

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	December 15, 2011	Entry Number:	1165
Case Study Name:	Perceptions of coral in a coastal tourist town in Brazil		
Author:	Oigman-Pszczol, S.S., Oliveira, A.E.S., & Creed, J.C.		
Document Type:	Paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2007		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Coral Reefs		
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Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Country:	Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	Coral reef		
Social Characteristics:	Coastal community		
Scale of Study:	Regional		
Resource Type:	Tourism/ecotourism		
Type of Initiative:	Research driven project		
Community Based Work:	Resource management		

Keywords:	Knowledge of corals - Perception - Management - Brazil
Summary:	<p>Almost nothing is known about how non-scientists in coastal communities perceive corals. This study investigated public perception at a coastal town in Brazil. Individuals were asked to respond to specific questions concerning their knowledge, perception, and behaviour regarding corals. Although more interviewees believed they knew what the photograph of a gorgonian was, the stony coral pictures were identified correctly more frequently. Interviewees sometimes thought that the gorgonian was a plant, whereas stony corals were frequently identified as sponges, sea urchins or stones. Interviewees related the word “coral” to words such as alive, sea, plant, rock, animal, hurt, calcareous and jewellery. Moreover, interviewees intended to buy or collect corals no matter whether they knew what they were. This study revealed that people living, working and holidaying in a coastal town in Brazil have a poor understanding of corals.</p>