

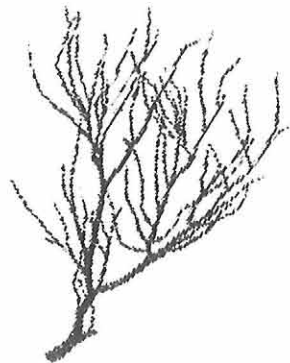
The relative roles of light and salinity in controlling the upper depth range of black coral communities in the New Zealand fiords.

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The shallowest populations of black coral colonies so far documented are located in the remote fiords on the south-western coast of the South Island of New Zealand. The majority of populations of black coral are found in deep water habitats; presumably a result of the intolerance of these colonies to high levels of incoming irradiation. By contrast, black coral colonies in the New Zealand fiords are observed as shallow as a few metres in some cases. However, this is not qualitatively inconsistent with the other populations since surface low-salinity-layers in the New Zealand fiords act to significantly reduce incoming irradiation. The role of these surface freshwater layers in controlling the upper depth of the black coral colonies is investigated here. In particular, the relative roles of low salinity and incoming irradiation are investigated in order to ascertain controlling factors on the distribution of the populations.

Fig. The plant-like appearance of the black coral *Antipathes fiordensis* (*Antipatharia*) makes it hard to imagine that these corals are really colonies of millions of polyps joined together by their white epidermis. It is the black skeleton underneath, composed primarily of protein and chitin, that forms the hard tree-like skeleton that the black coral is named for.

- Louise Kregting



The role of scientists in science communication. Gudrun P Wells.

Science has a huge impact on society these days, so it should be no surprise that communication of science matters is happening all the time. The communication of science is itself a very broad field and can be roughly broken into three parts: communication within the scientific community; communication between the scientific community and the public; and communication among members of the public.

Communication between scientists is an integral part of doing science and as such is something scientists do every day. The importance of communication between scientists and the general public is becoming more important as scientific discoveries are more widely reported by general media, become more mainstream, and scientists have to justify their research to funding bodies. The communication of science among