

Seamount ecosystems under threat

Seamount ecosystems are threatened by shifts in water conditions due to climate change. Oxygen levels are rapidly changing and becoming inhospitable for many species living in these ecosystems.

Species which have a “narrow niche” are especially vulnerable, as they can only survive in a small ranges of depth and need specific water conditions. For example, rockfish were pushed off Dellwood seamount after the falling oxygen levels made it impossible for them to survive.

SPECIALIST SPECIES

Rougheye rockfish can only survive in a narrow depth range so they are more vulnerable to changes in oxygen levels and other ocean conditions.

GENERALIST SPECIES

Sea lilies have a large depth range and can live all over the seamounts. They are less sensitive to changes in ocean conditions.

