Contents

Foreword 10
Introduction 11

Part One The Society of the Underwater Wilderness 14

The Forces that Shape the Underwater Wilderness 16
Corals, Reefs, Islands, and Atolls 28
The Jungle in the Sea 52
Cooperation and Aggression 68
Parasites versus Cleaners 84
Color Magic 96
After Darkness Falls 108

Part Two The Greatest Underwater Wilderness Areas 136

A Garden of Islands: The Caribbean 138
The Fringe of the Tropics: Hawaii, Baja California, and the Galápagos 172
The Tropical South Pacific: French Polynesia, Micronesia, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, and the Philippines 204
The Southern Continent: Australia and the Coral Sea 252
Man's Oldest Seas: The Mediterranean and the Red Sea 284

Conclusion: The Threat and the Promise 312
Index 317