

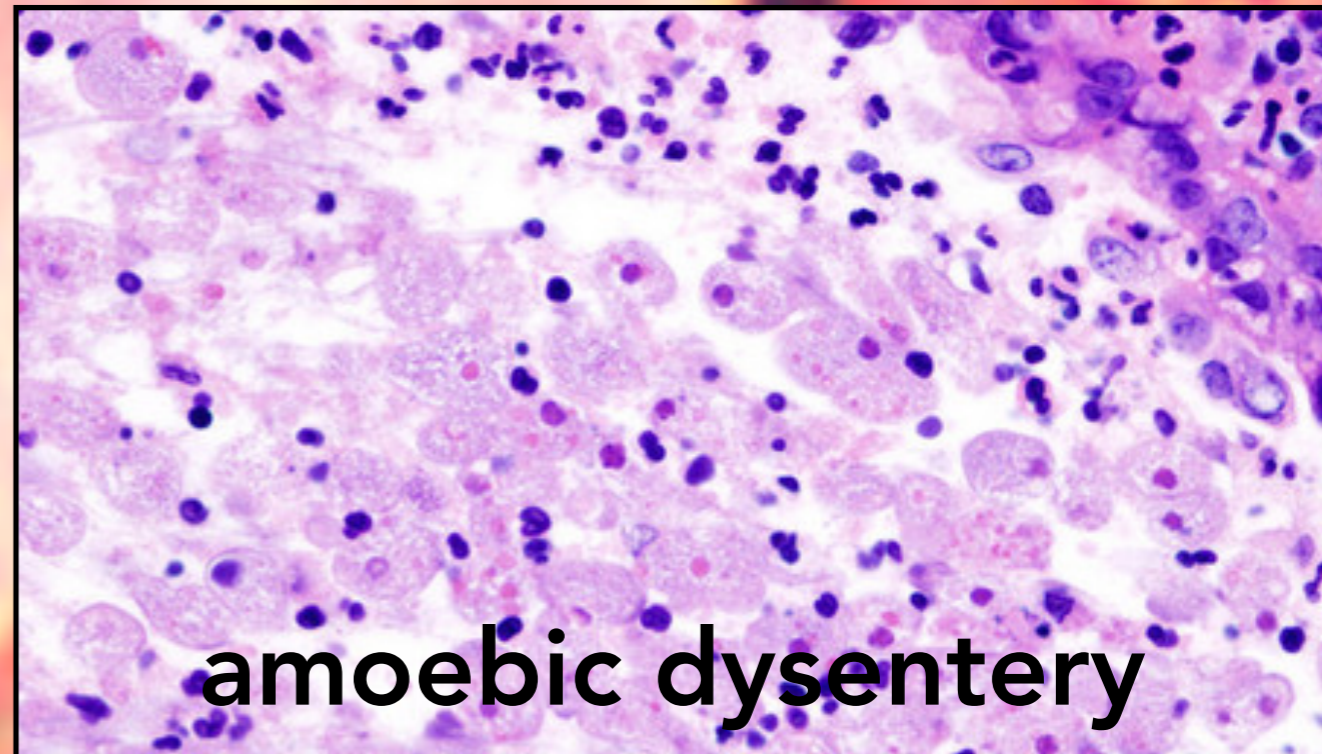
SCIENCE NEWS.ORG

SEAGRASSES BOOST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH BY FIGHTING BAD BACTERIA



BACTERIA

- sewage is drained into the ocean -> coastal bacteria populations increase
- tested water had 10x the *Enterococcus* bacteria exposure limit
- this bacteria causes illness



***Enterococcus* bacteria**

SEAGRASS

- flowering plant
 - long, slender leaves
- grows in shallow water
- becomes a "lawn"
- among the ocean's largest carbon stores



seagrass "lawn"



FUNCTION

- extracts nitrogen & phosphorus
- traps floating particles & prevents them from persisting
 - may similarly trap bacteria
- may emit antimicrobial compounds
- tested water less than 20m away from seagrass had less bacteria
- corals growing close to seagrass had less diseases



