

# CARBIDE AN

KURT AMSLER

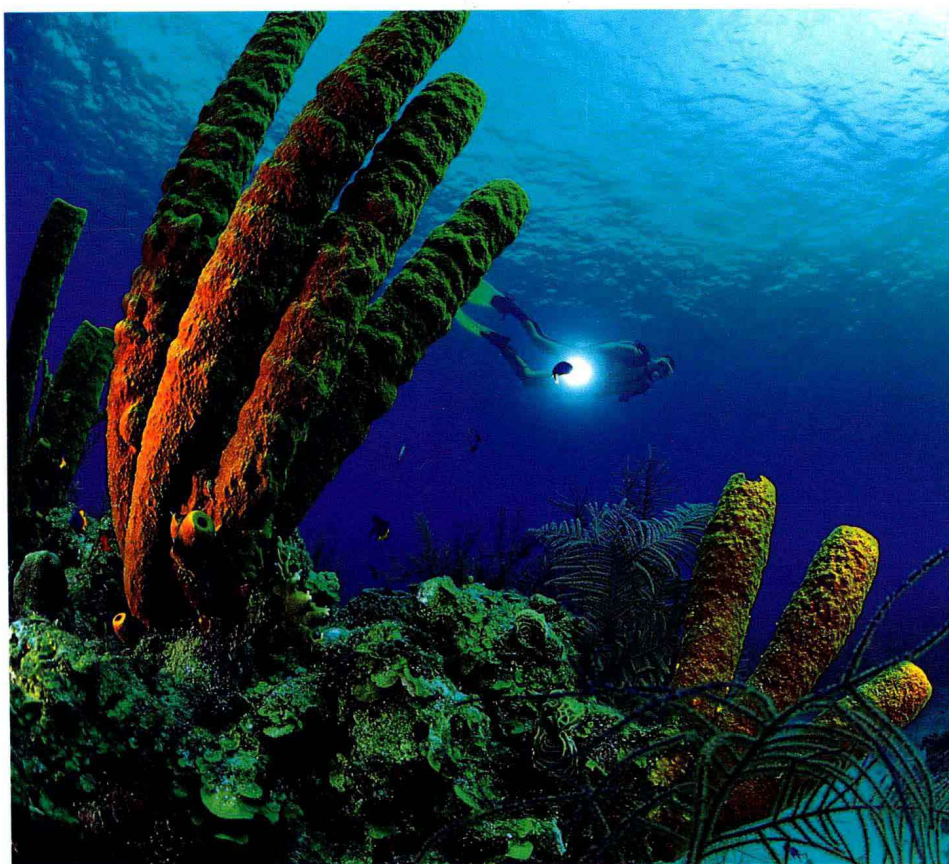
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# CARIBBEAN

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Texts and photographs  
*Kurt Amsler*

Editors  
*Valeria Manfredi De Fabianis*  
*Laura Accomazzo*

Scientific advice  
*Angelo Mojetta*

Map  
*Cristina Franco*

Graphic design  
*Anna Galliani*

Translation  
*A.B.A. Srl, Milan*

*The author would like to thank:  
his wife Isabelle Amsler, Christopher J. Allison,  
Aqua Safari, Renate Bernd, Joe M. Clark, John  
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Fitzgerald, Roger Fivat, Stephen Frink, crew of  
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Reed, Crew of Rembrandt van Rijn, Kenneth  
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1 The great tubesponge, which can grow up to 2 metres tall, is one of the symbols of the Caribbean. Looking at these weird shapes, it isn't surprising that sponges were considered to be plants until the mid-19th century.

2-3 Halfmoon Cay, an island off Lighthouse Reef in Belize, resembles thousands of other West Indian islands: a stretch of sand covered with palm trees, bounded by a lagoon and the coral reef which plunges down into the ocean. In the background, a wreck which ran aground on the reef can be seen.

