

Alame a

Photograph: Australian Institute of Marine Science/AAP



**SAMOA
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

Alamea Life Cycle

Alamea larvae float in currents and eat phytoplankton for 3-4 weeks

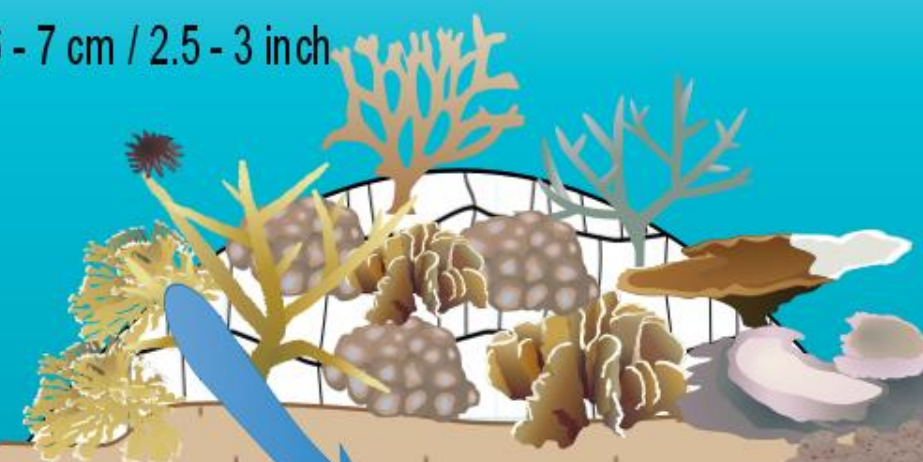


Alamea larvae



Settle on reef and start to look like Alamea

6 - 7 cm / 2.5 - 3 inch

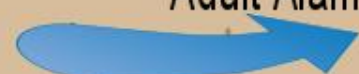


Eggs and sperm



Adult Alamea 2+ yrs

18 months 10 cm / 4 inch

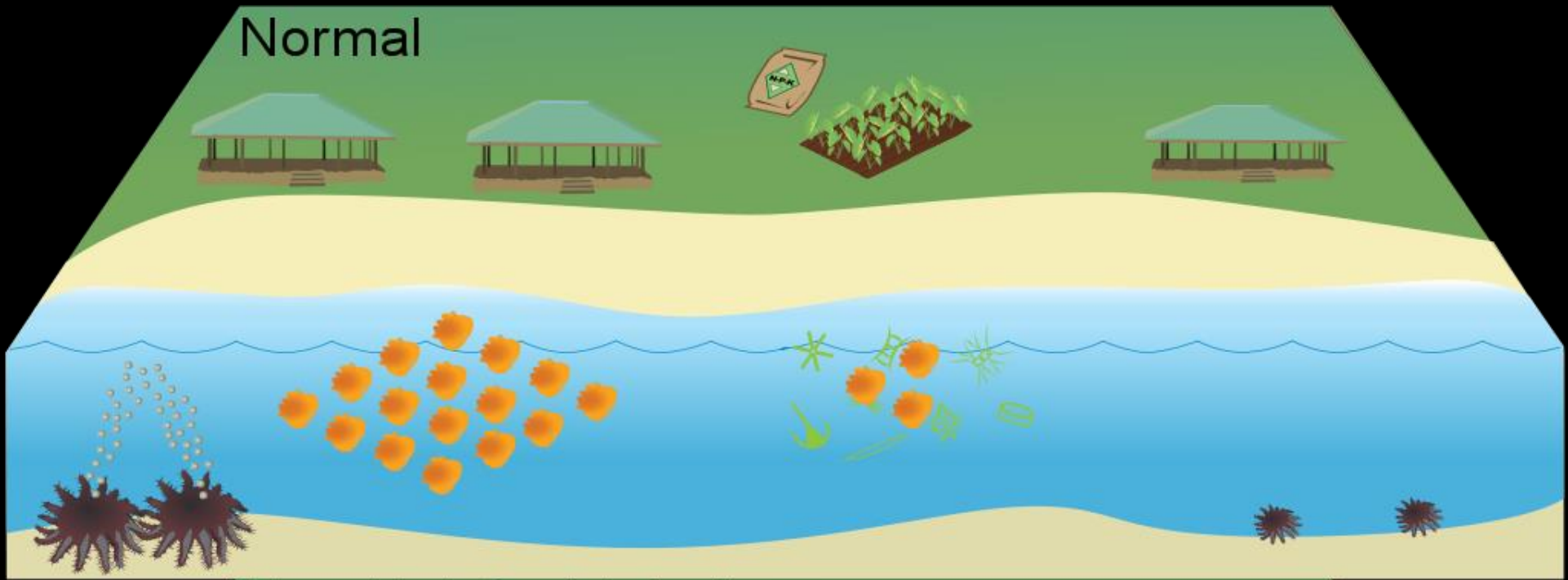


Where do *Alamea* outbreaks come from?

