The oceans absorb between 25 and 30% of the CO₂ that we emit as humans. This natural process, known as ocean acidification, will reduce the ocean's pH. Its effects will last for centuries.

Given our current rate of emissions, surface ocean pH will decrease from 8.2 to 7.8 in 2100 -- a 6.3x increase in the acidity of the surface ocean.

Ocean warming, together with ocean acidification, stresses vulnerable marine habitats such as coral reefs. In 2016, over 60% of the Great Barrier Reef experienced extreme bleaching as a result of human-induced climate change. Due to ocean acidification, corals will have a harder time building their skeletons, and will eventually start dissolving away. Within the next few decades, many reefs will switch from net calcification (skeleton building) to net dissolution (skeleton degradation).

SOURCES + RESOURCES
https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/Ocean-Acidification
http://www.globalcoralbleaching.org/
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