RESEARCHING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef was designated a World Heritage Area in 1981 and is the largest coral reef ecosystem on earth, with over 2,900 coral reefs spread over approximately 348,000 km2. This biologically diverse underwater environment supports over 1,500 fish and 600 coral species, alongside thousands of molluscs, marine ma mals, sea turtles and birds.

An enormous amount of effort is invested in monitoring the Great Barrier Reef, with dozens of publicly and privately funded monitoring programs in place, run by research institutions, government agencies, reef-based industries, citizen-science groups, and traditional owners. However, no single organisation can monitor the entire Great Barrier Reef on its own.

The motivation for the Virtual Reef Diver project was to find a way to make use of all the existing monitoring data collected by these organisations, and to look for other innovative ways to obtain new data in a cost-effective manner.

SUPPORTING VIRTUAL REEF DIVER, SUPPORTS MONITORING OUR REEFS!

The more images we have of the reef and the more people who classify each of these images, the more information can be extracted from the data during the modelling process.

VIRTUAL REEF DIVER

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ASSIST IN MONITORING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
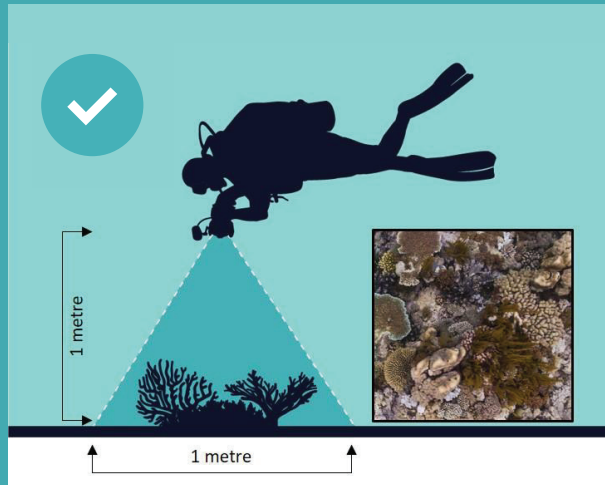### GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Monitoring through many eyes

WWW.VIRTUALREEF.ORG.AU

Monitorning the Great Barrier Reef through education, outreach, and monitoring.

GET INVOLVED IN CITIZEN SCIENCE

## LEARN, MONITOR & CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION TODAY!

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - HOW TO TAKE IMAGES

Digital photos are taken directly downwards from approximately 1 metre (3 feet) above the seabed or reef. If shooting along a reef wall, take photos approximately 1m from the wall.

It is recommended that a flash should be used. If a separate strobe is not being used the camera's built-in flash can also be used.

It is more important to take sharp images without too much backscatter. Use wide angle lens or zoom at widest angle when available.

Save you images in .jpeg rather than raw.
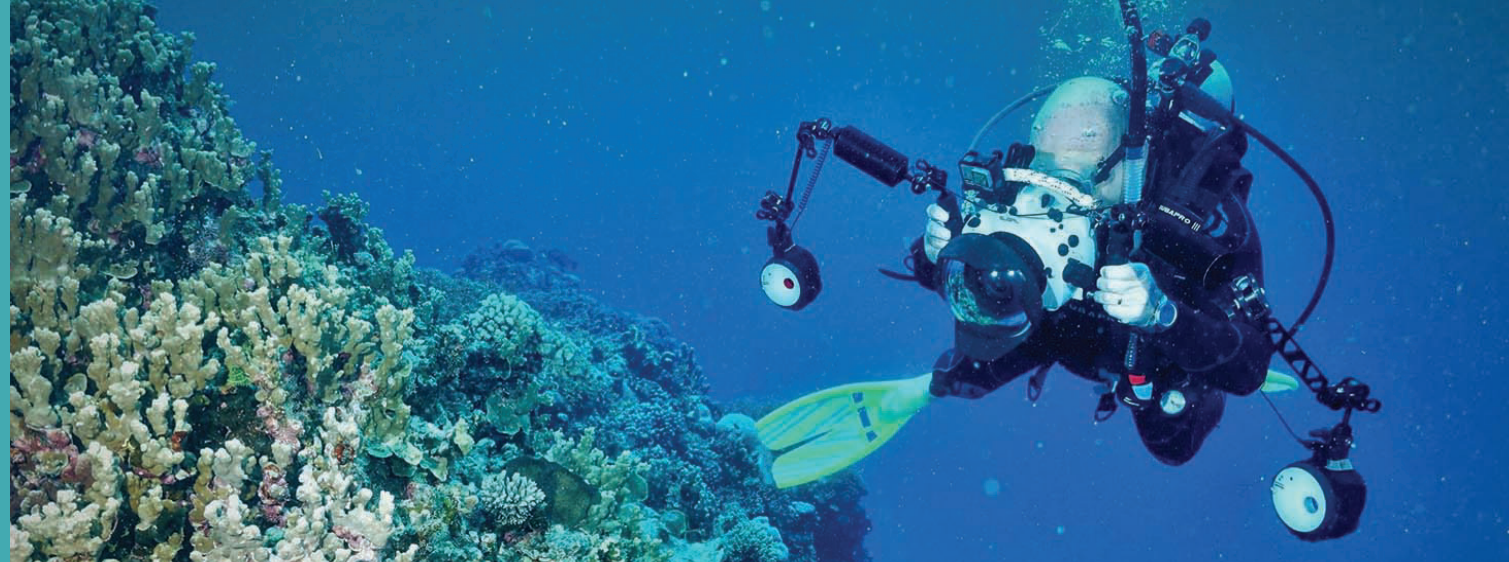
VIRTUAL REEF DIVER PROJECT
HELP US FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE REEF

Virtual Reef Diver is a collaboration between scientists, managers, citizens, data analysts, marine explorers and reef operators working together to record, analyse and predict coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef.

The aim of the project is to tap into the power of citizen science to dramatically increase the amount of monitoring data within the Great Barrier Reef, and then translate these crowd-sourced data into valuable information that managers can use to make better decisions.
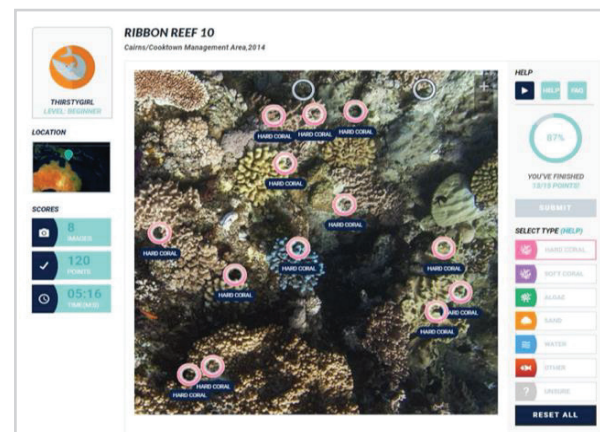
CITIZEN SCIENCE IS NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS

The photographs submitted by citizen scientists can describe a range of things about the location it depicts on the day it was taken, such as water conditions or the presence of coral, algae or fish. By participating in classification, you're helping the research team translate data from the observations into quantitative data that can be used in scientific models.

the citizen scientists who participate in this project are translating visual data into quantitative data that is more useful for statistical modelling.