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## CORAL SEA CURRENTS

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The South Equatorial Current brings tropical water westward into the Coral Sea between the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia, then branches near the Queensland Plateau. The East Australian Current branch flows southward along the Great Barrier Reef to enter the Tasman Sea, while the northward-flowing branch forms a clockwise coastal current and partially-closed gyre in the Gulf of Papua, with an exit into the Solomon Sea. These currents strongly influence drift on the outer continental shelf and barrier reef.