

Announcement

**HEAT STRESS
CONTINUES TO
ACCUMULATE IN THE
REGION. CORAL
BLEACHING
CONDITIONS EXPECTED
FROM SEPTEMBER TO
DECEMBER**



**REPORT CORAL
BLEACHING
OBSERVATIONS**



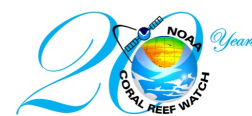
**LARGE 'HERBIVORES OF
THE SEA' HELP KEEP
CORAL REEFS HEALTHY**



**INVASIVE LIONFISH MAY BE
A SELECTIVE PREDATOR**

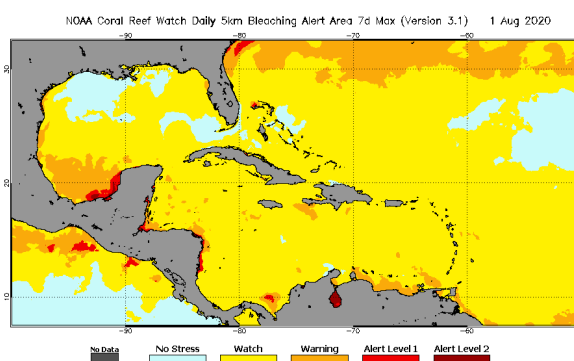


CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF WATCH



Notable Observations

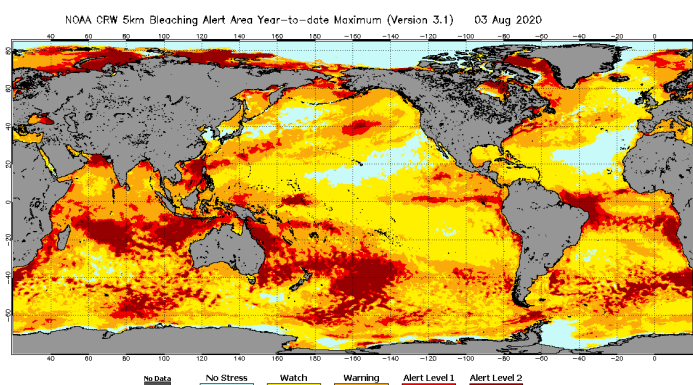
- Bleaching watch alert level conditions widespread across the region, with warning alerts issued for N. Bahamas, Bermuda, S. Hispaniola, Trinidad and Tobago, and the ABC Is, as heat stress increases.
- The year-to-date global land and ocean surface temperature was the second highest in the 141-year record at 1.05°C above the 20th century average of 13.8°C, only 0.04°C less than the 2016 record. [Read](#)



[Click here to track current conditions](#)

Current Global Conditions

- Monthly global temperatures continue to be among the warmest ever recorded, with severe bleaching in N. Arabian Sea expanding to South China Sea. [Read more](#)
- Yucatan peninsula, N. Taiwan, Ogasawara Is., and W. Persian Gulf under Alert Level 1. Dongsha and S. Taiwan, China, Vietnam, N. Myanmar, Spratly Is. (SE Asia), N. Philippines, Gulf of Kutch (India), and W. India under Alert Level 2.

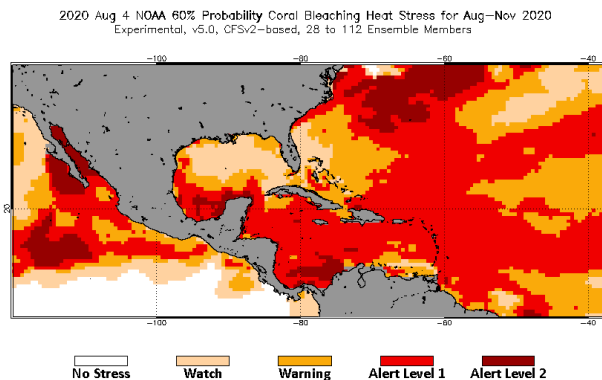


Alert Level Guide

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

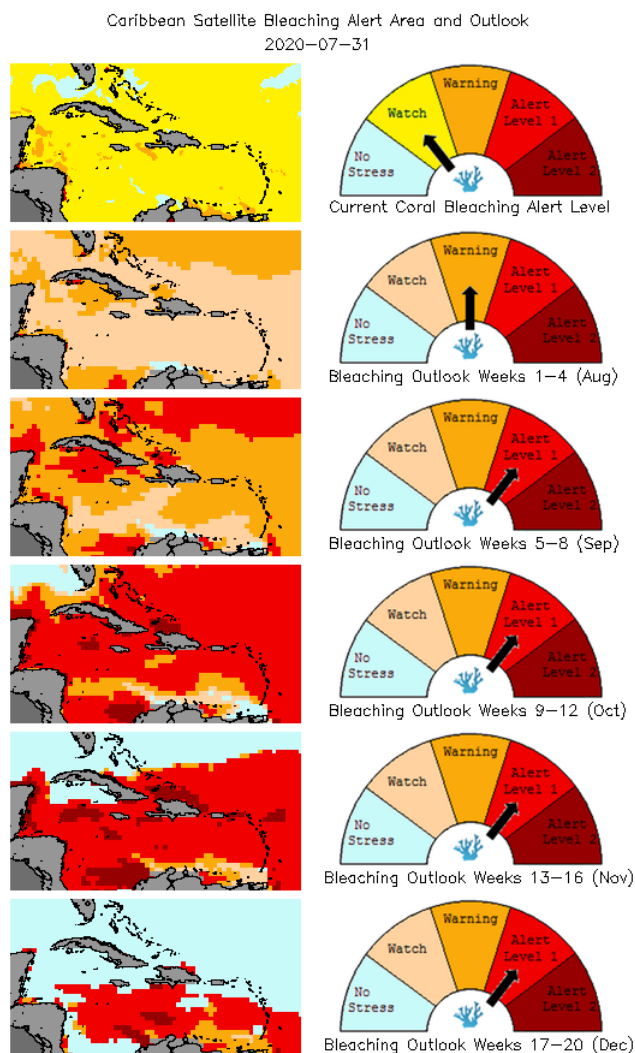
Current Outlook (August–November 2020)

- 4-Month Outlook indicates that Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for much of the Caribbean will no longer reach Alert Level 2, but Alert Level 1 from Oct. through Dec.



[Click here to track the 4-month bleaching outlook](#)

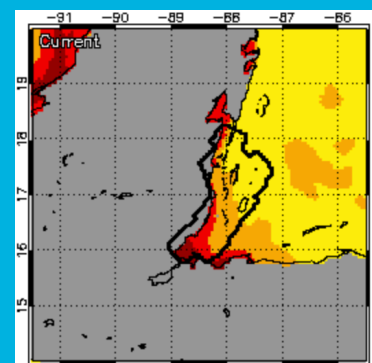
Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook



Caribbean Bleaching Outlook

The bleaching outlook suggest most of the Caribbean will be under Alert Level 1 in 9-12 weeks, continuing up to week 16, with N. Hispaniola reaching Alert Level 2. Hispaniola and the Windward Is. remain under Alert Level 1 through weeks 17-20.

[View all 5-km Regional Virtual Stations here](#)



Belize currently experiencing Alert level 1 conditions

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

For more information contact:

Adrian Trotman
atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Courtney Forde
cforde@cimh.edu.bb

Shontelle Stoute
sstoute@cimh.edu.bb