

What is causing marine coral bleaching?

1. Corals establish **symbiotic relationships** with a type of seaweed that lives in them and determines their colour.

3. Oxygen and other products of photosynthesis contribute to the **growth of the coral**.

2. These types of seaweed undergo photosynthesis with nitrogen, phosphorous and the **metabolic toxins** excreted by the corals.

4. **Temperature changes** cause the corals to expel the seaweed from the colony.

6. The corals, bleached and devoid of seaweed, **eventually die**.

5. The loss of the seaweed leads to the **bleaching of the coral** and leaves it more susceptible to diseases.

Source: AFP.