CONSERVATION

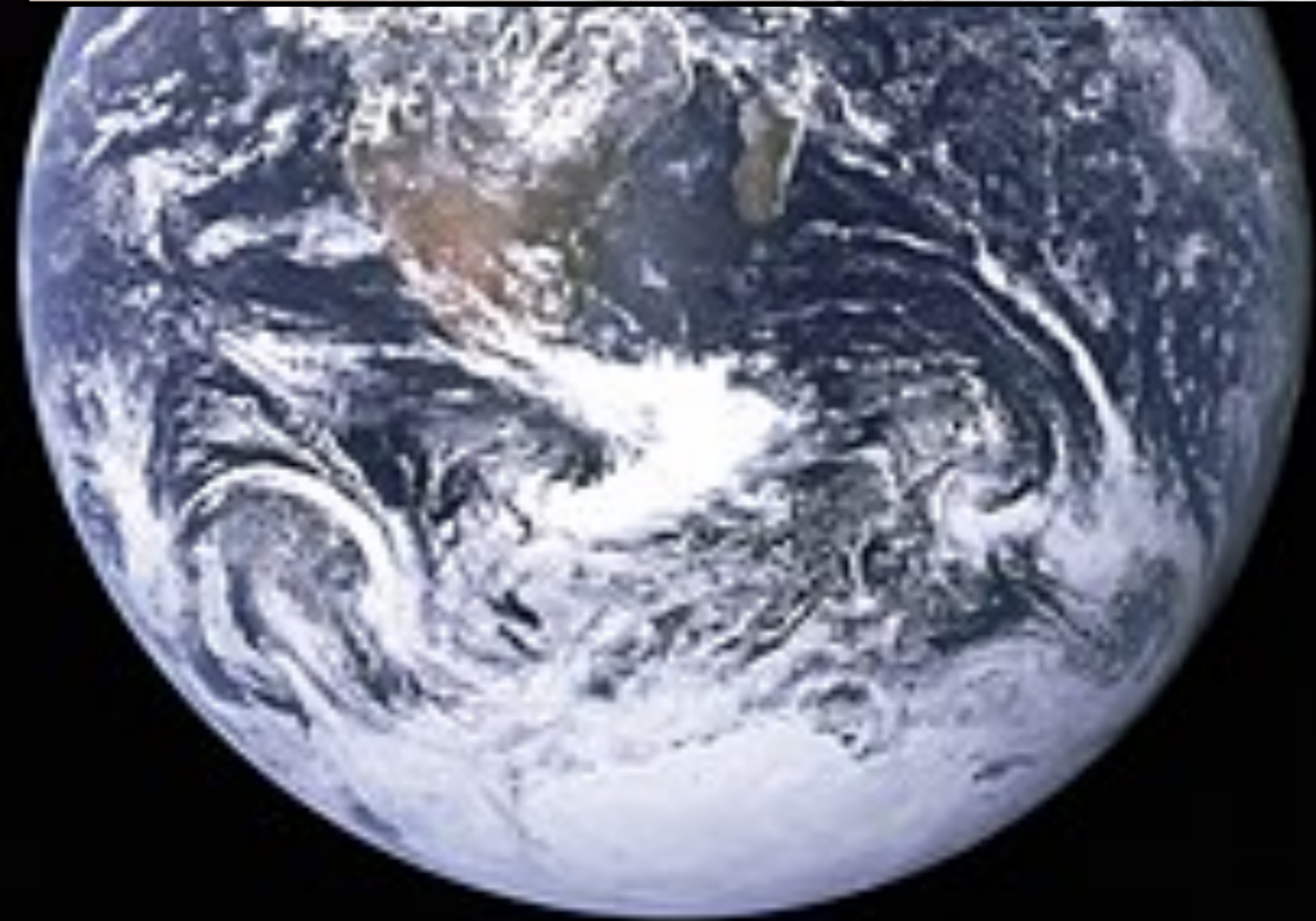
- seagrass is declining by 7%/year
- "It's better to stop what we're doing to the meadows than to try to replant them." ~ Joleah Lamb
- Seagrass thrives in a certain environment & a certain depth



WORLD IMPACT



- healthy corals protect islands from erosion
- healthier fish -> healthier food
- could make entire ecosystems healthier



MY OPINION

- water pollution = worldwide issue
- causes the death of marine organisms
- destroys food sources & habitats



SOURCES

- <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/seagrasses-boost-ecosystem-health-fighting-bad-bacteria?mode=topic&context=60>
- <https://youtu.be/0KYp6nbzBiA>