

CORAL REEF TROPHIC LEVELS

DECOMPOSERS

Decomposers are organisms that break down dead matter. E.g. hagfish, sea cucumbers, bacteria and fungi.

APEX PREDATORS

Apex predators are secondary consumers not eaten by other consumers. E.g. whales, sharks and many fish.

SECONDARY CONSUMERS

Secondary consumers are predatory carnivores that get their energy by feeding on primary consumers. E.g. fish, octopuses and turtles.

PRIMARY CONSUMERS / HETEROTROPHS

Primary consumers are herbivorous animals that get their energy by eating producers. E.g. shrimp, anemones and coral.

PRODUCERS / AUTOTROPHS

Producers get their energy from sunlight during photosynthesis. They convert the sun's energy into organic molecules – a form useable by organisms higher up the food chain. E.g. plankton, seaweeds and zooxanthellae.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

AUTOTROPHS