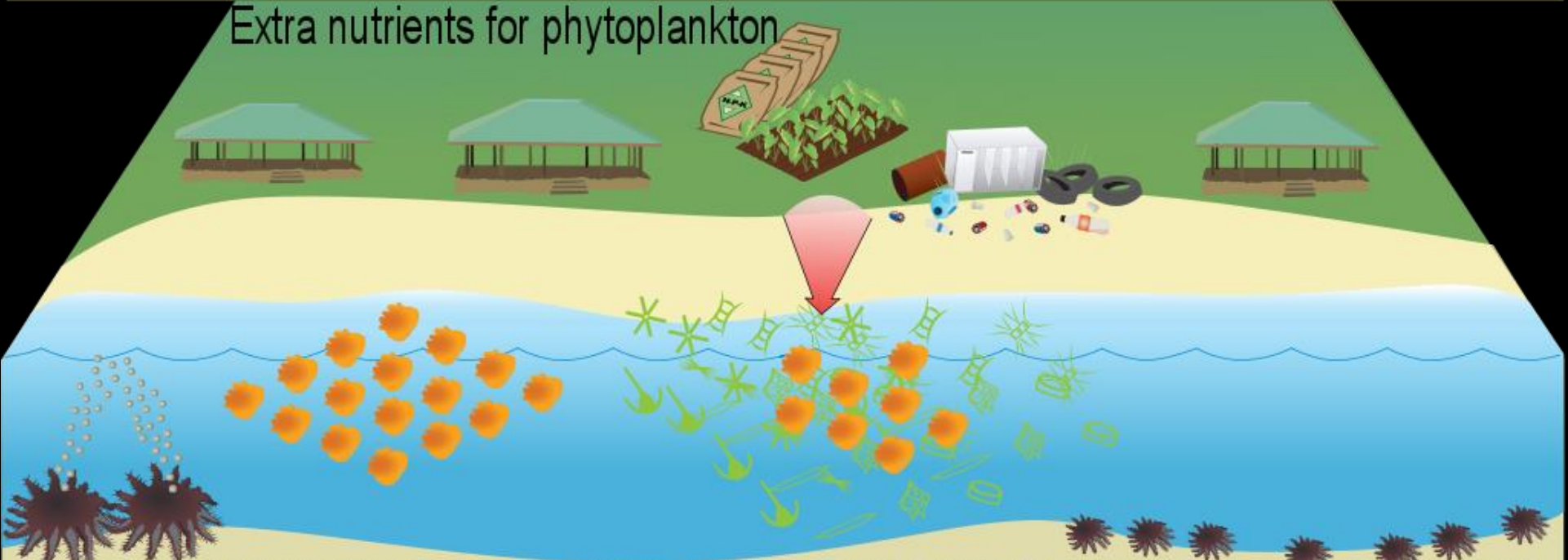
Scientists have two ideas:

- More *Alamea* larvae are surviving (larvae survival theory)
- There are not as many predators to eat *Alamea* at all life stages (predator theory)

Normal



Extra nutrients for phytoplankton



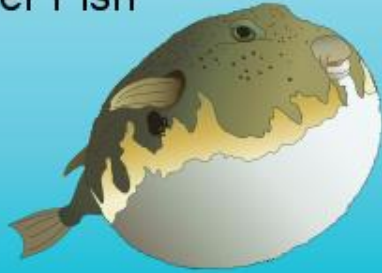
Coral Guardians

Animals that eat Alamea are becoming rare because of over-harvesting, leaving Alamea free to eat coral.

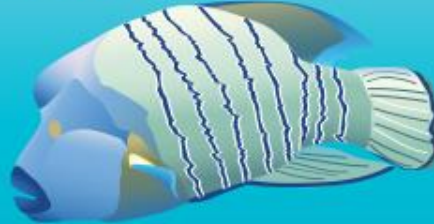
If you see 2 - 3 Alamea a day, you may have a problem.

If you see 5 or more in a day you may want to start removing them.

