

## **The Barrier Reef - Saved at Last**

These days, everybody knows that increased concentrations of carbon dioxide foster plant growth. Climatologist Roy Spencer in his paper titled "More Carbon Dioxide Please" writes:

"The bigger concern has been the possible effect of the extra CO<sub>2</sub> on the world's oceans, because more CO<sub>2</sub> lowers the pH of the sea water. While it is claimed that this makes the water more acidic, this is misleading.

"Since seawater has a pH around 8.1 it will take an awful lot of CO<sub>2</sub> to make the water neutral (pH =7), let alone acidic (pH less than 7).

"Still, the main worry has been that the extra CO<sub>2</sub> could hurt the growth of plankton, which represents the start of the oceanic food chain.

But recent research (published on April 18th 2008 in Science Express), has now shown, contrary to expectations that one of the main common forms of plankton actually grows faster and bigger when more CO<sub>2</sub> is pumped into the water. Like vegetation on land, it loves the extra CO<sub>2</sub> too."

In such conditions the Barrier Reef will not disappear, but it and its inhabitants, like us, will thrive. This news will be a great disappointment to the anti-industrial dark greens, but sober sensible people are pleased.

Interested readers can see the entire paper at:

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MWJIODMxYmUzYWNmZGZiM2NhNmExYTyyNDUzYmViZjQ=>

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10 January 2009