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Half the world's population lives in coastal regions, on just 10 percent of the earth's land area.

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For the first time in history, the majority of the world's people live and work in towns and cities.

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Coastal erosion is a natural phenomenon, aggravated by human activities.

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Human impacts over the last 60 years have led to a decline in the viability of coastal and ocean ecosystems.

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The number of coastal dead zones has doubled every decade since 1962.

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Coastal wetlands, estuaries, and seagrass meadows perform vital ecological functions on which human safety and wellbeing depend.

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Coral reefs provide valuable coastal protection, and play a vital role in the health and ecology of the oceans.

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The rising global demand for seafood is leading to over-exploitation of fish stocks.



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Coastal and marine tourism are the fastest growing sectors of the travel and leisure industry.

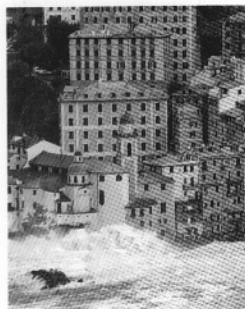
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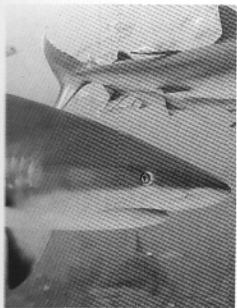
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