Puffer Fish



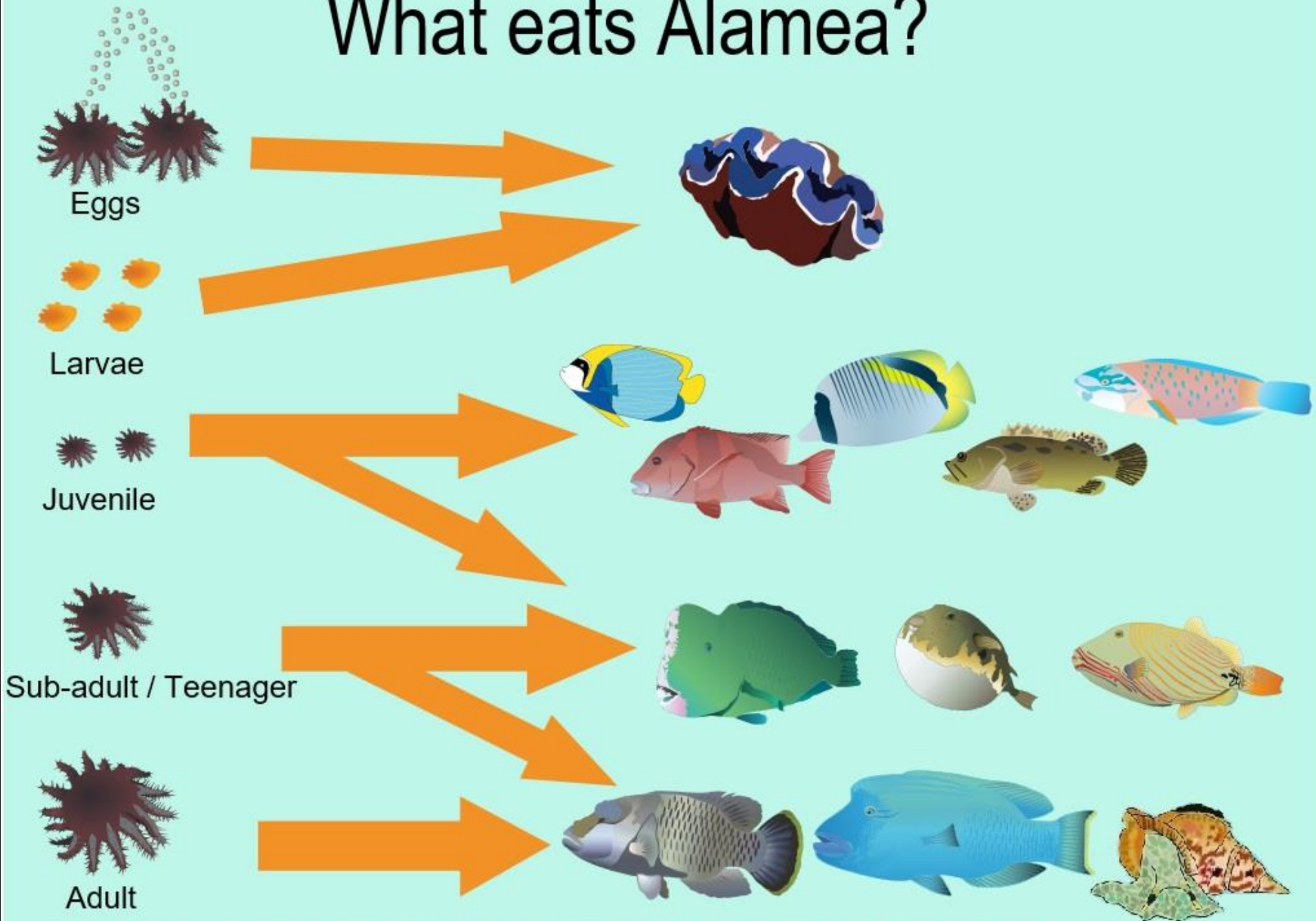
Large Wrasse



Conch

