

EDA

- Divers for the Environment -

- ✓ **EDA is an environmental voluntary organization established in 1995.**
- ✓ **Over 200 diving members support EDA.**
- ✓ **EDA is now focusing efforts into its Environment and Research Department.**
- ✓ **EDA's office is situated in the Historical Diving Village, along side the Dubai Creek.**

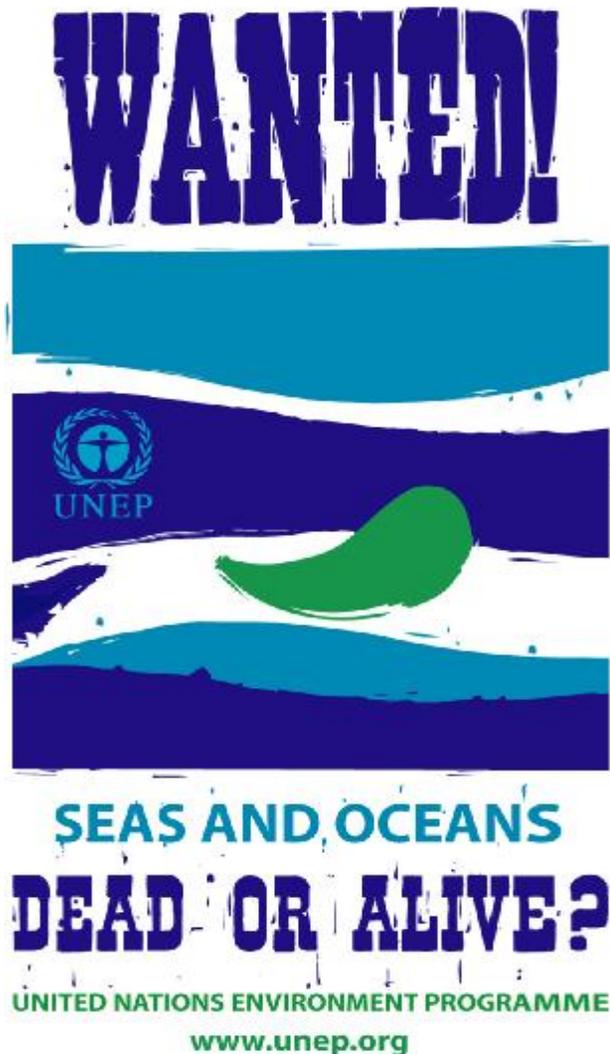
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE 2004

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A big welcome!



packaging. Together we can have sustainable consumption!

World Environment Day! 5th June

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. It is a people's event and can be celebrated in many ways; street rallies, bicycles parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more. In many countries, this annual event is used to enhance political attention and action.



Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to EDA's special newsletter highlighting our environmental activities.

We were trying to have a special publication for four years now with the new team of Environment & Research Dept. in EDA; we will be acting not only in the sea, but also via this newsletter.

I am proud to work with this team, I am proud of all EDA achievements, members and volunteers.

Eco Regards,

Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi
Director -Environment &
Research Dept.
Emirates Diving Assoc.

Environmental Message

EDA is asking readers to think twice about accepting a plastic bag for your 1, 2 items...put them in another bag or carry them by hand if you are only walking to the car. Also try to purchase things with minimum

EDA is planning to support the **United Nations Environment Programme** by celebrating the day in an underwater gathering on the East Coast. It is hoped that this mass dive will draw attention to the rich life existing in our coastal waters.



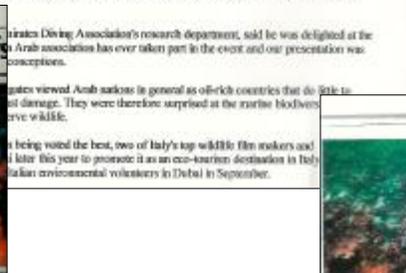
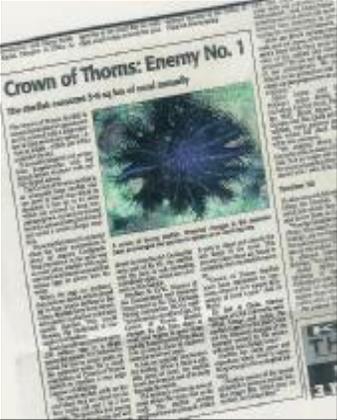
Healthy coral reefs are associated with abundant fish populations and are a huge tourist attraction in the form of recreational diving! Exploitative use, excess waste production and high nutrient loading have ecological implications on the environment, including: the creation of 'dead zones' (excess nutrients from fertilizers, vehicles, factory emissions and wastes), plastic bags consumed by turtles and fish, and coral reefs being damaged by anchors to name only a few.

