

Announcement

THE ACCUMULATION OF HEAT BASED ON DEGREE HEATING WEEKS STILL POSES A THREAT TO CORALS IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN CARIBBEAN, AND BELIZE.



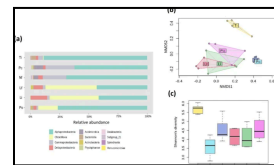
REPORT CORAL BLEACHING OBSERVATIONS

Census of heat tolerance among Florida's threatened staghorn corals finds resilient individuals throughout existing nursery populations

Ross Curnutt^{1,2}, Katherine E. Parker, Kelley Johnson-Sapp, Richard F. Kora, Alexander D. Wan, Olivia M. Williamson, Erich Bartels, Marlene D'Alessandro, David D. Gilliam, Grace Hansen, Jessica Levy, Diego Lirman, Kory Maxwell, Wyatt C. Miller, Allison L. Neundorfer, Amanda Moore, Erin M. Muller, Ken Neundorfer, Brian Reckert, Ruben van Hooidonk, Craig Dahlgren, Carly Kerkel, John E. Parkinson and Andrew C. Baker (see how authors...)

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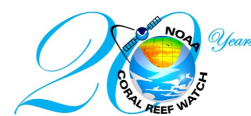
LARGE-SCALE CENSUS OF CORAL HEAT TOLERANCE IN FLORIDA'S THREATENED STAGHORN CORALS



CORAL LARVAL SETTLEMENT PREFERENCES LINKED TO CRUSTOSE CORALLINE ALGAE WITH DISTINCT CHEMICAL AND MICROBIAL SIGNATURES

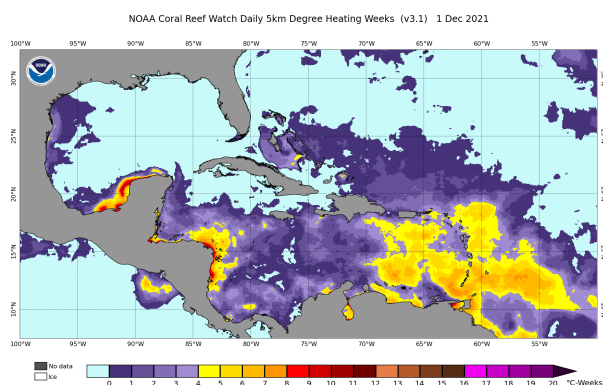


CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF WATCH



Notable Observations

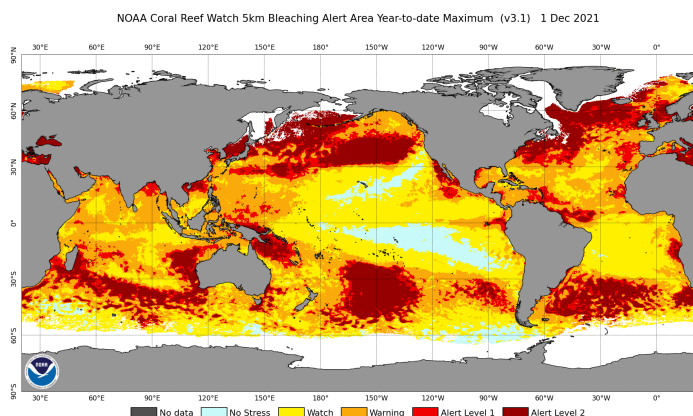
- ▶ The entire region currently under either Watch Alert Level or No Stress Alert Level conditions.
- ▶ The degree heating weeks suggests the accumulation of heat stress still poses a threat of coral bleaching in the Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and the southern coast of Belize, despite a drop in sea surface temperature with the commencement of northern hemisphere winter.



[Click here to track current conditions](#)

Current Global Conditions

- ▶ Bleaching watch and warning alerts persist mainly throughout the Coral Triangle in southeast Asia, with patches around Australia and in the Pacific.
- ▶ West Papua, Northern Sulawesi (Coral Triangle), and Maluku (Indonesia) under Alert Level 1. Papua New Guinea under Alert Level 2.