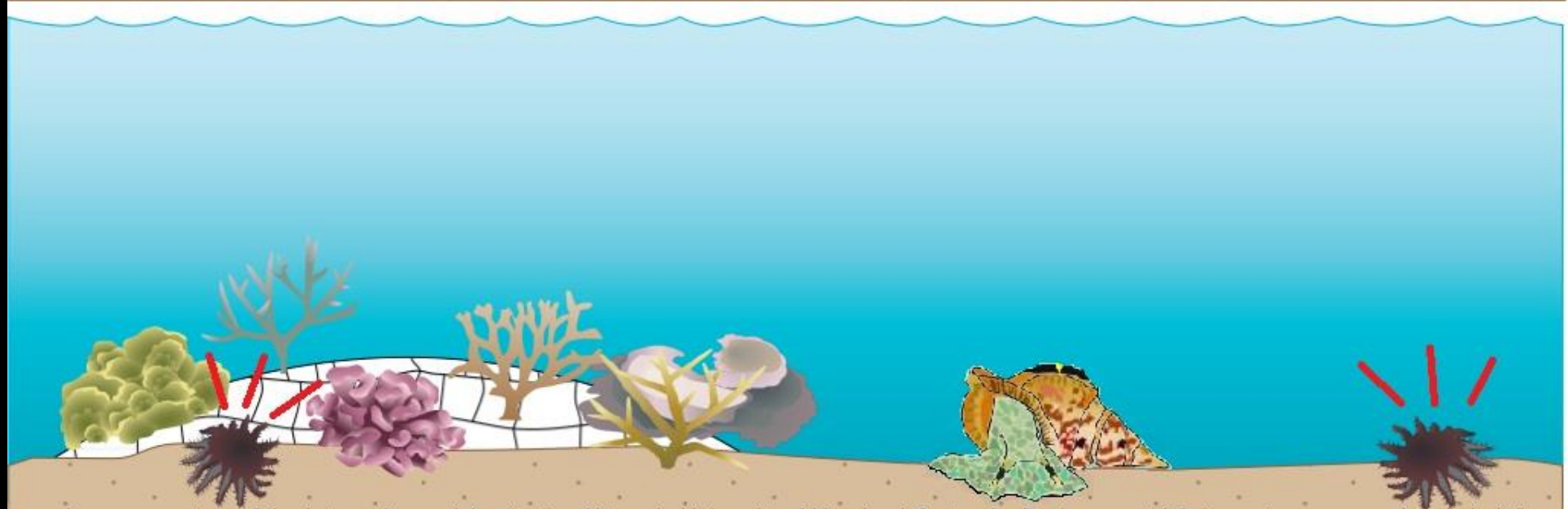
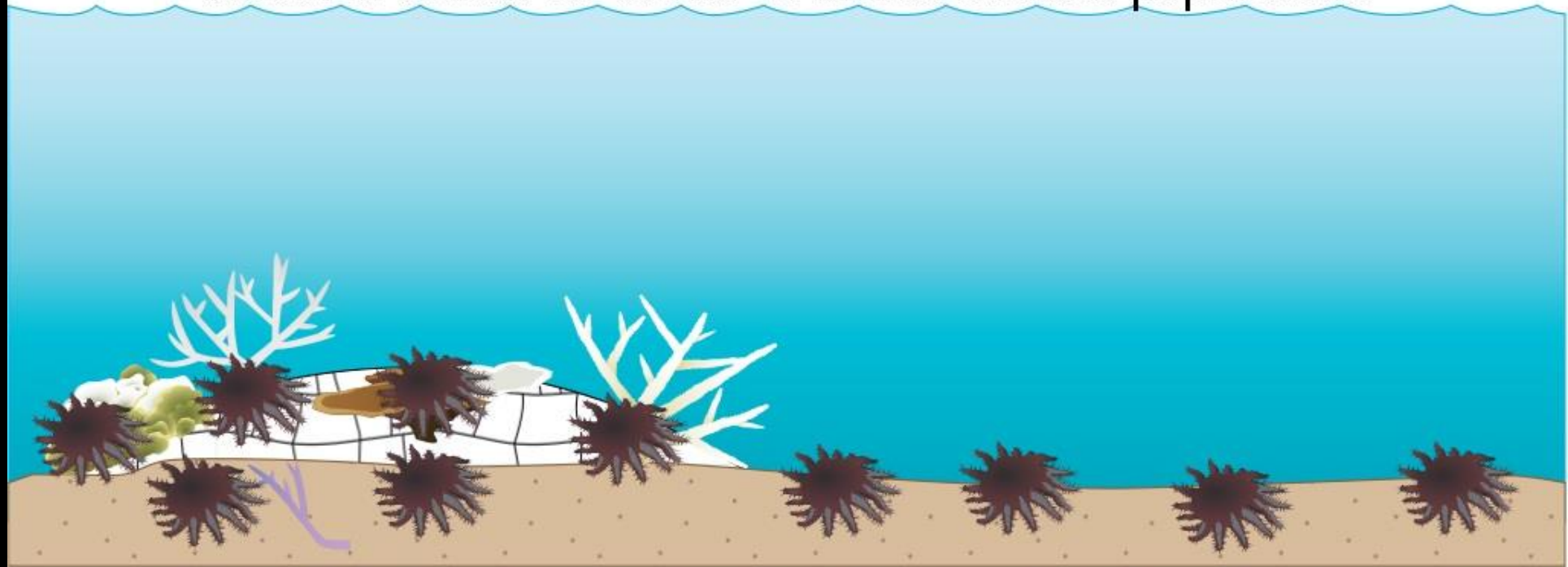


What eats Alamea?