4-5 A large shoal of French grunts (*Haemulon flavolineatum*) has taken shelter near a coral wall. Their yellow-gold colour and the pale blue diagonal stripes on their backs make these fish one of the prettiest inhabitants of the reef.

6-7 The queen angelfish (*Holocanthus ciliaris*) certainly live up to their name. They swim around this underwater world with grace and elegance, as if aware of their beauty. The great sponges that can be seen in the image constitute the angelfish's favourite food.

8 The bluestriped grunt (*Haemulon sciurus*) is only encountered in shoals. The reason is simple: a group gives greater protection against enemies.

9 No other ocean in the world is so rich in soft coral and sponges in the surface waters as the Caribbean Sea. Corals and sponges are living creatures, not mere plants. These weird shapes, with their magnificent colours, consist of millions of tiny animals.

10-11 This Caribbean reefshark (*Carcharhinus perezi*) is 2 metres long. Much has been written about the danger of sharks, and this has given them a bad reputation; in reality they follow their instinct and aggression towards man is almost always caused by imprudence.

12-13 A shoal of southern stingray (*Dasyatis americana*) scours the sea bed in search of food, preferably prawns and other animals that live on the ocean floor.



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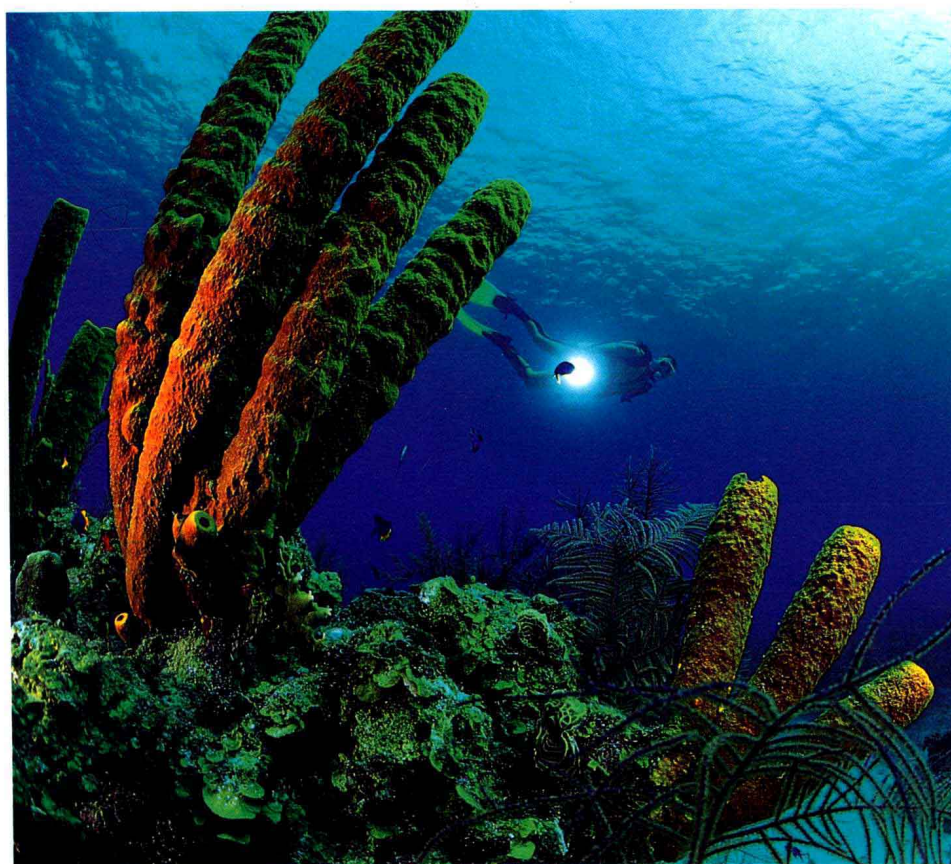
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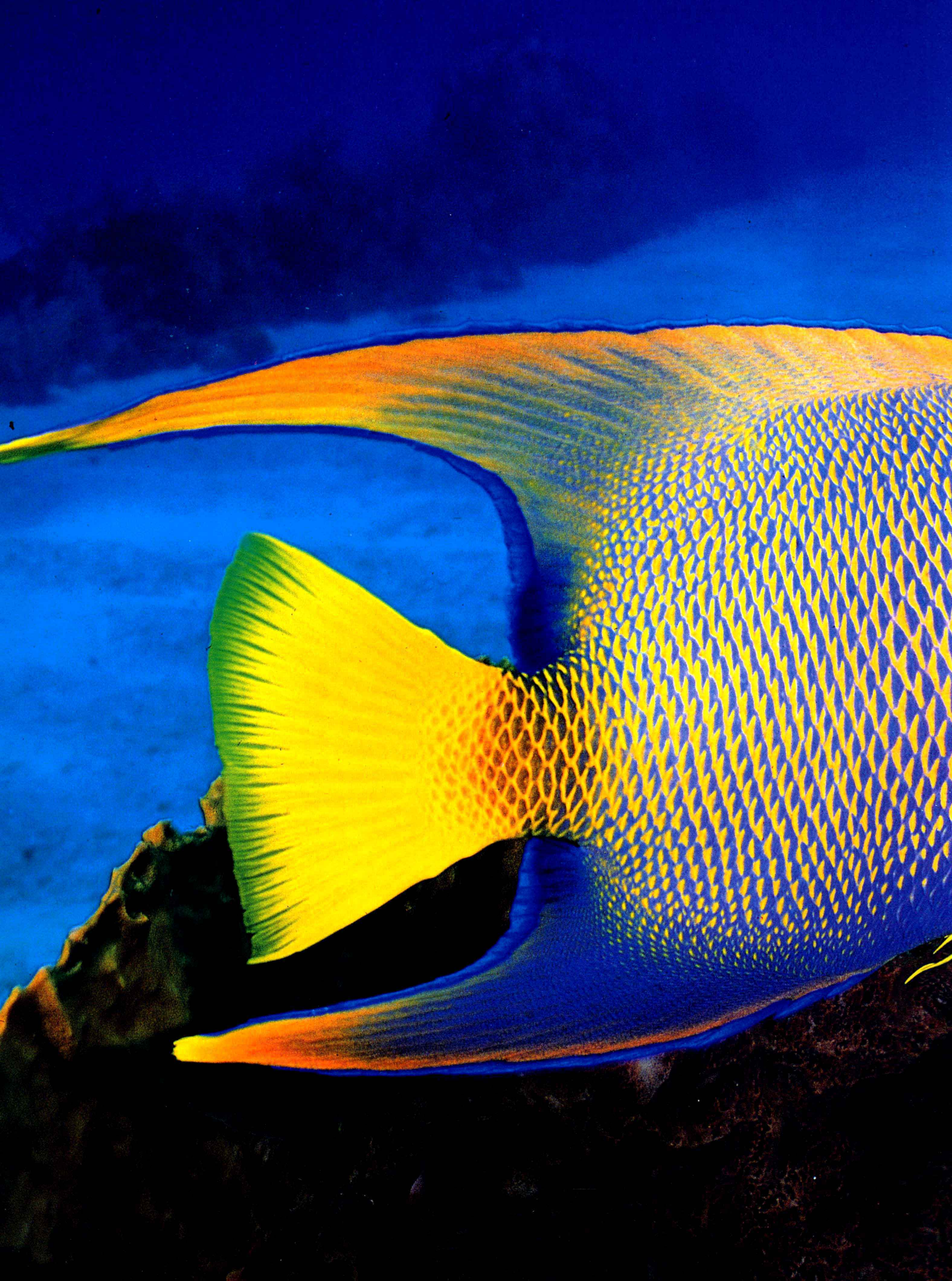




