

EXPLORE KAHALU'U BAY CORAL REEF

*Hanau ka 'Uku-ko'ako'a,
hanau kana, he 'Ako'ako'a, puka*

BORN WAS THE CORAL POLYP, BORN WAS THE CORAL

From the earliest of times, ancient Hawaiians understood and honored the importance of living coral as the foundation for many other forms of sea life.

The coral reefs of Hawai'i are home to an estimated 5,000 animal species, with an estimated one-fourth of these species not found anywhere else in the world.

What is coral?

A coral is really a "city" of individual reef-building animals called polyps connected to each other by a thin layer of tissue. These soft-bodied animals, related to sea anemones and jellyfish, are just like any other marine animal: They eat, grow and reproduce.



Coral is alive and fragile.

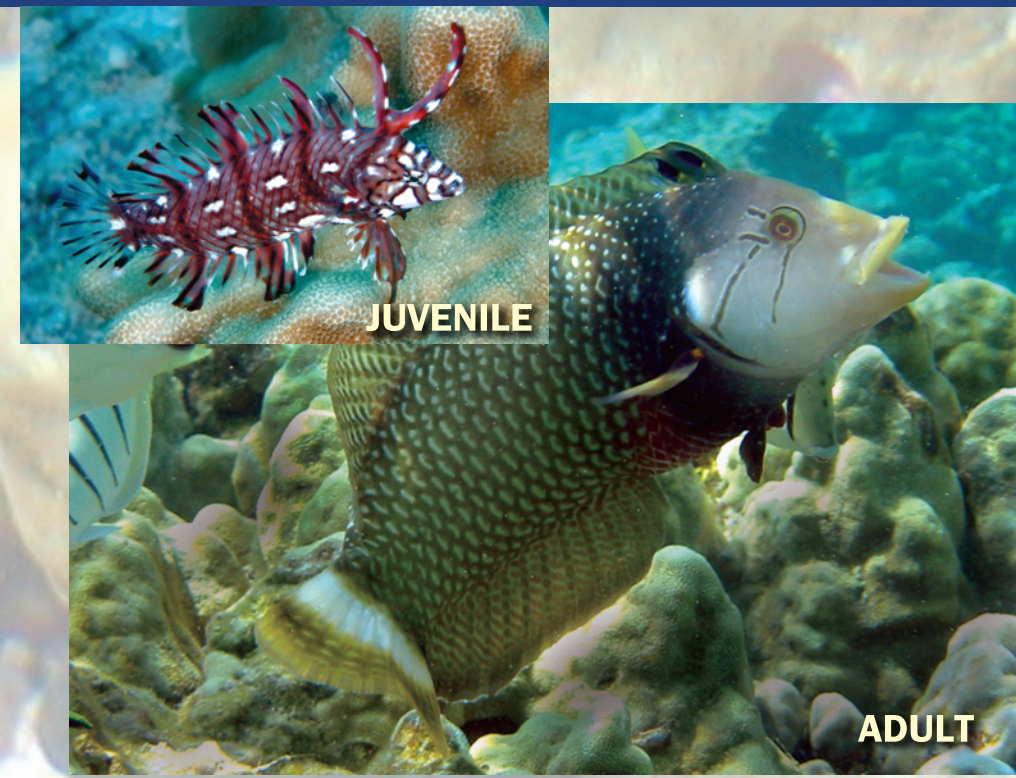
As the coral polyps grow, they secrete a substance that hardens to form the rigid coral structure. The large coral heads that you see around the reef are the result of hundreds of years of growth.



