

## World's largest deep-sea coral reef mapped

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Scientists have mapped the largest known deep-sea coral reef, stretching hundreds of miles off the US Atlantic coast.



[Ref: deccanherald]

### **Key Findings of the Study:**

- The reef stretches about **310 miles from Florida to South Carolina**, with widths reaching up to **68 miles in certain areas**.
- Its size compares to nearly **three times that of Yellowstone National Park**.
- Located at depths where **sunlight is minimal**, the reef thrives in a **unique ecosystem**.
- The corals in these depths adapt to survive by **filtering food particles**, contrasting with the photosynthesis-based growth of tropical reefs.
- The reef provides habitat for a wide range of marine species, including **sharks, swordfish, octopuses, shrimp, sea stars, and more**.
- This biodiversity reveals the ecological significance and complexity of deep-sea coral reefs.
- The study highlights that only about **75% of the world's ocean floor** and **50% of U.S. offshore waters** have been mapped with high resolution.
- The use of **high-resolution sonar devices** aboard ships was critical for this mapping, suggesting the potential for more discoveries.