

FISHWATCH

MALDIVES

Fishwatch Maldives is a nationwide project to monitor coral reef fish and reef health. All Dive Centres and Liveboards are invited to participate. It's a great opportunity to learn more about fish and help look after the Maldives reefs.

Why are fish surveys needed?

Over 70 species of reef fish in the Maldives are targeted for food and demand is escalating as tourism expands. In addition, at least 120 species are collected and exported for the aquarium trade.

Fish populations are also affected by changes in coral reef health due to global climate change and other human activities.

Fishwatch Maldives is a long-term project that will provide vital information about distribution and abundance of a wide range of species.



How Fishwatch works

Fishwatch surveys involve 'timed swims' of 15-minutes during which the recorder notes target species at specified locations and depths. Participants are provided with illustrated checklists that make identification easy and accurate.

Your help counts

Maldives coral reefs cover nearly 9,000 km² and it's impossible to survey them effectively without harnessing the efforts of the many divers who explore them on a regular basis.

Please help by becoming a Fishwatcher. Your contribution is vital. Every record will contribute to a national database that will guide conservation and management policies for coral reef fisheries in the Maldives.

Getting involved

Dive Centres or Liveboards interested in participating are invited to sign up for a trial run. For further details please contact Dr Elizabeth Wood ewood@f2s.com and Mohamed Ushan mohamed.ushan@gmail.com

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