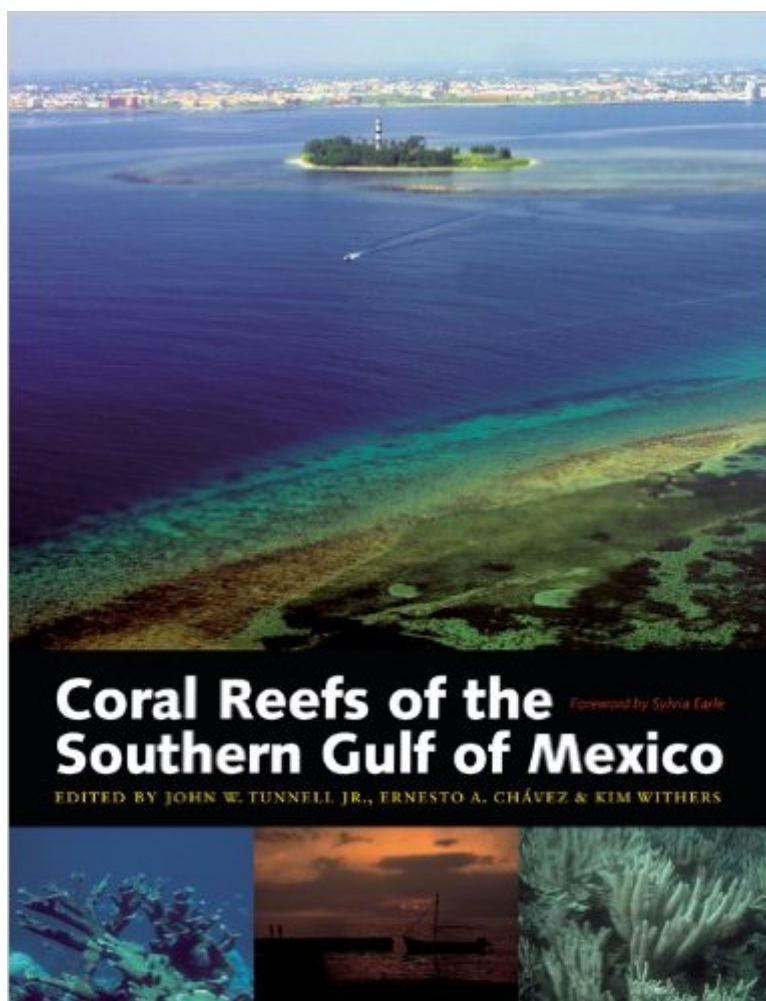


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# Coral Reefs Of The Southern Gulf Of Mexico (Harte Research Institute For Gulf Of Mexico Studies)



## Synopsis

Coral reefs declined worldwide during the 1980s and 1990s, making them perhaps the most endangered marine ecosystem on Earth. This realization spurred John W. Tunnell Jr. and others to write a comprehensive book that would raise awareness of coral reefs and their plight. Tunnell and coeditors Ernesto A. Chávez and Kim Withers present an integrated and broad-ranging synthesis, while Mexican and U.S. experts assess the current state of these fragile systems and offer a framework for their restoration. Beginning with a history of the research done in this region, *Coral Reefs of the Southern Gulf of Mexico* covers the geography, geology, oceanography, ecology, and biodiversity of the thirty-eight emergent or platform-type coral reefs in the southern Gulf. The editors include chapters on the biota—from algae to fish—followed by a look at environmental impacts, both natural (such as hurricanes and red tides) and human (such as ship groundings and dredging). The book closes with a discussion of conservation issues, which is both descriptive and prescriptive in its assessment of what has been done and what should be done to protect and manage these vital ecosystems.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 216 pages

Publisher: Texas A&M University Press (October 17, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1585446173

ISBN-13: 978-1585446179

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 8.7 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #2,724,805 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Coral Reefs #761 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Endangered Species #1012 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Biology > Marine Biology

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