

PRESS RELEASE

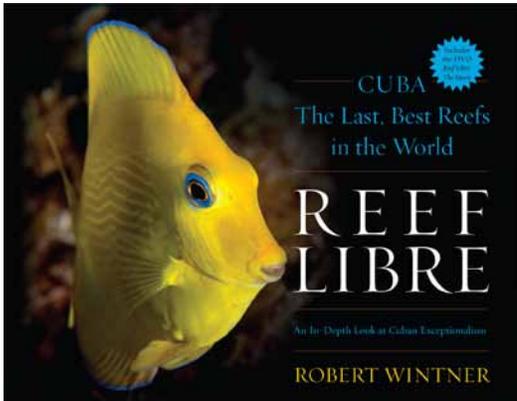
January 19, 2015

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## REEF LIBRE

*An In-Depth Look at Cuban Exceptionalism & the Last, Best Reefs in the World*

HAWAII—President Obama’s announcement for normalized relations with Cuba will open travel, establish a U.S. Embassy in Havana and end the trade embargo, presenting Cuba’s next great challenge.



**REEF LIBRE** is not a travelogue but asks the big questions after a lifetime of isolation—can Cuba reefs still thrive? Nearly 400 stills, a compelling narrative and a DVD capture this delicate time in reef history. [REEF LIBRE, the Movie](#), is a mini-documentary, capturing this pivotal time, from the streets to the reefs.

Relative isolation, no U.S. tourism and marginal development or repair have rendered Cuba reefs pristine—the only reef system in the world with 100% biodiversity, 100% coral cover and a complete host of apex predators. Reef treasure surrounds the island nation’s poverty and stark reality. Robert Wintner’s photography reveals these reefs as never before, and captures equal color and innocence from the pastoral countryside to Havana Vieja. **REEF LIBRE** was on the cover of Publisher’s Weekly.

Robert Wintner is Snorkel Bob, and **REEF LIBRE** is his 4th reef photo book, the 1st from Rowman & Littlefield. He is still on the frontlines of the campaign to ban the aquarium trade around the world, because it’s all one reef.



**REEF LIBRE, *An In-Depth Look at Cuban Exceptionalism & the Last, Best Reefs in the World***

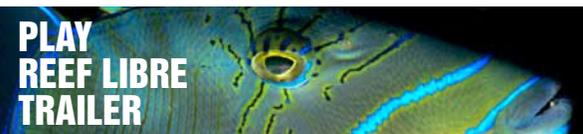
Rowman & Littlefield | 2015

\$45 hardcover | 272 pp | 11 x 8.5 inches

Also issued in electronic format

ISBN-10: 1630760730 | ISBN-13: 978-1630760731

[http://www.amazon.com/Reef-Libre-Cuba-Reefs-World/dp/1630760730/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1418848539&sr=1-1&keywords=reef+libre](http://www.amazon.com/Reef-Libre-Cuba-Reefs-World/dp/1630760730/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1418848539&sr=1-1&keywords=reef+libre)



# BIOGRAPHY

Robert Wintner is Snorkel Bob, Hawaii's only designer and manufacturer of world-class masks, fins, and snorkels to supply Snorkel Bob's shops across Hawaii, along with snorkelers and divers around the world. He is still on the global campaign to ban the aquarium trade, because it's all one reef.

Wintner's recent reef photography book is *REEF LIBRE, An In-Depth Look at Cuban Exceptionalism & the Last, Best Reefs in the World* (Rowman & Littlefield: Feb, 2015). *REEF LIBRE, the Movie*, is a mini-documentary, capturing this pivotal time, from the streets to the reefs.

*Brainstorm: A Memoir of Love, Devotion, and a Cerebral Aneurysm* (Yucca Publishing: Feb, 2015), and *1969 and Then Some: A Memoir of Romance, Motorcycles, and Lingering Flashbacks of a Golden Age* is another recent release (Yucca, Oct, 2014).

Wintner's short fiction has appeared in *Hawaii Review*, (U of Hawaii) and *Sports Illustrated*. His 2007 historical novel, *In a Sweet Magnolia Time* (Permanent Press, Sag Harbor, NY) was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Wintner's sailing novel, *Whirlaway* (Smallwood, '95), and *The Modern Outlaws* (Universe, NY, 2001) were both optioned for film rights by Hollywood production companies.

Robert Wintner is Executive Director of the Snorkel Bob Foundation and active in Hawaii's conservation community, working diligently to protect Hawaii's reefs. The Snorkel Bob Foundation was instrumental in protecting the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) as *Papahānaumokuākea Marine Monument*. He has worked against the aquarium trade in Hawaii and around the world for years and is known in Hawaii business for media substance that entertains and sells—and reveals Hawaii reefs.

The Snorkel Bob Foundation was instrumental in underwriting and producing a "reef etiquette" video PSA that airs in hotels and other tourist venues. Wintner also produced a PSA that aired statewide, advocating the end to gillnet fishing. This gillnet PSA was effective in banning gillnets on Maui. Snorkel Bob Foundation reef advocacy includes underwriting litigation to protect endangered sea turtles that will be killed if the recent expansion of Hawaii's long-line fishing industry is allowed.

Robert Wintner's current epic image, video narrative show, Reef Recovery & Political Will is showing across Hawaii in coming months.

*REEF LIBRE, An In-Depth Look at Cuban Exceptionalism & the Last, Best Reefs in the World*  
Rowman & Littlefield; (February, 2015)

280 pages in hardcover format, 11 x 8.5 inches, also available in digital format.

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Robert on safety decompression stop in Hawaii