

CORALAB is up and running

In our last newsletter, we reported about marine biologist Tim Wijgerde, who has set up a marine laboratory in Zeewolde entitled CORALAB. This week, CORALAB's first study has commenced, which focuses on the role of red and blue light in coral growth, health and colouration. This study builds on previous research into the effects of light spectrum on corals, which Tim undertook together with Philips Lighting (Luc Vogels, Claudia Mutter) and Wageningen University (Ronald Osinga). The Philips CoralCare unit is included in the study, and serves as a control to allow comparison with blue and red light. Two species are used, purple *Stylophora pistillata* and yellow *Porites cylindrica*, to determine how different coral species react to light.

In addition, several CoralCare units are used to grow corals for future experiments. After several months, the corals are growing and colouring well. It seems the era of fluorescent light is slowly fading, and LED is becoming the norm for all types of lighting, including those used in scientific experiments. Next to the CoralCare units, the main experimental tank of CORALAB is powered by a DyMiCo filter, which provides the fast-growing corals with calcium and other elements for healthy growth.



The main experimental tank of CORALAB, with blue and red LED units on the right side of the tank.



SPS corals are growing and colouring well under two CoralCare units.



An overview of CORALAB