



Resilience: how reefs bounce back

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for each slide, with sources you can check.

Scott Reef

After the 1998 mass bleaching, Scott Reef, an isolated reef system about 250 km off north Western Australia, lost around 80% of its coral cover. Coral cover increased from 9% to 44% within 12 years, despite a 94% reduction in larval supply for six years after the bleaching.¹ The recovery was attributed to the absence of local pressures such as degraded water quality and overfishing of herbivores.²

Sources

1. Gilmour, J.P. and others (2013). Recovery of an isolated coral reef system following severe disturbance. *Science* 340: 69-71.
2. Australian Institute of Marine Science (2013). Remote reefs can be tougher than they look. aims.gov.au

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