

Acidity level increases in the world's seas are affecting the production of calcium carbonate (limestone) in reef systems around the globe.

Due to an increase in carbon dioxide, from motor vehicles and industrial emissions, the world's seas are becoming more acidic after more than 10 million years of stable evolution.

Although the changes are miniscule, whole ecosystems are in danger of dying out, if the reduction is not reduced drastically.

Scientists studying the phenomena in the Red Sea and the English Channel are worried that it is only a matter of time before the reef ecosystems begin to crumble, and as reefs around the world are already in an unhealthy state, its not good news.

In the English Channel scientists from the Plymouth laboratories are studying the effect of increased acidity on keystone species such as the Starfish and the effects on its calcium carbonate shell.

[Source: ABC (Australia) News program]