Texas Coral Reefs (Gulf Coast Books, Sponsored By Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)
Just one hundred and ten miles south of the Texas-Louisiana border, beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, lie two coral reefs, together called the Flower Garden Banks. This coral community, the northernmost reef system in the United States and a national marine sanctuary, is home to hundreds of kinds of fish and other tropical sea life. Manta rays and turtles visit regularly, as do whale sharks and schools of hammerhead sharks. Other wonders include the annual mass coral spawns and a briny depression called Gollum Lake. Nearby are two other reefs. Stetson Bank, its top spotted with hard corals, mollusks, and sponges, is known for its diversity—from black sea hares to golden smooth trunkfish. At Geyer Bank, thousands of butterfly fish dominate a huge population of tropical fish whose density rivals that of the coral reefs in the South Pacific. Protruding from the flat, muddy continental shelf, these and thirty other natural reefs support an exceptional amount and variety of sea life in Texas waters. They sit amid hundreds of oil and gas platforms, which create their own special reef ecosystems. These reefs, equal in their profusion of life and color to the storied reefs of Florida and Hawaii, have not been widely known to Texans outside of a small group of scientists and divers. With extraordinary photographs and a knowledgeable first-person narrative, author Jesse Cancelmo instills an appreciation for the beauty and fragility of one of the state’s least-known natural environments. Texas Coral Reefs will inspire adventurers; both the underwater and armchair varieties; to enjoy these spectacular but little-known sites that lie so close to home.
Nature & Wildlife > Plants & Animals

Customer Reviews

This book would do beautiful duty as a coffee table book for those who just want great photographs of marine life. However, it doesn’t stop there. It also covers the wide variety of life forms found in the reefs of the Gulf Coast, mostly off the Texas coast, but it also covers the Stetson and Sonnier Banks off the coast of Louisiana. The history of the formation and discovery of these unusual reefs, and how they became some of the first National Marine Sanctuaries also merits a few pages. The writing is clear enough to satisfy marine hobbyists or aquarists, but technical enough to satisfy marine scientists.

The reefs off of the Texas coast are a treasure and Jesse gives us fantastic look at them in both pictures and words. I have dived the banks many times and this book makes me appreciate them all the more.

Really love the beautiful pictures. Book is well made too.

Download to continue reading...

Texas Coral Reefs (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) Glorious Gulf of Mexico: Life Below the Blue (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) The Louisiana Coast: Guide to an American Wetland (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) Lighthouses of Texas (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) After Ike: Aerial Views from the No-Fly Zone (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) Coral Reefs of the Southern Gulf of Mexico (Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies) Pickers and Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) The Nature of Florida’s Ocean Life: Including Coral Reefs, Gulf Stream, Sargasso Sea, and Sunken Ships Coral reefs: A guide to the common invertebrates and fishes of Bermuda, the Bahamas, southern Florida, the West Indies, and the Caribbean coast of ... America (Roger Tory Peterson field guides) Without Getting Killed or Caught: The Life and Music of Guy Clark (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) Wow Canada!: Exploring This Land from Coast to Coast to Coast (Wow Canada! Collection) Música Tejana: The Cultural Economy of Artistic Transformation (University of Houston Series in Mexican American Studies, Sponsored by the Cente) Saltwater Fishes of the Texas Gulf
Coast: A Guide to Inshore & Offshore Species
Beachcomber’s Guide to Gulf Coast Marine Life:
Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida
Shells of Texas: A Beachcomber’s Guide to the
Gulf Coast (Common and Notable Species)
Freshwater Fishes of Texas: A Field Guide (River
Books, Sponsored by The Meadows Center for Water and
the Environment, Texa)
Science Comics: Coral Reefs: Cities of the Ocean
Coral Reefs National Geographic Readers: Coral
Reefs: In Danger (Penguin Young Readers, Level 3)