

Reconstructing Sea Surface Temperatures from Corals

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Kristine DeLong, South Central CSC affiliate at Louisiana State University, recently published a coral-based reconstruction for the Gulf of Mexico from 1734 to 2008 in the *Journal of Paleoclimatology* with her collaborators at the U.S. Geological Survey. Large corals live for many centuries and contains rings similar to trees that can be counted to determine the year. The chemistry of the coral skeleton gives the temperature of the water when the skeleton was formed thus providing long

continuous histories of water temperature. This reconstruction finds summer temperatures have been warming for the past 274 years whereas winter temperatures have not

For more information on the project, visit the full paper [here](#).