

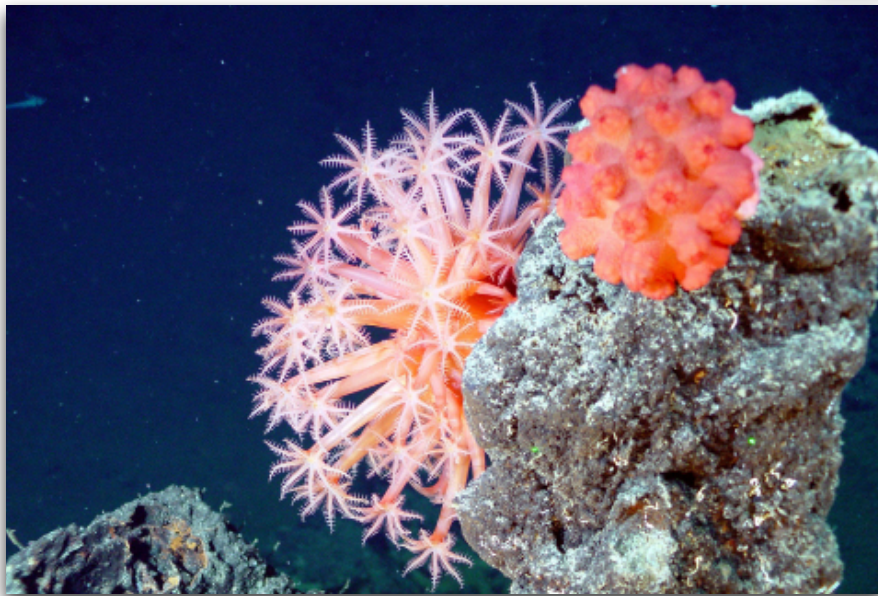
## Dr Ruth Gates

Dr Ruth Gates was a pioneering Marine Biologist who studied coral reefs and how to protect them from climate change.

She was the first woman ever to be president of the [International Society for Reef Studies](#).

Her research focused on how help coral reefs survive the effects of climate change and she helped to develop new kinds of coral, nicknamed Super Corals, which could live in warmer waters.

**“I have the utmost respect for corals. They’re really sophisticated animals.”**



*Soft corals*

Katrina in the Dynamic Earth Learning Team worked with Dr Gates at her lab in Hawaii - “Ruth was caring, she was very supportive, and very interested in what you were doing. She was an excellent problem solver and a really nice person.”

The [Gate Coral Resilience Lab](#) was founded in her honour to continue her work on super corals and protecting coral reefs from the effects of climate change.

Corals are ocean animals which are very sensitive to water temperature. Our oceans are getting warmer because of rising global temperatures caused by climate change.

This warmer water causes the algae (tiny plants) inside the corals to die and make the coral lose all its colour. **This is called coral bleaching.**

