

KEYSTONE REEF SPECIES

HEALTHY REEF

Sharks keep the reef balanced and healthy

Sharks are apex predators; they are at the top of the food chain. By removing the weak, old and slow individuals, sharks keep the remaining fish populations healthy.

Groupers keep the reef regulated

Groupers are mesopredators; they eat many different species of small fish and invertebrates, and therefore regulate the populations of other reef species.

Parrotfish keep the reef clean

Parrotfish are grazing herbivores; they spend much of their time removing algae from the reef, which makes room for new corals to settle and grow.

There are 40-45 species of groupers in the Maldives alone!

While removing algae, parrotfish also eat some of the hard coral itself with their scraping teeth. Coral passes through their digestive system and is expelled as sand, which forms the basis of the islands we call home.

DEGRADED REEF