



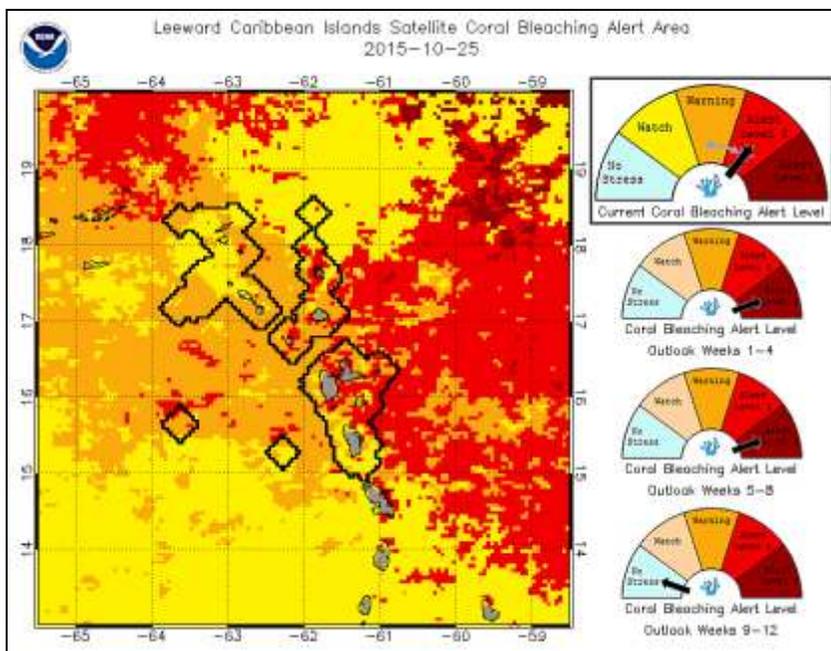
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



...Alert Level 1 has been reached - coral bleaching is expected...

Situation and forecast

Anomalous high sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continue to take place across our area. These temperatures are currently running near record high levels for October. SSTs are **near 30 °C (86 °F) or over 1 °C (1.8 °F)** higher than normal, according to data from U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). With the continued warmer than normal SSTs, bleaching of our coral reefs is expected; hence, the **Alert Level 1** declaration.



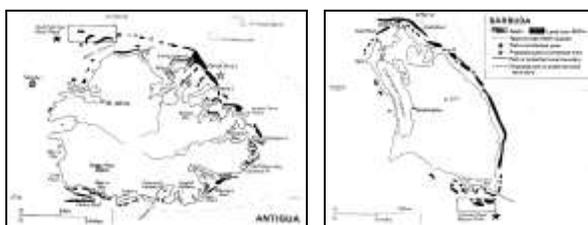
The outlook is for a **90% probability** of further bleaching due to thermal stress. There is greater than **95% probability** of **Alert Level 2** being reached in the next four weeks, meaning widespread bleaching and death of corals are expected ([Click here for the latest](#)).

The rest of the region

Thermal stress of corals, of some sort, is evident across most of the [Caribbean](#). Alert level 1 has also been reached across the rest of the Leeward Islands, the [British Virgin Islands](#) and the [Windward Islands](#). Elsewhere, watches and warning are in effect. [Read more...](#)

Why should we care?

The services provided by coral reefs globally have been valued at **over 6 trillion dollars** annually; this is 10s of times the value of the economy of the Caribbean. For us, **coral reefs are especially invaluable** given the positive impact they have on tourism, fisheries, leisure and disaster risk reduction. Click on the maps below to see larger views of the location of our coral reefs:



What can be done?

Although limited, there are actions we can take to reduce the loss of corals due to bleaching. These **include** restricting stressful activity on the reefs and putting measures in place to enhance reef health. Ideally, developing a coral reef management plan is most desirable. [Read more...](#)

Related resources:

- [Top 10 things to do before, during and after a bleaching event](#)
- [Report Bleaching](#)
- [Education and outreach](#)
- [Global information system for coral reefs](#)
- [Recent 30-day SST anomaly animation](#)

[NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)

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