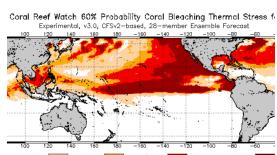


## Announcement

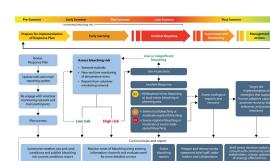
**BLEACHING  
POTENTIAL HIGH IN  
THE COMING MONTHS  
IN THE BAHAMAS,  
GREATER ANTILLES  
AND THE LEeward  
ISLANDS**



**GLOBAL CORAL  
BLEACHING  
UPDATE  
(CLICK HERE)**



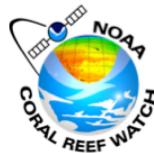
**REPORT CORAL  
BLEACHING  
OBSERVATIONS  
(CLICK HERE)**



**CORAL BLEACHING  
RESPONSE PLANS  
(CLICK HERE)**

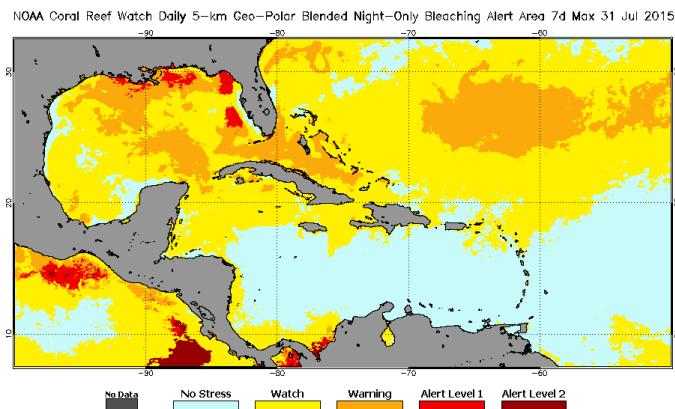


# CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF WATCH



## Notable Observations

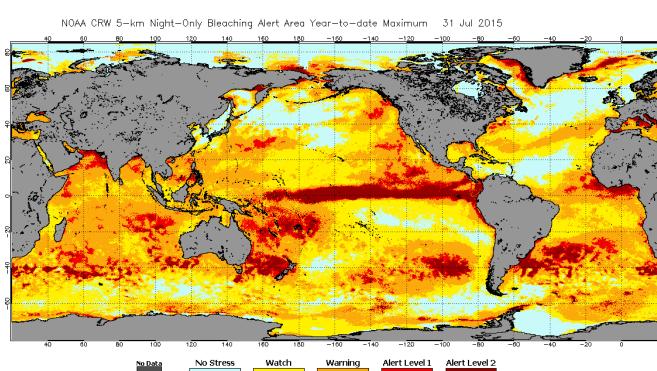
- ▶ The 2015 El Niño is now well-established and continues to strengthen.
- ▶ Bleaching warning issued for Northwest and Southwest Cuba; and Central Bahamas.
- ▶ Reports of paling and disease outbreaks have begun in Florida. Partial bleaching signs observed in Mona Island, Puerto Rico.



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

## Current Global Conditions

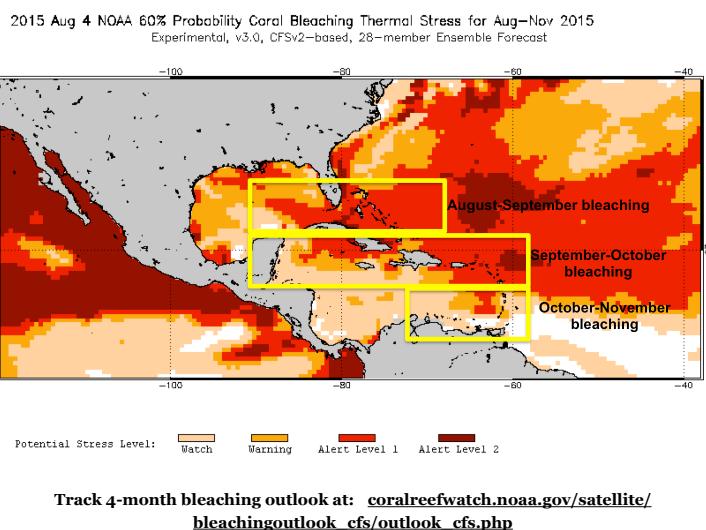
- ▶ High thermal stress and bleaching in the central equatorial Pacific, especially in Kiribati.
- ▶ These observations are consistent with record high sea surface temperatures and with a moderate El Niño.
- ▶ The El Niño is predicted to become a strong event and continue into 2016.