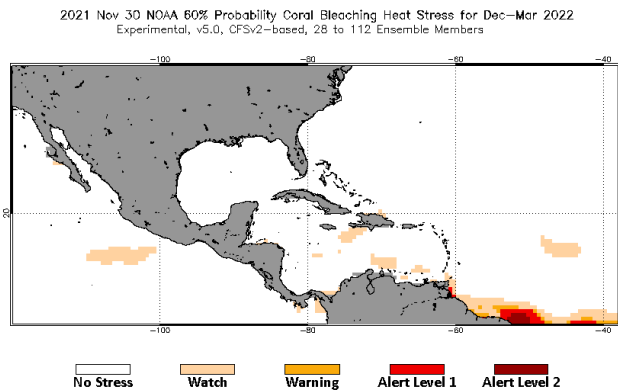


Alert Level Guide

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

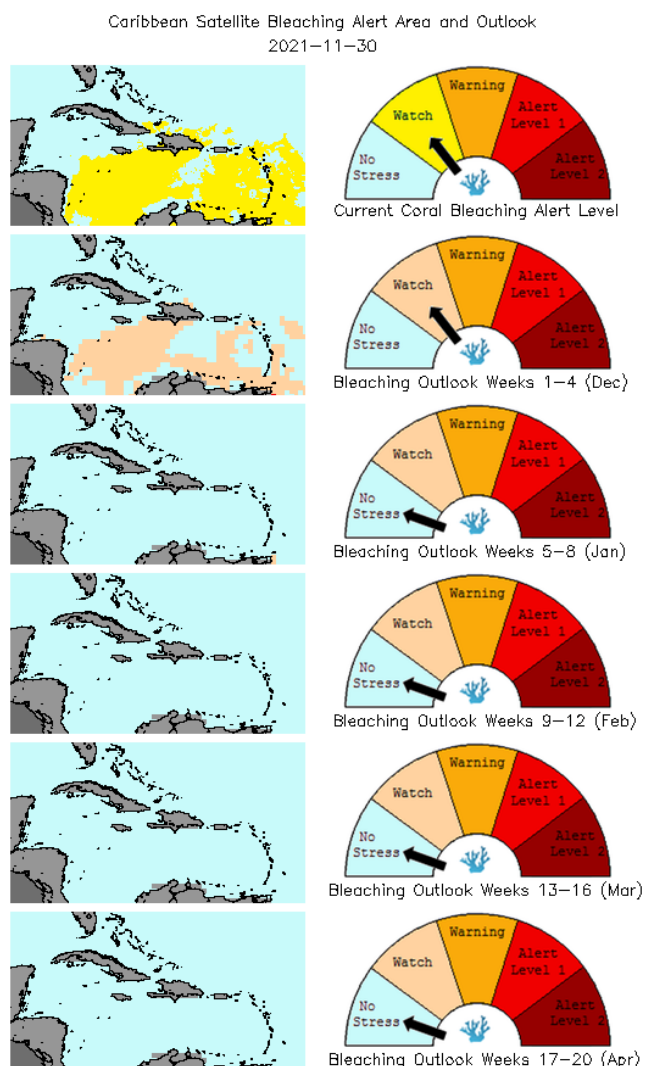
Current Outlook (December-March 2021)

- 4-Month Outlook predicts that there will be no longer any heat stress in the region from January.



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

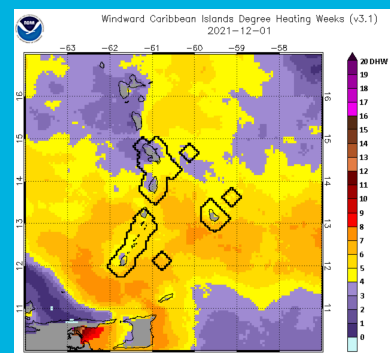
Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook



Caribbean Bleaching Outlook

The bleaching alert outlook for the Caribbean suggests that there will no longer be any additional warming. With northern hemisphere winter commencing, temperatures are dropping, however, some bleaching may still occur due to heat accumulation. Heat stress is not expected from January through to April.

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



[Degree Heating Weeks for the Winward Islands](#)

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

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