

‘We need networks of protected areas which can assure the resilience of sea life under changed conditions of sea temperature, acidity, storms, pollution and so on.’

‘If you leave a portion of the fish population alone, they grow larger and more numerous, and they have more babies to rebuild depleted stocks – and that benefits everyone, including fishers, tourism operators and the ecosystem,’ he says.

‘Fish are ecological engineers – they play a huge role in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems. By preserving fish stocks, we protect the entire ecosystem and how it works.’

Prof. Hughes will be elaborating on the science and need for marine protected areas as convenor of ‘Coral Reefs: Coast to Coast Symposium’ to be held in Fremantle, WA, on October 20-21.

The CoERCS underpins Australia's leading contribution to coral reef sciences, and fosters stronger collaborative links between the major partners and 24 other leading institutions in nine countries.

Source: SciNews

Read also: [Reef Collapse Threshold Identified](#)

From **ECOS** online <http://www.ecomagazine.com/?paper=EC11067>