MOUND CORAL
Porites lutea
pōhaku puna



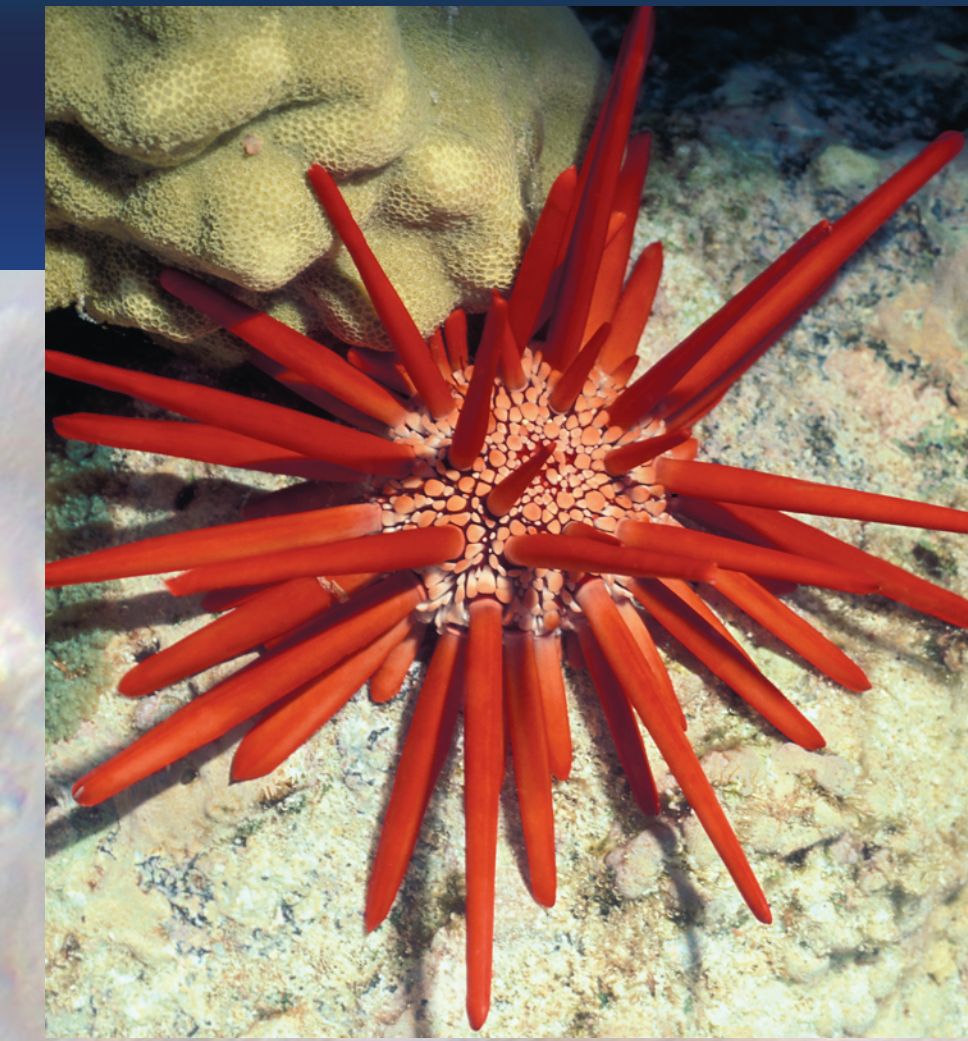
LOBE CORAL
Porites lobata
pōhaku puna



ROCK MOVER WRASSE
Novaculichthys taeniourus



YELLOWTAIL CORIS
Coris gaimard
hinālea 'aklolo



RED PENCIL URCHIN
Heterocentrotus mammillatus
hā'uke'uke 'ula'ula



CAULIFLOWER CORAL
Pocillopora meandrina
ko'a



ORANGESPINE UNICORNFISH
Naso lituratus
umaumalei



LINED BUTTERFLYFISH
Chaetodon lineolatus
kikākapu



REEF TRIGGERFISH
Rhinecanthus rectangulus
humuhumunukunukuapua'a



BLACK TRIGGERFISH (DURGON)
Melichthys niger
humuhumu'ele'ele



RACCOON BUTTERFLYFISH
Chaetodon lunula
kikākapu



HAWAIIAN CLEANER WRASSE
Labroides phthirophagus



MOORISH IDOL
Zanclus cornutus
kihikihi



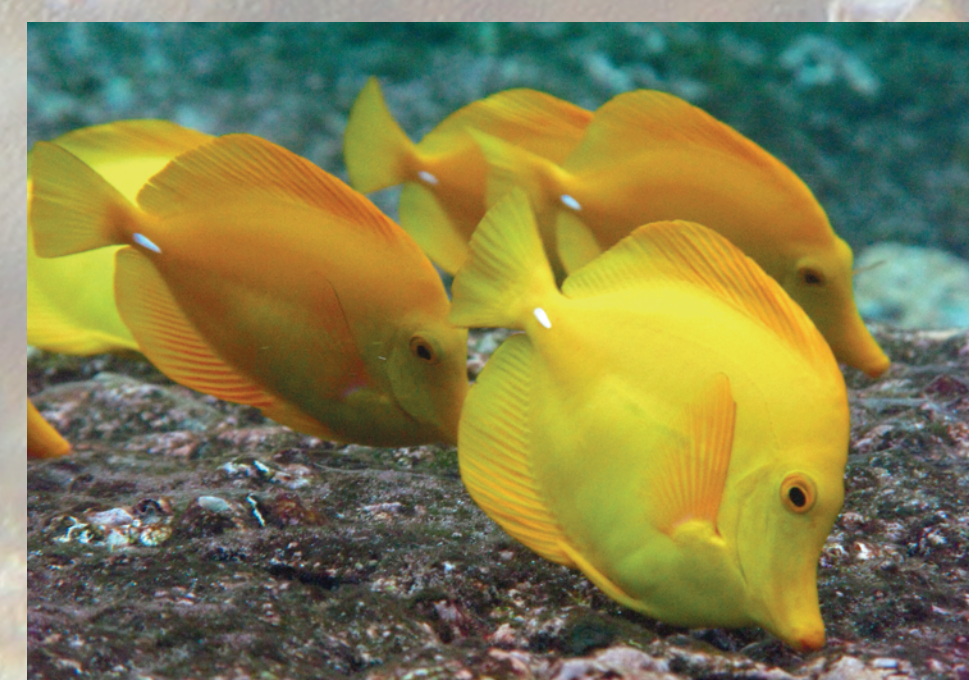
BULLEHEAD PARROTFISH
Chlorurus sordidus
uhu uliuli



CORNETFISH
Fistularia commersonii
nūnū peke



STRIPEBELLY PUFFER
Arothron hispidus
o'opuhue



YELLOW TANG
Zebрасoma flavescens
lau'ipala



LAGOON TRIGGERFISH
Rhinecanthus aculeatus
humuhumunukunukuapua'a



BLACK LONG-SPINED URCHIN
Diadema paucispinum
wana hālua



CONVICT TANG
Acanthurus triostegus
manini