What is Coral Spawning?

IN 7 STEPS

01 Synchronous Spawning: Around 80% of reef building corals spawn in sync based on environmental cues, including lunar phase and water temperature, occurring at our latitude after the full moon in October to December.

02 Gamete Release: Corals release millions of egg-and-sperm bundles (gametes). Fertilisation between corals of the same species must occur within a limited period before the sperm sinks.

03 Challenging Fertilisation: The odds of fertilisation are remote and is exacerbated by predators. Successfully fertilised larvae are carried away by currents to find a suitable reef to settle.

04 Larvae Settlement: When larvae are ready, they seek specific environmental cues for settlement, a highly selective process, evolved over millions of years.

05 Coral Nurseries: The advantageous conditions in the midwater nurseries allows the numerous coral species to grow much faster. This speeds up the process from coral fragments to spawning colonies.

06 Contingency Plans: In times of prolonged warm water or wild weather, the nurseries can be easily lowered to deeper, cooler water to preserve the spawning stock to turbo charge the natural process of recovery.

07 Future Integration: Plans are in place to integrate coral aquaculture and thermally adapted corals, enhancing the operation's impact and the reef's resilience against climate change.

SUNLOVER REEF CRUISES

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