World Environment Day is about give a human face to environmental issues; empowering people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocating partnership to ensure all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

Don't Anchor On Corals!

EDA In The Media!!

Here are just a sample of the press releases we have been in, spreading awareness about our environmental activities!



Don't Anchor On Corals!

Current Projects

Turtle Tagging

The green turtle and the hawksbill turtle are the most common turtles to frequent the shores of the Emirates.

EDA is helping to develop a Research Station in Ras Al Khaimah with Dr Saif from Al Ain University. The center is open to the public providing information about the turtles, their habitat & diminishing nesting grounds. Petting pools, talks, boat trips, and more will

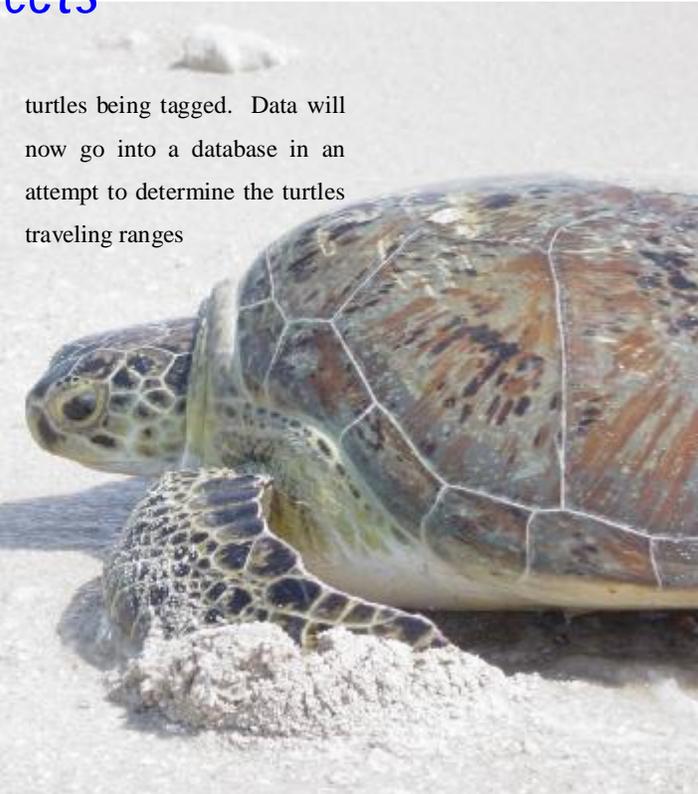


be open to families, schools and students.

The research activities involve placing two small tags on their front flippers. Should these turtles be found information regarding the date, location and tag-number should be relayed back to EDA or the R.A.K. center!!!

Two recent successful trips (one attended by with General Motors) resulted in a total of 46

turtles being tagged. Data will now go into a database in an attempt to determine the turtles traveling ranges



Under Water Laugh!

Top 10 Uses for Scuba Gear When Not Diving

- 10) Use a lobster snare to grab drinks that are far away.**
- 9) Use chem.- lights to keep up with your family during a blackout.**
- 8) Weight belts are perfect for keeping the kids in line at home.**
- 7) Attach a re- breather to your car's exhaust system and save the environment!**
- 6) Strap your nitrox tank on the trunk of the car and tell the neighbour kids that its Nitro fuel- injected.**
- 5) Gear up and dive in one of those fountains in the mall that you throw pennies in, and tell people you're a professional treasure hunter.**
- 4) Use your diver down flag to locate your car in parking lots.**
- 3) Attach your fins to ceiling fan blades when not diving. It moves twice as much air and you'll always know where your fins are.**
- 2) Use your safety sausage for locating your wife at the shopping mall during Christmas season.**
- 1) Sit your dry suit in the passenger seat so you can use the car pool lane.**

Reef Monitoring

Coral reefs are threatened by both human and natural causes. EDA Established a reef monitoring committee to check the health of the reefs in the UAE. The team furthered their knowledge on marine species by completing a P.A.D.I fish identification & Coral Reef Conservation course at the Pavilion Dive Center, under the guidance of the international organization ReefCheck.

