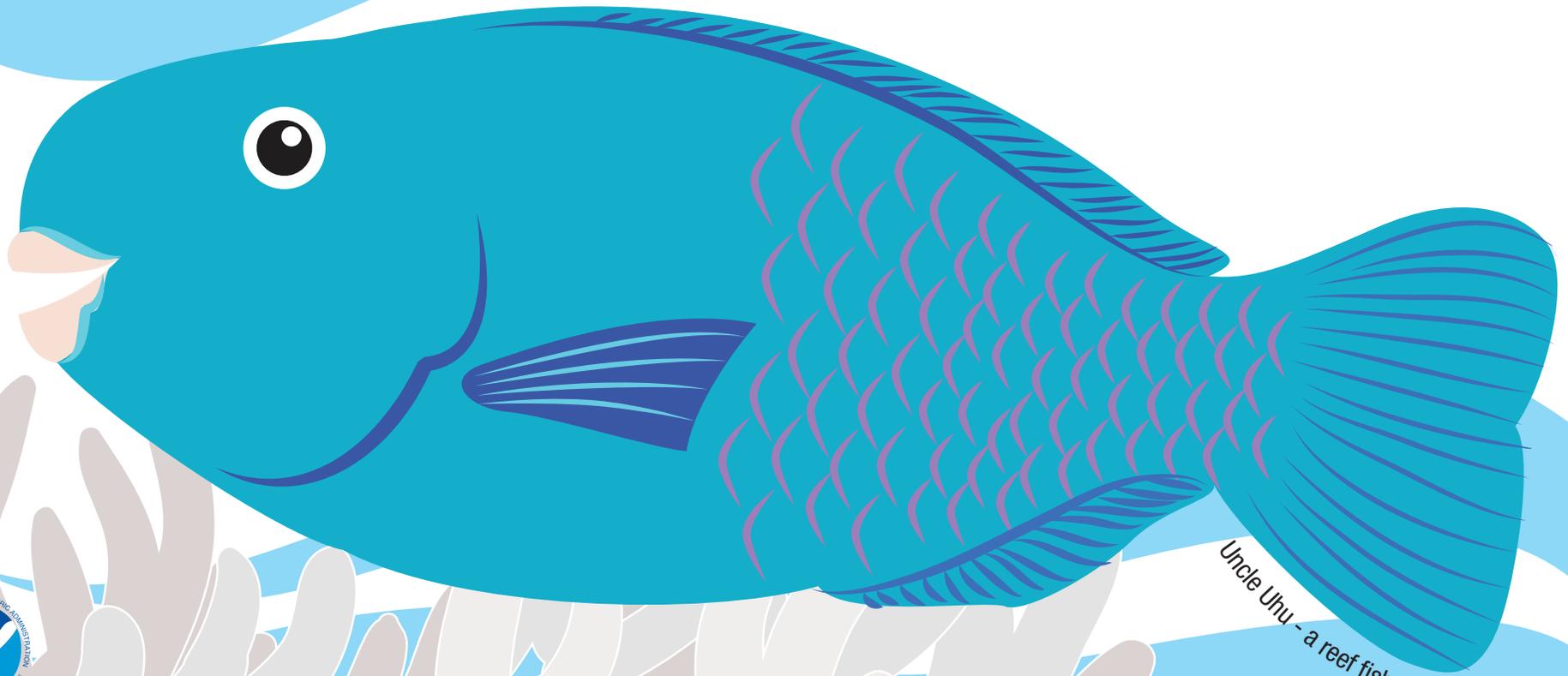


# Coral Habitat

activity booklet



Uncle Uhu - a reef fish



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

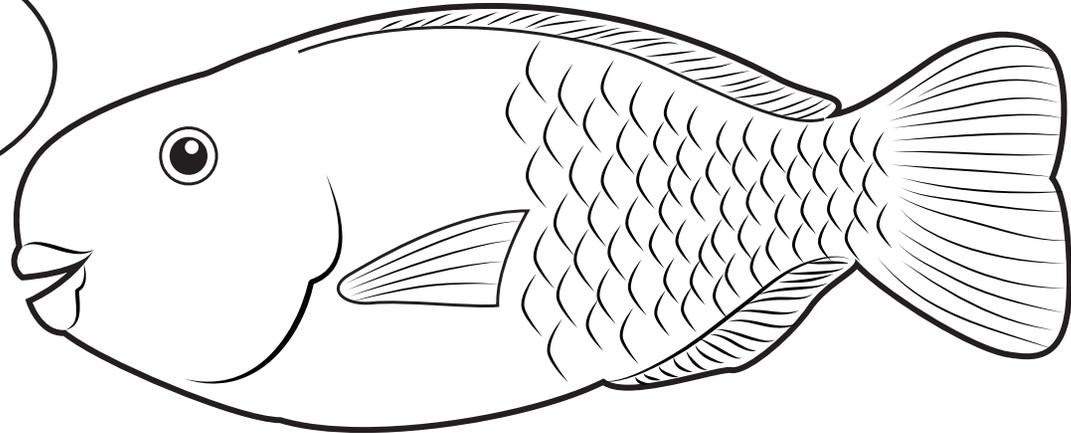
Pacific Islands Region

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

# Coral Basics

Corals are alive! Please don't step or sit on them. Leave corals in the water for others to enjoy.  
Meet Uncle Uhu! He's a parrotfish that helps to maintain the balance of life on coral reefs.

I like to eat algae and coral, and make the kind of sand you play with at the beach.



## Coral Health – It's Everyone's Kuleana (Responsibility)

Coral reefs are important to many different kinds of animals, but some things make them unhealthy. Here are some things you and your family can do to kokua (help)!

