

An underwater photograph showing a diver in the upper left, illuminated by a bright light source. The diver is surrounded by numerous small, dark fish. Below the diver, there is a large, intricate coral structure, possibly a gorgonian, which is the focus of the text. The background is a deep blue, suggesting a deep-sea environment.

Last refuge

During the summer of 2022, the red sea fans of the western Mediterranean basin experienced a major mortality episode. Shortly after, a scientific exploration programme came across a glimmer of hope: red gorgonians in deeper realms were able to resist climate change.

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