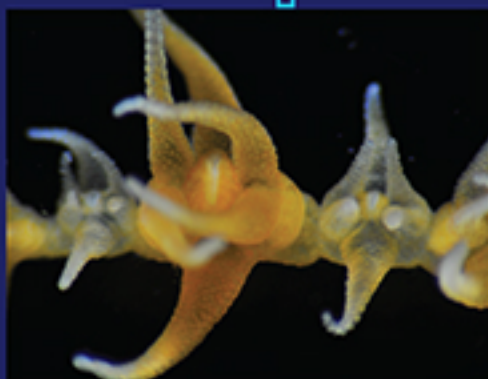


THE GULF OF MEXICO'S

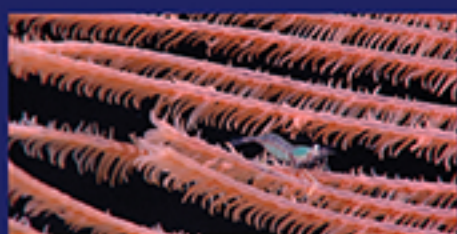
deepwater corals



There are more species of corals in deep waters than in shallow, sunlit waters

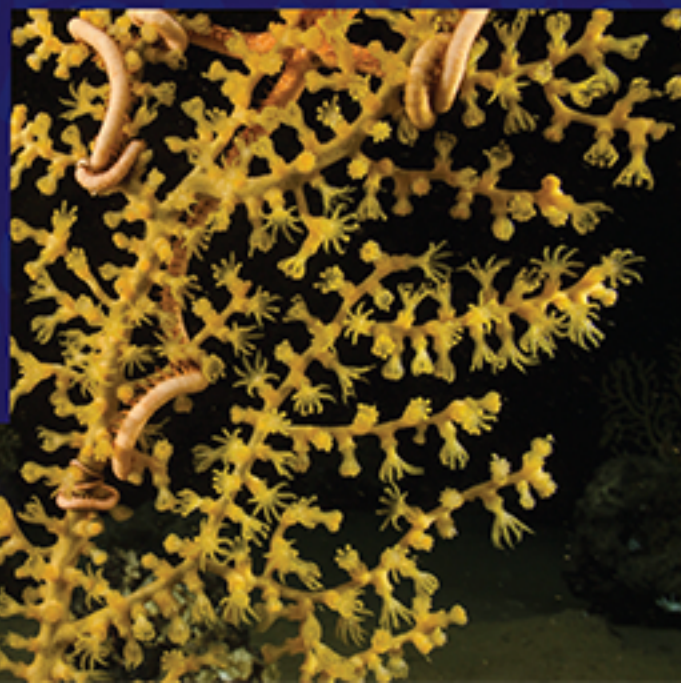
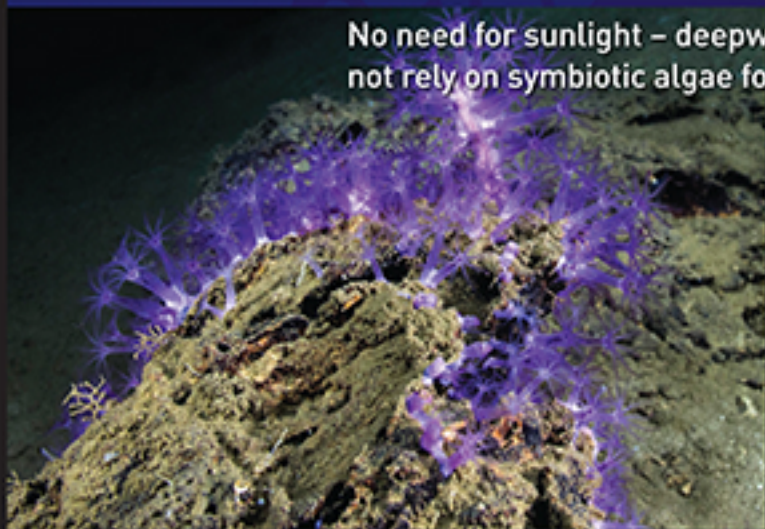


Threats include bottom trawling, oil and gas drilling, warming waters, and ocean acidification



Thousands of fish and invertebrate species depend on coral structures for habitat

No need for sunlight – deepwater corals do not rely on symbiotic algae for energy



Deepwater corals are slow-growing and can live for hundreds – even thousands – of years

ECOGIG
Gulf Ecosystem Research
ECOGIG.ORG