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Force-E Blog

Haiti from Below

Posted on **April 12, 2013** by **forcee**

[Reef Check Foundation](#) has been working in Haiti to help recover coral reefs and to restore healthy fish & marine invertebrate populations. The consulting firm Ayiti Nexus recently published a lovely coffee-table book on the reefs of Northern Haiti. Since Force-E is a big supporter of Reef Check, the book's co-author, Nathalie Brunet, visited our Force-E Pompano location to give a presentation on the situation of the reefs in Haiti on April 11, 2013.

Nathalie talked about the status of the coral reefs in Haiti and how the biodiversity of coral is abundant (yes they have lots of staghorn and alkhorn coral!) and they are undamaged by the 2010 earthquake. However, fish populations are very low and there needs to be a push for protection. So last year Reef Check took a group of 13 haitian college students, taught them to swim/snorkel, then they recruited Force-E's Nikole to come down and teach them the PADI Open Water class so that they can start doing underwater surveys of the reefs. The information they collect will be used to ask the government to place Marine Protected Areas to allow fish/invertebrate populations to grow. Here is a video of the story by the New York Times, click [here](#). When Nikole went down there she was told that there used to be dive shops in Haiti back in the 80s, but currently there are none so it's hard to travel to Haiti to dive on their reefs...hopefully that will change once Reef Check can make a difference.

For photos of the training that Nikole did click [here](#)...what a fun group of students because they were so interested in diving to help save their precious reefs. That is so rewarding to know you've made a difference and helped achieve their goals. This year a second team of college students will be trained to dive so that they can survey the North coastline of Haiti, read the article [here](#).

So help support these Reef Check Haiti teams by purchasing the book Haiti from Below. Photographer Nick Hobgood donated his entire photo royalties to Reef Check, in addition to Ayiti Nexus' \$11,000 donation. These proceeds will enable the training of a third group of EcoDivers in the South of Haiti. To get your copy of the book you can order it at the Reef Check online store click [here](#).

