

# Self-Grazing, NO Hand-Feeding!



**GREEN  
FINS**

**WHY DON'T WE  
FEED FISH?**



Most marine animals have a very specific diet, and a very specific range of digestive bacteria. Being fed the wrong food can lead to the wrong type of bacteria to become dominant in their stomachs and they can no longer digest their natural food and could starve to death.



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Marine ecosystems are underwater communities where every life is connected in a network. The practice of fish feeding would disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. Every little shift, although seems insignificant, could eventually result in a large debilitating effect via

domino effect. For instance, the presence of divers pose as potential feeders for the marine organisms such as fishes, affecting their natural pattern of hunting for food. This could lead to the shifting of the feeding grounds, which would tweak the balance of the ecosystem and drive the current sustainable ecosystem into a disarray.

Algae are considered the staple dietary choice for marine organisms such as fish. The consumption of algae would keep the growth of the algae under control as not to bloom and choke out the surrounding corals. Corals grow at an extremely low rate of roughly 10-20 cm annually, therefore by retaining the natural feeding pattern would help retain the slow and delicate growth of these corals.

By providing a new and free food source, fish will frantically swarm towards the provided source. The shifting the feeding ground and leaving the nest unprotected and susceptible to natural predators. This will result in the high death rates of the eggs and younglings of the fishes.

Aside from that, fishes have specific ranges of digestive bacteria which are accustomed to specific diets. The shift in the dietary habits of the marine organisms will cause the wrong type of bacteria to become active and dominant. With now a different gut environment, the staple food will now not be able to be digested by the organisms. Due to the inconsistency of tourists' presence, the fishes will then suffer as their new gut environment is not compatible with the food resources available. Eventually, the fishes will be driven to starvation and death.

Moving onto the predators, Crown-of-Thorns starfishes are commonly known as the natural predator of the corals. The excess growth of the algae will spike the growth and spawning of the predators. With the algae not grazed and the increase of the predators, the damage done to the reef will be critical.

More information can be found:

Green Fins. (2021, August 5). 5 Reasons Why We Shouldn't Feed the Fish. <https://greenfins.net/blog/dont-feed-the-fish/>

What happen when we frequently feed the fish?

☐ Fish will be happy

☐ Fish will be fight over food

☐ Fish will starve to death

☐ Fish will be mutated