

Diana Fernandez

The article “Coral Reefs Could Be Gone in 30 Years”, written by Laura Parker and Craig Welch, states that in the span of three years 25 reefs have endured severe bleaching. It is predicted that all remaining coral reefs will experience the same fate unless carbon emissions are reduced. Though only representing one percent of the ocean floor, coral reefs are responsible for housing millions of species. They also provide barriers which protect coastlines from sea level rise and erosion caused by storms. However, with the rapid rate of bleaching these benefits will cease and local communities will experience a reduced availability of freshwater and a decrease in fish abundance. World Heritage sites have attempted to contain local pollutants from farm runoff and overfishing. Nonetheless, these efforts have proven insufficient in the grand scheme of things. Therefore, they request that world nations take their plea for help seriously and work to immediately curtail their greenhouse gas emissions.

Source Citation:

Laura Parker, Craig Welch, National Geographic, Coral Reefs Could Be Gone in 30 Years, June 23, 2017

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/06/coral-reef-bleaching-global-warming-unesco-sites/>