Chasing Coral Fact Sheet

From our viewing of part of the Chasing Coral documentary, here are a few items that are worth knowing for exam 1:

It is estimated that 93 percent of the heat trapped by greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere is being absorbed by the oceans.

If the oceans were not absorbing this heat, the average surface temperature of the planet would be 122 degrees F.

On a dying coral reef, little fish disappear, then big fish disappear.

By 2016, 29 percent of the corals on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia had died. Coral bleaching due to ocean warming is the cause.

Based on current trends, within the next 30 years scientists estimate that annual bleaching due to ocean warming will kill most of the world’s corals.

Since coral reefs are a major marine ecosystem in tropical oceans, the death of corals will mean the collapse of entire marine ecosystems.

Somewhere around 400 to 500 million local people rely on coral reef ecosystems for a significant part of their food. Together with rising oceans, many millions of people will need to seek a new place far, far away to live.