### Coral THREATS

**Threat from nature:** Too much non-native algae

**Land based pollution:** Too much fresh water  
(bad for corals)

**Unsustainable fishing**

**Climate change effects:** Increased air and sea temperature

### What can YOU do?

👍 Volunteer to help remove it

👍 Use fresh water wisely - put a nozzle on the hose when you help wash the car

👍 Fish responsibly

👍 Use less gas- walk or bike to school and other nearby locations

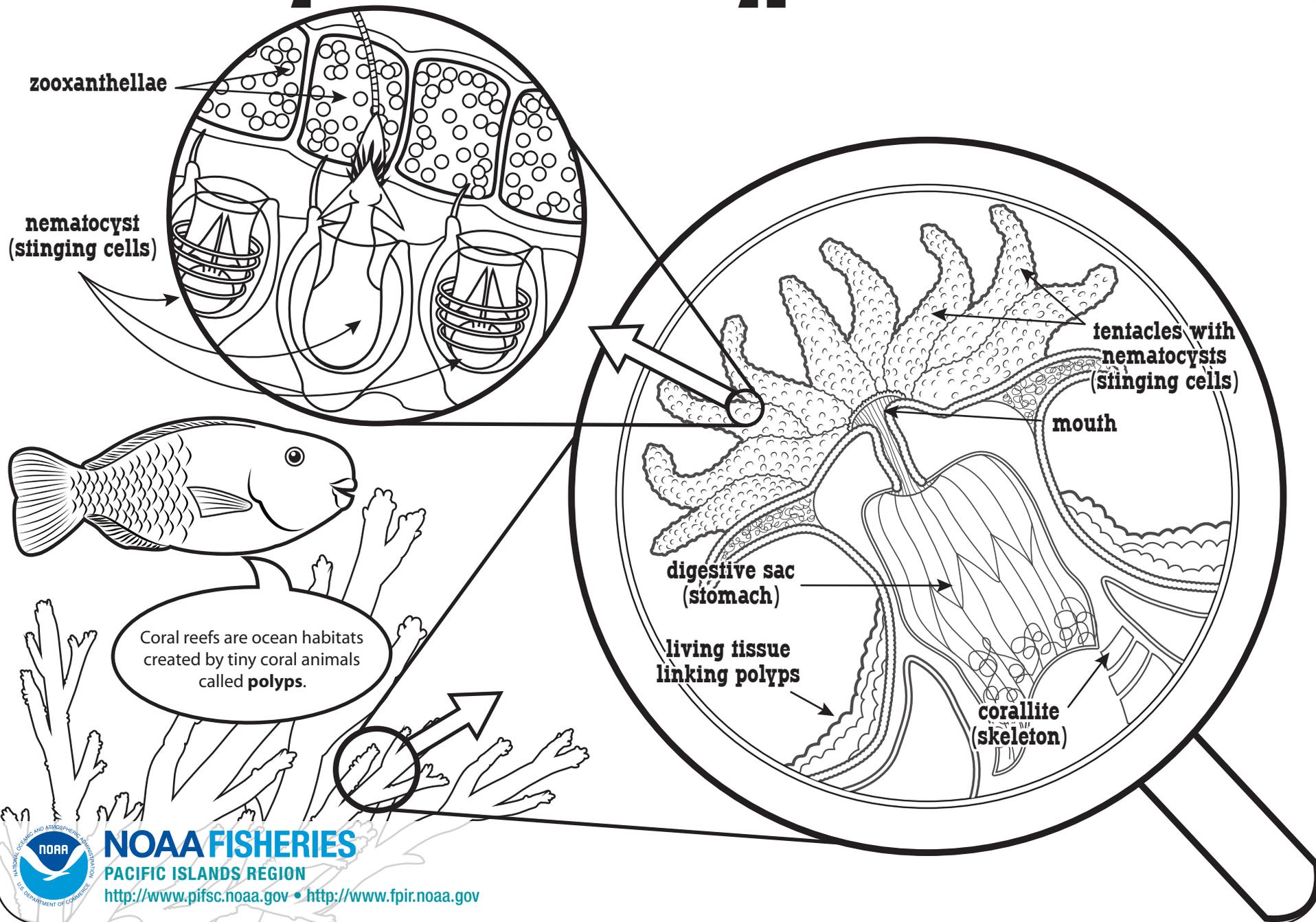


