



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2006, 17th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 8th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Health of Coral Reefs Open to Fishing Compared to Coral Reefs Closed to Fishing in the Tanga Region of Tanzania

Rebecca Gericke
Illinois Wesleyan University

Given Harper, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Gericke, Rebecca and Harper, Faculty Advisor, Given, "Health of Coral Reefs Open to Fishing Compared to Coral Reefs Closed to Fishing in the Tanga Region of Tanzania" (2006). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 11.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2006/posters/11>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P25

**HEALTH OF CORAL REEFS OPEN TO FISHING COMPARED TO CORAL
REEFS CLOSED TO FISHING IN THE TANGA REGION OF TANZANIA**

Rebecca Gericke and Given Harper*
Biology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Coral reefs are one of the world's most valuable ecosystems, but they are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Anthropogenic factors, especially over-fishing and destructive fishing, contribute greatly to the destruction of coral reefs. In an effort to improve the health of coral reefs, conservation organizations worldwide have imposed fishing bans on select reefs. This preliminary study tested the hypothesis that coral reefs closed to fishing have greater absolute fish densities, lower absolute sea urchin densities, and a larger percentage of hard coral substrate cover than reefs open to fishing. The reefs were closed under the management plans of the Tanga Coastal Zone Conservation and Development Programme in Tanzania. Underwater counts of fish, sea urchins, and substrate cover were conducted on 18 coral reefs in the Tanga Region of Tanzania from November 8-25, 2005.