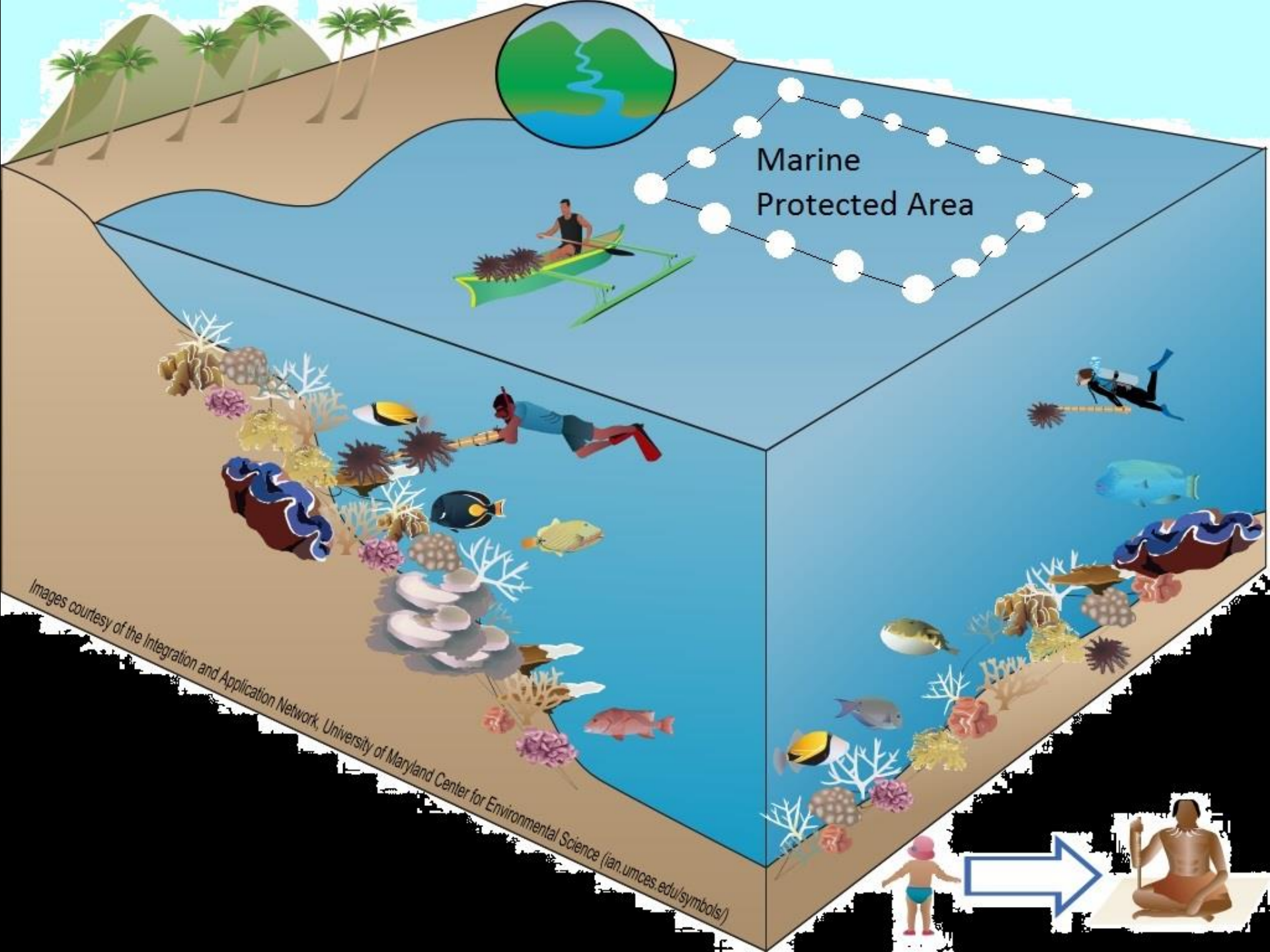


Images courtesy of the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (ian.umces.edu/symbols/)

Affect of Conch on Crown-of-thorns Starfish populations



Images courtesy of the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland. Center for Environmental Science (ian.umces.edu/symbols/)



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