**NOAA FISHERIES**

**PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION**

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

# Anatomy of a Coral Polyp



**NOAA FISHERIES**

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

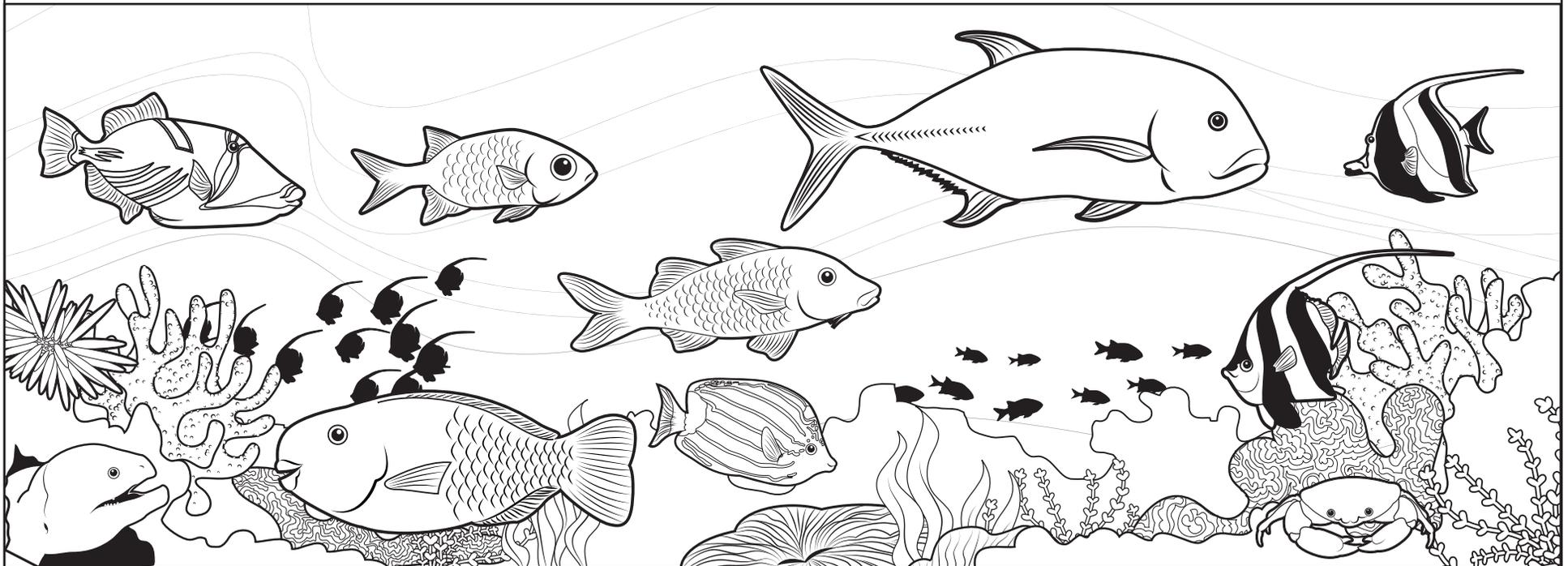
# Coral Vocabulary Words

**POLYP:** small animals that often live together in large colonies and build coral reefs. A single polyp has a tube-shaped body with a mouth surrounded by tentacles that have stinging cells.

