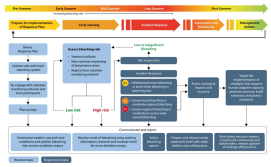
Announcement

BLEACHING POTENTIAL HIGH IN THE COMING WEEKS FOR ALL ISLANDS FROM THE BAHAMAS THROUGH ALL OF THE GREATER AND LESSER ANTILLES.

REPORT CORAL BLEACHING OBSERVATIONS
(CLICK HERE)

HEADLINE IMPACTS IN THE CARIBBEAN
(CLICK HERE)

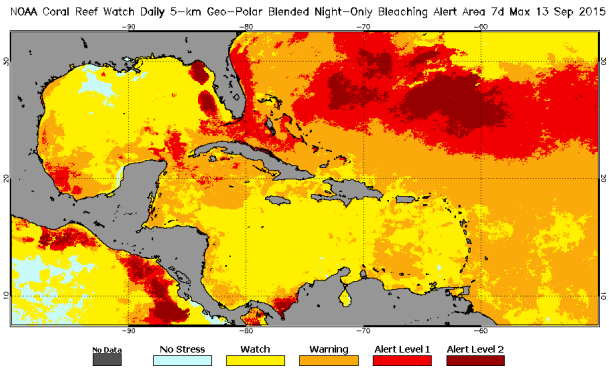


CORAL BLEACHING RESPONSE PLANS
(CLICK HERE)

CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF WATCH

Notable Observations

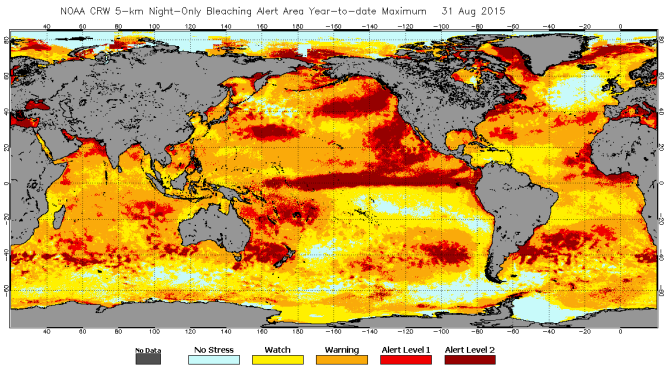
- A strong El Niño has developed.
- Alert level 1 issued for Central Bahamas and Northwest Cuba. Bleaching warnings issued for Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands and all the islands in the Greater and Lesser Antilles.
- Reports of paling and disease outbreaks have begun in Florida. Partial bleaching signs observed in Mona Island, Puerto Rico.



Track current conditions at: http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km/index.php

Current Global Conditions

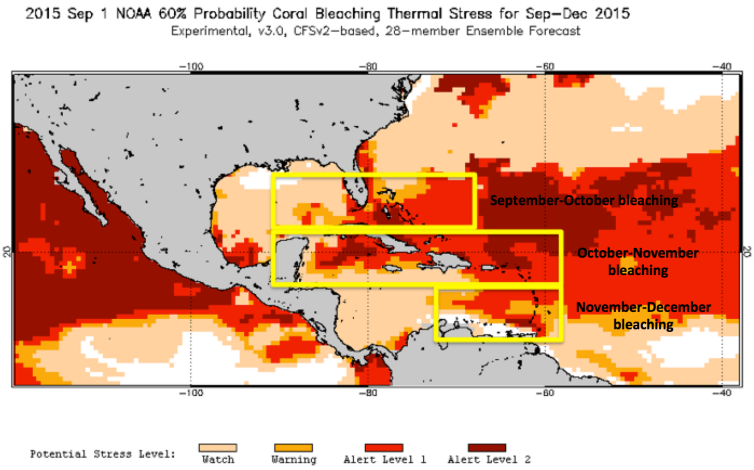
- High thermal stress and bleaching in the central equatorial Pacific, especially in Kiribati. Bleaching is now spreading in Hawaii with the potential of becoming the worst bleaching event ever (only the 3rd ever recorded).
- These observations are consistent with record high sea surface temperatures and with a strong El Niño which will continue into 2016.



