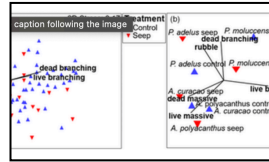


Announcement

THE MOST SEVERE HEAT STRESS IS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR OVER THE NEXT TWO AND A HALF MONTHS WITH CONDITIONS PRESENTING RISK OF WIDESPREAD MULTI-SPECIES MORTALITY.



REPORT CORAL BLEACHING OBSERVATIONS



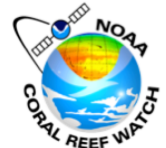
OUT OF SHAPE: OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SIMPLIFIES CORAL REEF ARCHITECTURE AND RESHUFFLES FISH



STONY CORAL TISSUE LOSS DISEASE IS SHIFTING THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE OF CARIBBEAN REEFS

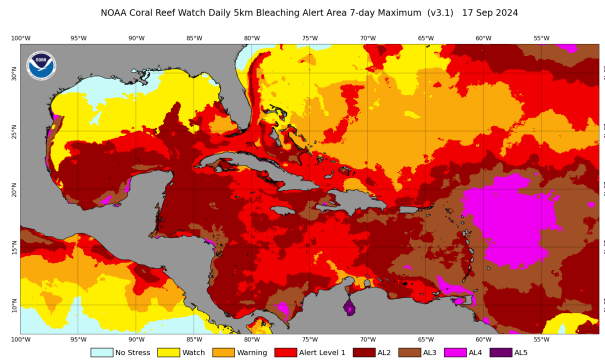


CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF WATCH



Notable Observations (As of Sep. 17)

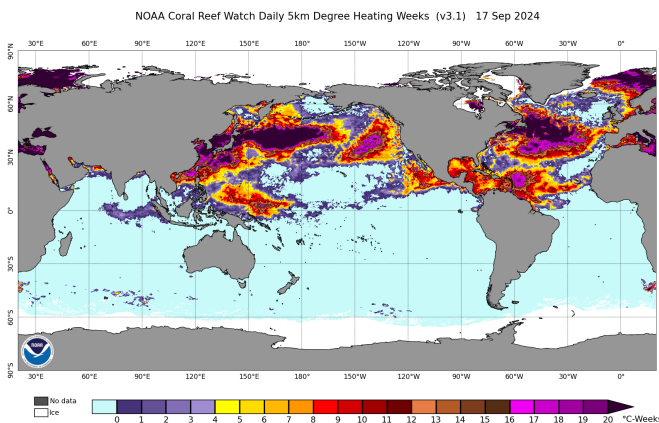
- ▶ Conditions pertaining to Alert Levels 1 and above are present throughout the majority of the Caribbean basin and Gulf of Mexico.
- ▶ Most notably, SW Haiti, S. Bahamas, the Leeward Is., and the Windward Is., currently experiencing Alert Level 3 conditions, with Alert Level 4 conditions persisting just east of the Leeward Is., around Trinidad and Tobago, and a small stretch of SW Haiti.
- ▶ August 2024 was the second warmest August on record for global ocean surface temperatures (Global Climate Report). [Read more](#)



[Click here to track current conditions](#)

Current Global Conditions (As of Sep. 17)

- ▶ The most extreme accumulated heat stress (Degree Heating Weeks [DHW] $\geq 16^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-weeks}$; Alert Level 4 or higher), is active in the W. equatorial Atlantic, N. Atlantic, and Northern Pacific Oceans. Alert Levels 1-5 are present at the following NOAA CRW Regional Virtual Stations: ~ 97% of stations within the wider Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Florida Keys, Veracruz (Mexico), and Yucatán Peninsula; El Salvador, and Panama Pacific East; ~ 36% of Micronesia; 90% of East Asia stations; ~ 8% of other SE. Asia stations; and ~ 53% of the Middle East.