**CORALLITE:** hard cuplike skeleton of a stony coral polyp. The polyps and corallites are interconnected to form a coral colony; together with hardened plants (coralline algae) they form coral reefs. Coral reefs grow slowly, but can live for thousands of years. They are the largest living structures on earth.

**ZOOXANTHELLAE:** tiny algae that live inside corals' bodies and give them much of their color. The zooxanthellae (zoo-zan-THEL-ee) provide food for the coral, and remove some of its waste products.

**NEMATOCYST:** type of stinging cell that help corals capture prey and can provide protection from predators. They resemble a small barbed harpoon. Nematocyst activation is one of the fastest processes in nature.



**NOAA FISHERIES**

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

# Coral Coded Message

Coral reefs provide habitat for thousands of reef fish, invertebrates and other organisms. Coral reefs also offer shoreline protection from storms and support fishing and other recreational activities.

## key

- A=★ B=♥ C=🐟 E=🐢 F=😊 H=🐟  
 I=🐙 L=🦀 M=◻ N=🐚 O=★ R=🐟  
 S=🐟 T=🐟 Y=🐟



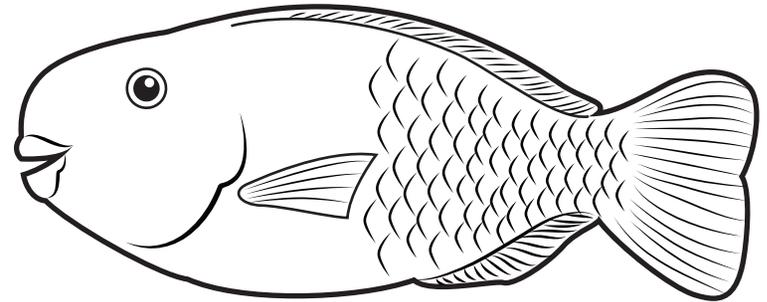
PROVIDE



ESSENTIAL TO A



Decode the message using the key above to find out an important fact about coral reefs.



**NOAA FISHERIES**

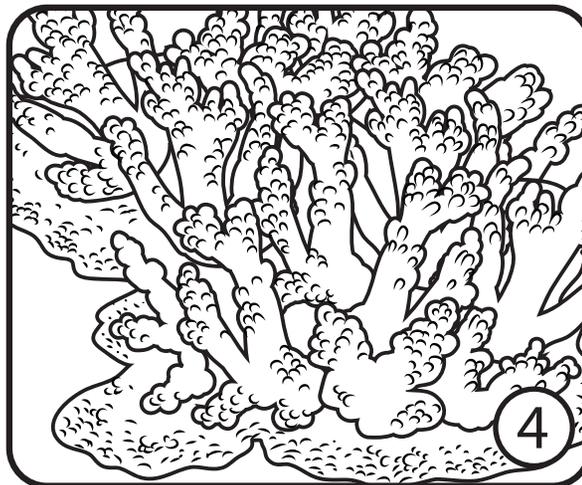
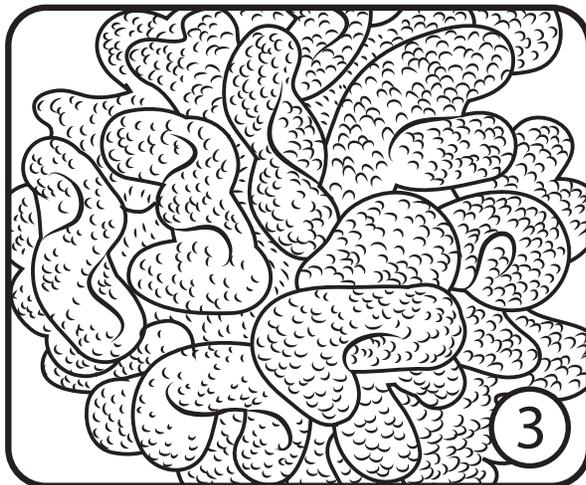
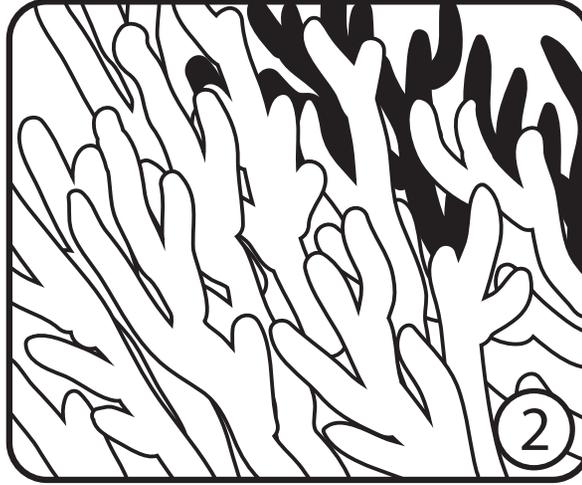
PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

