

# Study shows cleaner water mitigates climate change effects on Florida Keys coral reefs

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Improving the quality of local water increases the resistance of coral reefs to global climate change, according to a study published in June in *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. Florida Institute of Technology coral reef ecologist Robert van Woesik and his student Dan Wagner led the study, which provides concrete evidence for a link between environmental health and the prospects for reefs in a rapidly changing world.

Van Woesik and his team showed that when waters in the Florida Keys warmed over the last few summers, corals living in cleaner water with fewer [nutrients](#) did well. On the other hand, corals in dirtier water became sick and bleached.

"Regulating wastewater discharge from the land will help [coral reefs](#) resist climate change," said van Woesik. "In the face of climate change and ocean warming, this study gives managers hope that maintaining high water quality can spare corals."

**More information:** The link to the published paper is at [www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v408/p65-78](http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v408/p65-78)

Provided by Florida Institute of Technology

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