










CORALS ARE IMPORTANT



Reef-building corals provide the foundational architecture for coral reefs . These colorful reefs provide critical habitat to a variety of commercially and ecologically important marine fishes and invertebrates . The abundance of marine resources and beauty sustain local economies  and enable eco-tourism . Their capacity to buffer intense wave energy  during severe weather makes coral reefs critical to disaster preparedness as well. Despite their importance, coral reefs are subject to degradation via pollution runoff from land  and overfishing . Warming water  due to climate change also makes corals more vulnerable to bleaching .

