



Wintner, Robert. **Reef Libre: Cuba—The Last, Best Reefs in the World**. Taylor: Rowman & Littlefield. Feb. 2015. 280p. photos. ISBN 9781630760731. \$45; ebk. ISBN 9781630760748. NAT HIST

Wintner is a Hawaii-based entrepreneur and author (*Neptune Speaks*) better known as Snorkel Bob. He manufactures and markets diving gear, operates tours, and has taken up the cause of coral reef protection.

This blog-style book offers personal impressions of a dive tour in Cuba and is richly illustrated with photographs by the author. The Cuban government has restricted diving and fishing to preserve its reefs and associated ocean creatures. The author states that the impoverished, isolated dictatorship is doing this more successfully than its democratic nemesis, the United States. Wintner praises his hosts yet feels more could be done to mitigate damage from tourism. The reopening of diplomatic relations with Cuba makes this book timely—the move may mark the return of mass tourism from the United States. While recounting his Cuban tour, Wintner makes important points about reef degradation, large-scale fish capture for aquariums, and efforts at protection of sea life. He repeatedly compares the dire situation in Hawaii with unspoiled and regulated conditions in Cuba.

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