ANSWER: CORAL REEFS PROVIDE HABITAT ESSENTIAL TO A HEALTHY OCEAN ECOSYSTEM!

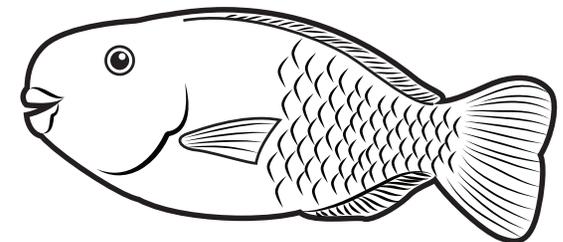
# Coral Diversity

There are many species of corals found in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some, like the lobe coral, build coral reefs and are found in warm tropical sunny shallow waters. Corals grow very slowly, only an average of 1 inch per year (but vary from 1/2" - 8" per year). Just one colony can range in size from as small as a quarter to as big as a bus!



**You will most likely see these common corals when you go swimming, snorkeling or diving in Hawaii.**

- ① **Lobe coral**  
Petroglyph shrimp create dark channels on the surface of the lobe coral.
- ② **Finger coral**  
Unlike many other Hawaiian corals, finger corals are very smooth when their polyp tentacles are withdrawn.
- ③ **Cauliflower coral**  
One of Hawaii's most common reef-building corals, cauliflower corals are found in areas of higher wave energy.
- ④ **Rice coral**  
Rice coral grow in large plates and branches that are covered in bumps; their shape is determined by where they live.



**NOAA FISHERIES**

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

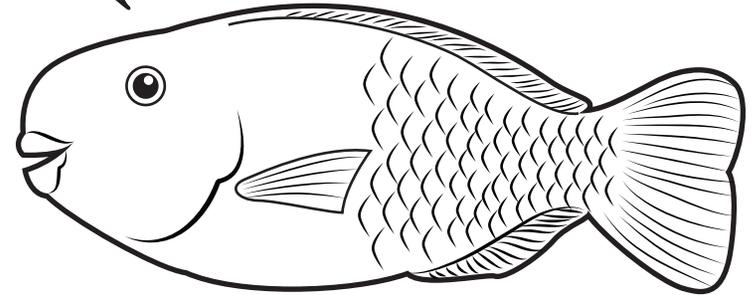
<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

# Coral Word Search

G W X O V S Z M L C E J H P F  
G P X T X W O Q V E O U Y D A  
C R K M J L O O N P H L Y I C  
A O Z W K B X B E U O E D Z O  
U T K M X N A C M P L U S N R  
L E W A R M N O A H O B U B A  
I C A X U T T R T A B Q N F L  
F T D D S N H A O B E G N H L  
L I M E A F E L C I W X Y K I  
O O A E E C L R Y T K F T B T  
W N L E O P L G S A Q A R I E  
E C R Y G G A T T T I P B L C  
R P T I N V E R T E B R A T E  
Q S H A L L O W K H Y W R X E  
X G F I S H D B R H V W I Z D

CAULIFLOWER NEMATOCYST  
CLEAN POLYP  
COLD PROTECTION  
CORAL REEF  
CORALLITE SHALLOW  
DEEP SUNNY  
FISH UHU  
HABITAT WARM  
INVERTEBRATE ZOOXANTHELLAE  
LOBE

Please help me  
find the words  
above.



**NOAA FISHERIES**

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

<http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov> • <http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>