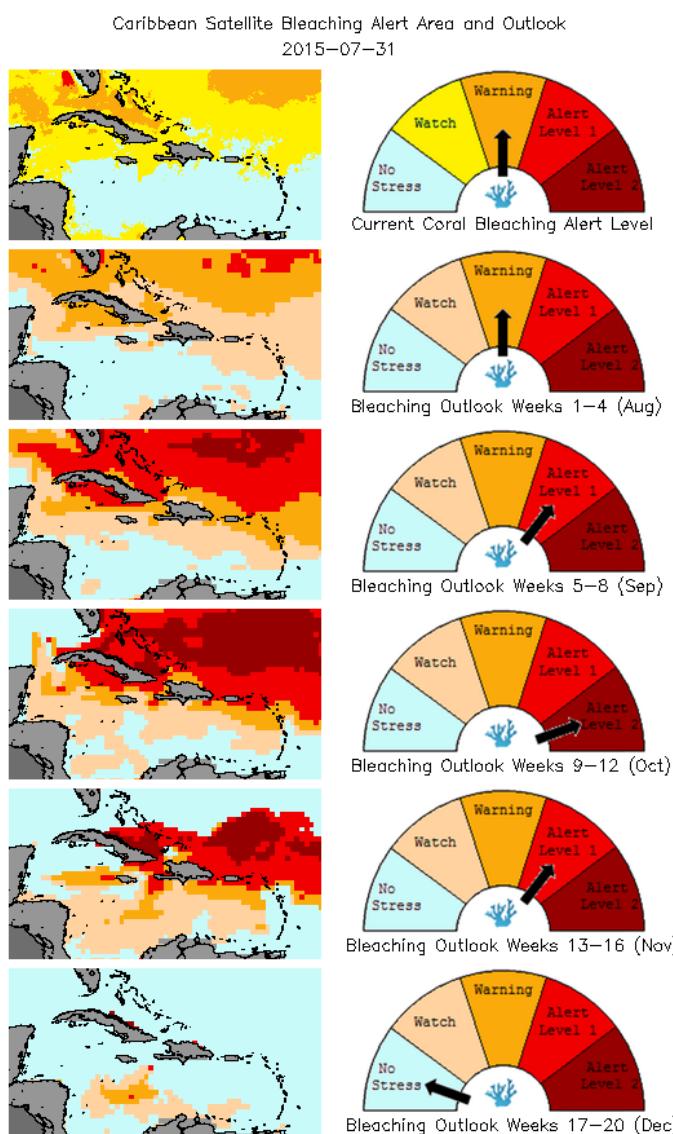
## Alert Level Guide

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 (Aug-Nov)



## Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook

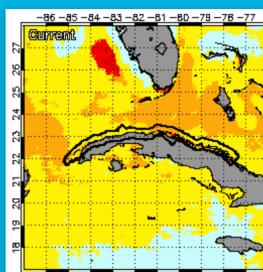


## Caribbean Bleaching Outlook

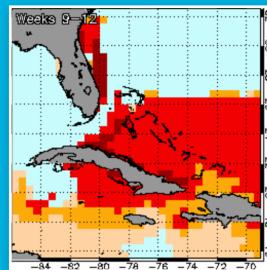
Risk of bleaching through November may include The Bahamas, all of Greater Antilles and Leeward Islands.

Thermal stress conditions are predicted to be below bleaching levels by weeks 17-20 (Dec).

## 5-km Regional Virtual Stations System



Bleaching watch in Northwest Cuba (Current)



Bleaching Alert in Central Bahamas (9-12 weeks)

[Click here for more information about the NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)

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