The team is fortunate enough to be joined by a *Mr Qasim Barwani*, from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Dibba.

Two team marine biologists are leading the committee's underwater line transect surveys which will give an indication to the abundance of certain fish, invertebrate (e.g. starfish, sea urchins etc) and coral species in the area.

Monitoring the reefs over time will help scientists to determine if the health of the reefs are stable or declining and allow them to recommend and take appropriate action.

-Indicator Species to Look For Whilst Diving.-

The abundance of each key species can be used to indicate the health of a reef e.g. many butterfly fish, cleaning coral shrimps and soft coral indicate a healthy dynamic reef. A profusion of the crown of thorns starfish and an absence of tritons however, may have implications on the coral coverage and the health of the reef.

Try looking out for them next time you're diving or snorkelling...



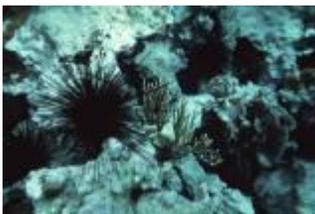
- The Arabian Butterfly Fish



- The Hamour

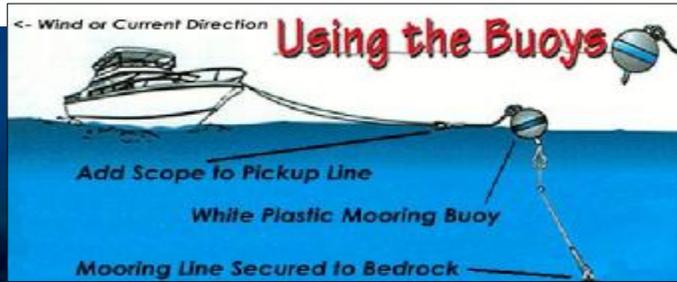


- Soft Coral



Mooring Buoys

EDA is pioneering a mooring buoy project. Efforts will initially focus around Martini Rock, a dive site on the East Coast.



The area is in need of protection from structural damage caused by anchor deployment. Two mooring buoys should be ready for use in 2 weeks and divers are encouraged to tie their boats to these buoys instead of deploying their anchors.

Pearl Diving

The traditional pearl diving activities are promoted on our regular EDA's dhow trips off the Dubai creek. A recent expedition was accompanied by SKY-NEWS aiming to promote local heritage in Dubai. Taking a selection of the oysters growing on the seabed, locals show volunteers how to safely open the shell.

.....If you're lucky....



...You may find a pearl.....

NEW EDA STAFF!



Mohammad Bitar is our team dive master with a passion for wreck diving (and doughnuts). We are proud to welcome him to the team as our project-coordinator, bringing a smile and an ability to get things done!

Email: projects@emiratesdiving.com

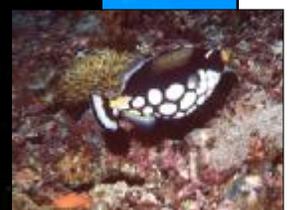
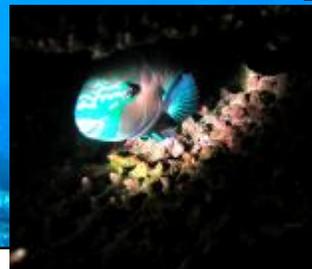
Laura Bates Our marine biologist has only recently arrived in Dubai from the UK. She has a post-graduate degree in marine mammals, has now been appointed research coordinator for EDA. Email: projects@emiratesdiving.com

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UNDER WATER PHOTOS!!

- **What Can You See
In Our Waters? -**



Don't Touch The Coral!

**Our Partners & Sponsors
Thank You...**



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