

- Coral reefs and islands

Scientists can monitor health of coral reefs by listening in

The Guardian Weekly · 3 Jun 2022 · 8

Monitoring the sounds of coral reefs can serve as a non-intrusive, inexpensive and efficient method for tracking the state of their health – and for planning better conservation interventions, say oceanographers. New research shows that degraded coral communities do not sound as crackling and vibrant as healthy ones because reduced biodiversity means less activity. “Soundscaping gives us this really nice heartbeat of what’s going on on the reef,” said Lauren Freeman, senior oceanographer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, presenting the findings to the Acoustical Society of America.