Alert Level Guide

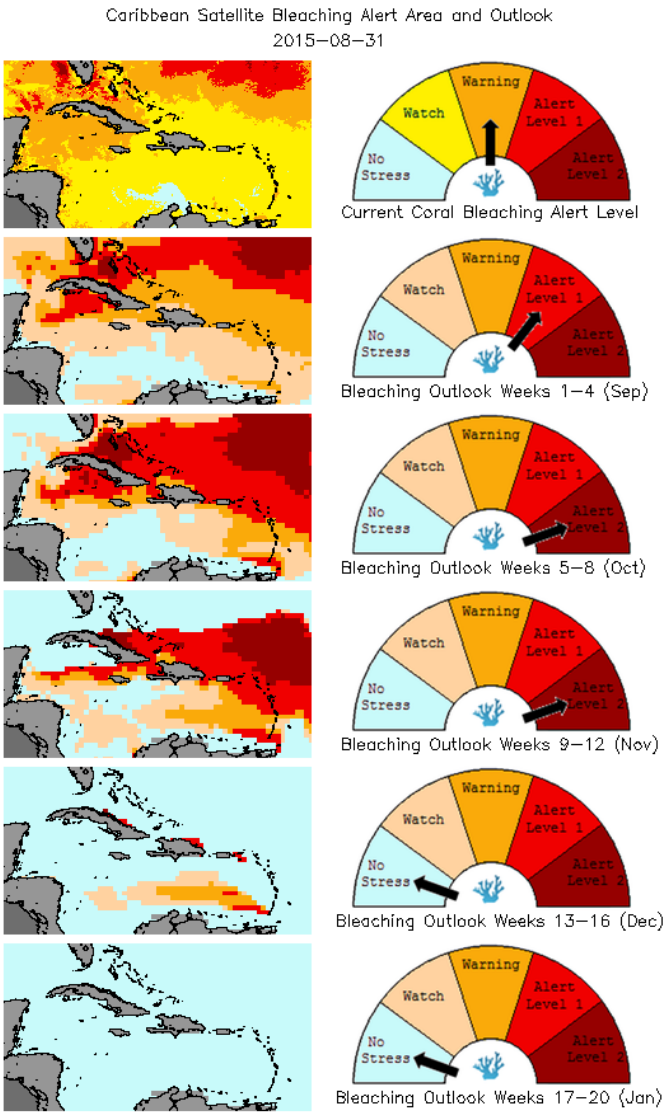
Alert Level	Interpretation
No stress	No thermal stress
Watch	Low-level thermal stress
Warning	Thermal stress is accumulating
Alert level 1	Bleaching expected
Alert level 2	Widespread bleaching and some mortality expected

Current Outlook (Sept-Dec)



Track 4-month bleaching outlook at: coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleachingoutlook_cfs/outlook_cfs.php

Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook

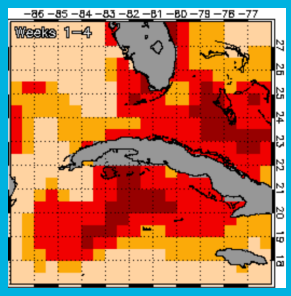


Caribbean Bleaching Outlook

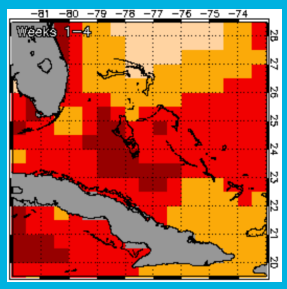
All islands from The Bahamas, through all of the Greater and Lesser Antilles, are at a risk of bleaching through December.

Thermal stress conditions are predicted to be below bleaching levels by weeks 13-16 (Dec) and non-existent in weeks 17-20 (Jan).

5-km Regional Virtual Stations



Bleaching watch in Northwest Cuba (Weeks 1-4)



Bleaching Alert in Central Bahamas (Weeks 1-4)

Click here for more information about the NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology

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