

Creep into the Deep: Discovering Deep-Sea Coral

SEAMAIL™

TO: Virtual Deep-Sea Science Team
FROM: Makeda Mills
SUBJECT: Life at Sea

Hello Virtual Science Team,

I'm so excited to be back out to sea and exploring the deep-sea reefs.

When we're on the cruise, we see lots of cool ocean animals—not just coral. Last year we saw a whole group of sharks around the ship!

Living on the ship is really interesting. Each room houses two people. The rooms are tiny! There are two bunks, a desk, and a tiny bathroom. The toilets are a little strange—they are kind of like the suction toilets on an airplane. The ship has a TV room and a laundry room.

The crew—the people who work on the boat—is very important. The captain pilots the boat. Others take care of the boat's engines and equipment. On the last cruise, I liked getting to know the kitchen staff. They cook amazing food for us! If it weren't for the crew, we couldn't do our work.

Plus getting to explore the deep-sea is a dream come true. When I was out on the cruise last year, we came across a reef that was so beautiful, it made me feel amazing. That's because it reminded me how much I care about the corals. Being out to sea reminds me that my research makes a difference.

Makeda

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Illustration by Paul Lopez

Everyone can make a difference and protect the ocean. Reducing, reusing, and recycling are great ways to start.