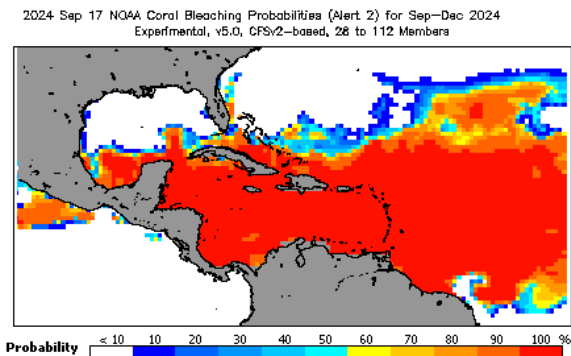


Alert Level Guide

Stress Level	Interpretation
No Stress	No Bleaching
Watch	
Warning	Risk of Possible Bleaching
Alert Level 1	Risk of Reef-Wide Bleaching
Alert Level 2	Risk of Reef-Wide Bleaching with Mortality of Heat-Sensitive Corals
Alert Level 3	Risk of Multi-Species Mortality
Alert Level 4	Risk of Severe, Multi-Species Mortality (> 50% of corals)
Alert Level 5	Risk of Near Complete Mortality (> 80% of corals)

Caribbean Outlook (September-December 2024)

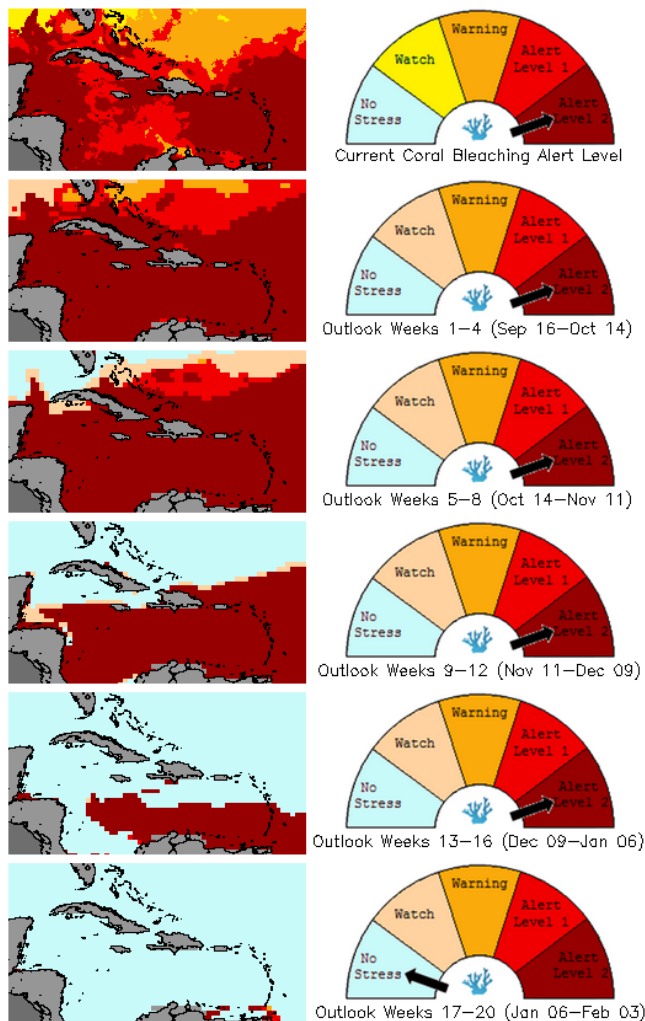
- ▶ 4-Month Probabilistic Outlook of September 17 predicts, with a high probability, that heat stress will reach or exceed Alert Level 2 throughout the entire Caribbean basin, the southern Gulf of Mexico, the southern Bahamas and Turks and Caicos.



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

Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook

Caribbean Satellite Bleaching Alert Area and Outlook
2024-09-17

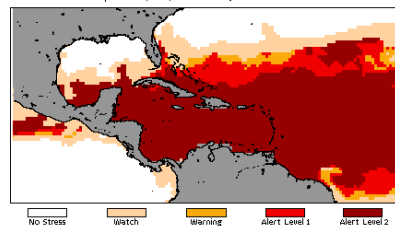


Caribbean Bleaching Outlook

As of 17 September, 2024, NOAA CRW's 4-Month Coral Bleaching Outlook (90% probability) indicates that Bleaching Alert Level 2 and higher heat stress, already present in the majority of the Caribbean, will expand further into other areas of the basin in the next month to encompass most of the basin in 1-4 weeks' time; This heat stress will remain in mostly southern areas until the end of November, before dissipating in December. NOTE: alerts are not uniform across the basin.

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

2024 Sep 17 NOAA 50% Probability Bleaching Heat Stress for Sep-Dec 2024
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 28 to 112 Members



[4-month Coral Bleaching Outlook \(90% probability\)](#)

[4-month Coral Bleaching Outlook \(60% probability\)](#)

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

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