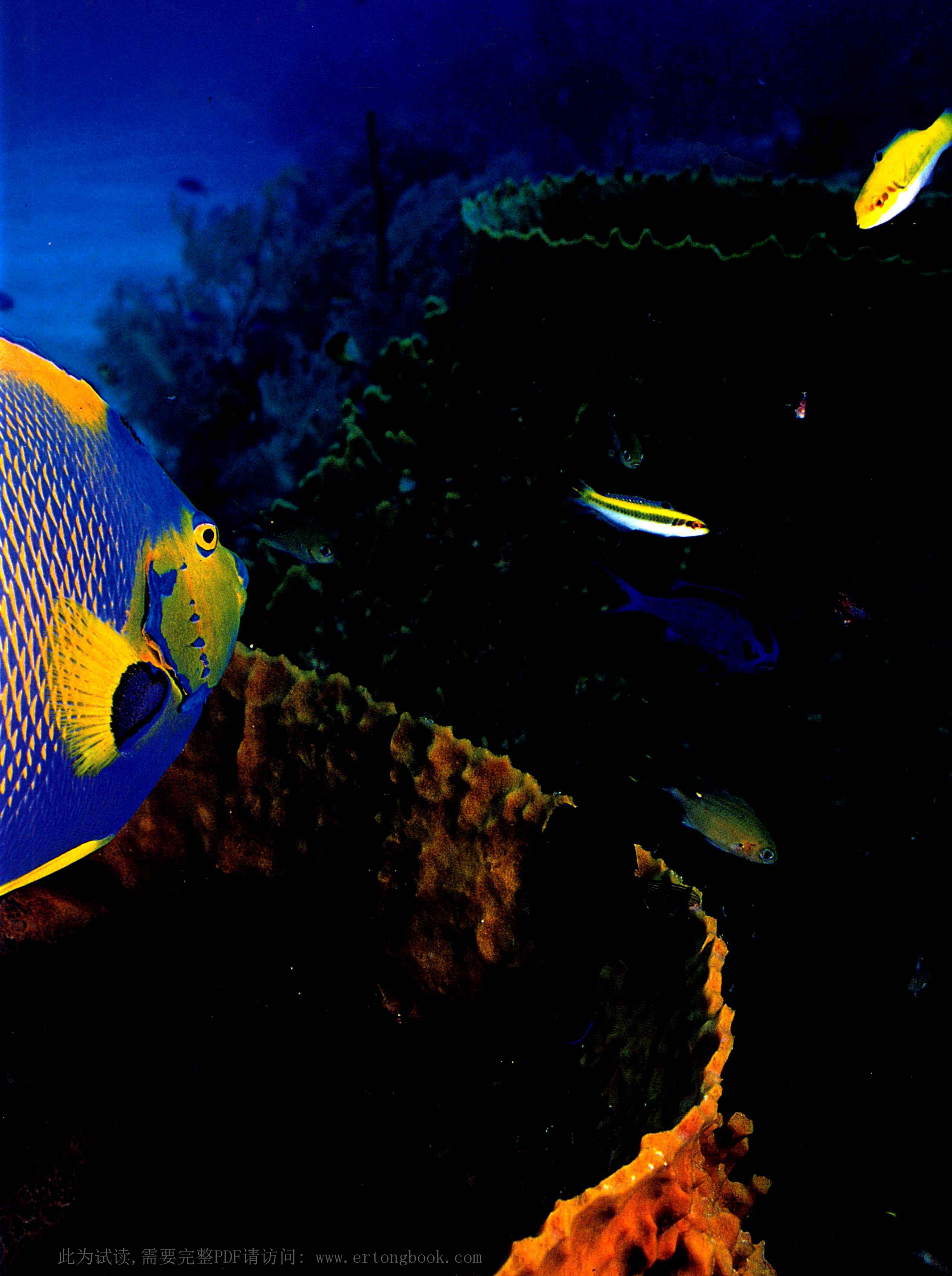














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