



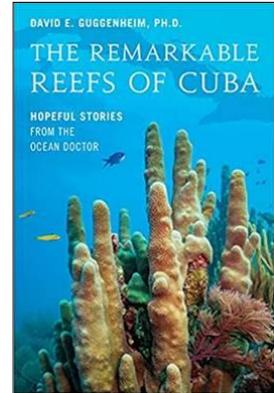
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The Remarkable Reefs of Cuba

Hopeful Stories from the Ocean Doctor

By
David E. Guggenheim

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Cuba's remarkably healthy reefs offer hope to a world of corals facing extinction. Understanding why takes us on a journey through the island's unique history – and our own.

Since 1970, the Caribbean has lost half its coral reefs, an ominous and accelerating phenomenon reflected around the world. Beyond the heartbreak of the loss of such exquisite beauty, losing coral reefs means the annual loss of billions of dollars from the global economy and the end of a way of life for the billions who depend on these ecosystems. Marine scientist and conservation leader Dr. David E. Guggenheim has had a front-row seat to this disaster. But when he began a new chapter of his career in Cuba, he found something completely unexpected: hope. After years of watching reefs deteriorate, Guggenheim was astonished to come face-to-face with Cuba's remarkably healthy coral reefs overflowing with marine life. *The Remarkable Reefs of Cuba* reveals the hidden lessons of Cuba's reefs that could help rescue coral reefs around the world.

While the past 60 years have seen the worst decline in ocean health in human history, Cuba's oceans and coral reefs remain remarkably healthy, a living laboratory little seen by this generation of scientists. Which begs the question—Why are Cuba's ocean waters so healthy? The answer is deeply entwined with the country's extraordinary and singularly unique history, from its dramatic political past to its world-class environmental protections influenced by an unlikely partner, Jacques Cousteau. This book tells the story of the demise of the world's ocean ecosystems, the hard work of those trying desperately to save it, and an unexpected beacon of hope from an island full of mystery and surprise.

Dr. David E. Guggenheim is a marine scientist, conservation policy specialist, ocean explorer, submarine pilot, and educator. He is the founder and president of the Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization *Ocean Doctor*, dedicated to advancing the conservation of the world's oceans through research, education, and community engagement. He is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches ocean sustainability, and was inducted into the

Explorers Club as a national fellow in 2008. He makes frequent speaking, television, and radio



appearances and has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *PBS Newshour*, and *NPR*. He has led projects in Cuba for more than 20 years.

Testimonials

“Guggenheim’s deeply personal journey into Cuba’s past and present leads him to see the inextricable links between humans and nature, and reasons for hope in an enduring future for both.”—Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, founder of Mission Blue and author of *Ocean: A Global Odyssey*

*“Cuba’s political difficulties created a silver lining of virtually untouched reefs. They are a reminder of what God intended coral reefs to be and of how badly coral reefs have been massacred by human pollution, overfishing, and climate change. These Cuban reefs offer a beacon of hope as well as a warning of danger, and *The Remarkable Reefs of Cuba* gives them voice.”—Senator Sheldon Whitehouse*, founder and cochair of the Senate Oceans Caucus

“In telling this important story, Guggenheim shares the little-known account of how my grandfather helped shape Cuba’s environmental future and its strong laws protecting the coastal waters. I am grateful that his legacy continues and endures in Cuba and that his message of love and hope for our oceans continues to resonate.”—Céline Cousteau, environmental activist, filmmaker, and author

*“While filming *Chasing Coral*, we witnessed climate change’s devastating impact on the beloved Great Barrier Reef. Guggenheim’s 20-year account brings hope as he shares the lessons of Cuba’s remarkable coral reefs and how their secrets can help us rescue the planet’s remaining reefs before it’s too late.”—Jeff Orlowski*, director and producer of the Emmy award-winning documentaries *Chasing Ice* and *Chasing Coral*

*“*The Remarkable Reefs of Cuba*’ is a truly inspirational story about our corals, how they live, and what we can do to protect them. Thanks, David, for showing us that there is still hope!”—Dr. Jorge A. Angulo Valdés*, former director of the University of Havana’s Center for Marine Research and visiting professor at Eckerd College

Now Available for Pre-Order

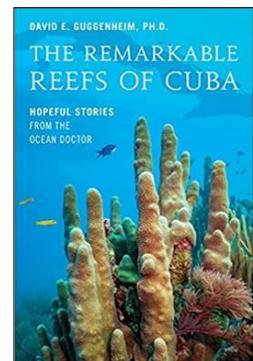


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