

12. Great Barrier Reef at 'terminal stage': scientists despair at latest coral bleaching data (környezetvédelmi tematika!)

Back-to-back severe bleaching events have affected two-thirds of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, new aerial surveys have found.

Scientists with the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies last week completed aerial surveys of the world's largest living structure, scoring bleaching at 800 individual coral reefs across 8,000km. The results show the two consecutive mass bleaching events (in 2016 and in 2017) have affected a 1,500km stretch, leaving only the reef's southern third unharmed.

While last year's bleaching was concentrated in the reef's northern third, the 2017 event spread further south, and was most intense in the middle section of the Great Barrier Reef. This year's mass bleaching, second in severity only to 2016, has occurred even in the absence of an El Niño event.

Mass bleaching (a phenomenon, when corals become completely white, caused by global warming-induced rises to sea surface temperatures) has occurred on the reef four times in recorded history.

Prof Terry Hughes, who led the surveys, said the length of time coral needed to recover – about 10 years for fast-growing types – raised serious concerns about the increasing frequency of mass bleaching events.

“The significance of bleaching this year is that there's been zero time for recovery,” Hughes told the Guardian. “It's too early yet to tell what the full death toll will be from this year's bleaching, but clearly it will extend 500km south of last year's bleaching.”

Last year, in the worst-affected areas to the reef's north, roughly two-thirds of shallow-water corals were lost.

Hughes has warned Australia it soon will be too late to save the reef by taking decisive action on climate change.

The 2017 bleaching is likely to be compounded by other stresses on the reef, including the destructive crown-of-thorns starfish and poor water quality. The category-four tropical cyclone Debbie came too late and too far south for its cooling effect to stop bleaching.

The University of Technology Sydney's lead reef researcher, marine biologist David Suggett, said that to properly recover, affected reefs needed to be connected to those left untouched by bleaching.

Some reef scientists are now becoming alarmed. Water quality expert, Jon Brodie, told the Guardian the reef was now in a “terminal stage”. Brodie has devoted much of his life to improving water quality on the reef, one of a set of measures used to stop bleaching. He said measures to improve water quality, which were a central tenet of the Australian government's rescue effort, were failing.

The Queensland tourism industry raised questions about the reliability of the survey, saying scientists had previously made exaggerated claims about mortality rates and bleaching.

“Undoubtedly, we have had a significant bleaching event off Cairns this time around,” said Col McKenzie, of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators. “Fortunately we haven't seen much mortality at this time, and fortunately the temperatures have fallen.”

However, McKenzie said, more money needed to be invested in water quality measures, and criticised what he saw as an uncoordinated approach to water quality projects up and down the coast.

Sunday 9 April 2017

Első feladat

Olvassa el a “Great Barrier Reef” című szöveget, majd egészítse ki jegyzeteivel a táblázatot a megadott szempontok alapján, néhány szóval, a *példa (0)* szerint!

SZEMPONTOK	JEGYZETEK	TANÁRI JAVÍTÁS	
		1.	2.
Serious problem of the Great Barrier Reef	0. <i>mass bleaching</i>		
The reasons for alarm: (give 2 examples)	1. frequency of bleaching events / size of affected areas		
	2. no time for the reef to recover		
Factors worsening the situation	3. starfish		
	4. poor water quality		
Failed hopes about Cyclone Debbie	5. cooling effect		
Suggestion for revitalising the reef	6. affected parts to be connected with the unaffected parts		
EREDMÉNY			

Második feladat

Olvassa el újra a szöveget és döntse el a szöveg alapján, hogy a megadott állítások igazak (I) vagy hamisak. (H) a példa (0) szerint! *Végig igaz, vagy végig hamis válasz esetén a feladat nem kerül értékelésre.*

ÁLLÍTÁSOK	IGAZ vagy HAMIS	TANÁRI JAVÍTÁS	
		1.	2.
0. <i>The mass bleaching events have involved 1/3 of the Great Barrier Reef.</i>	<i>H</i>	✓	✓
7. It takes no longer than a decade for all types of coral to reproduce.	I		
8. Unfortunately the tropical cyclone arrived too fast in the south to be able to prevent the bleaching of the corals.	H		
9. Tourism experts also claim that not enough money is spent on rescue efforts.	I		
10. McKenzie praised the concerted efforts of water quality projects along the coast.	H		
EREDMÉNY			