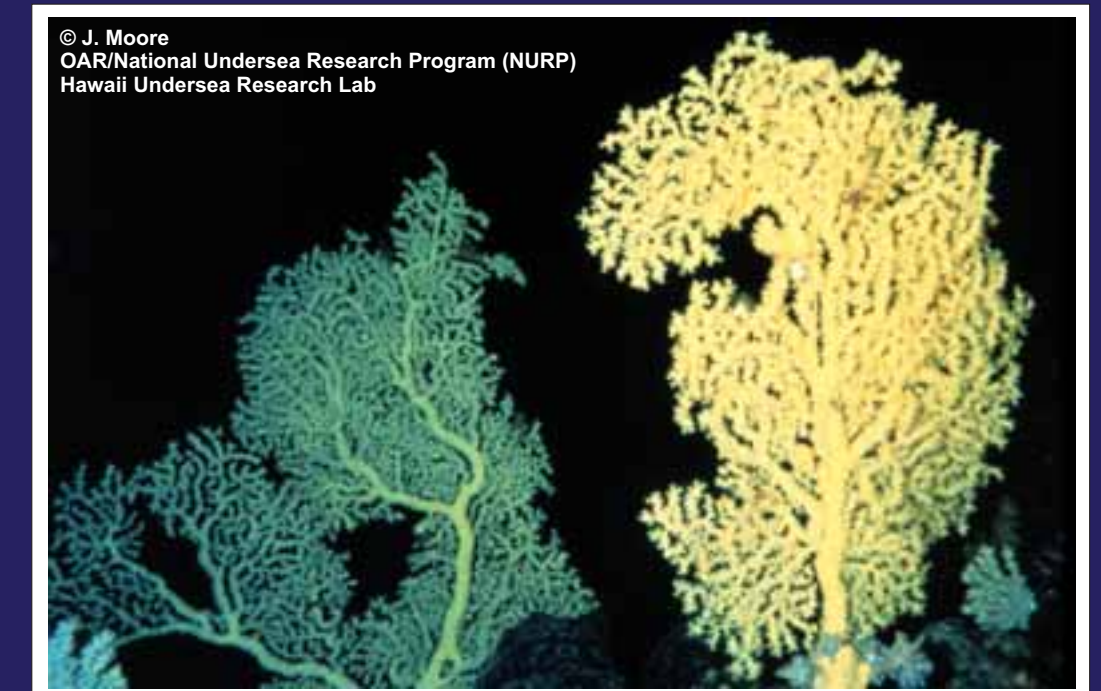
"250 metres below the surface of the sea the water is cold, and in perpetual darkness. Less is known about the floor of the world's oceans than the surface of the moon...."

This is the start of a new television documentary which investigates one of the most remarkable and vulnerable deep sea marine ecosystems on Earth: COLD-WATER CORAL REEFS.

The documentary has been produced by the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) with the generous support of UNEP, the Government of Norway and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The documentary will be broadcast as part of TVE's Earth Report series on BBC World.

Over 165 million homes in 200 countries will be able to follow an expedition in search of cold-water coral reefs and see thrilling new deep-water footage from around the globe. The film highlights the beauty and importance of cold-water coral reefs for marine life, and the urgent need for concerted action to stop their destruction - before it is too late.

For copies of the 22 minute film please contact stefan.hain@unep-wcmc.org



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OAR/National Undersea Research Program (NURP)
Hawaii Undersea Research Lab.

Gold corals are among the oldest living animals on Earth (up to 1,800 years). Slow growth and slow reproduction make deep-water organisms very vulnerable ...



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... especially to the impacts from bottom fishing and trawling.