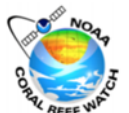




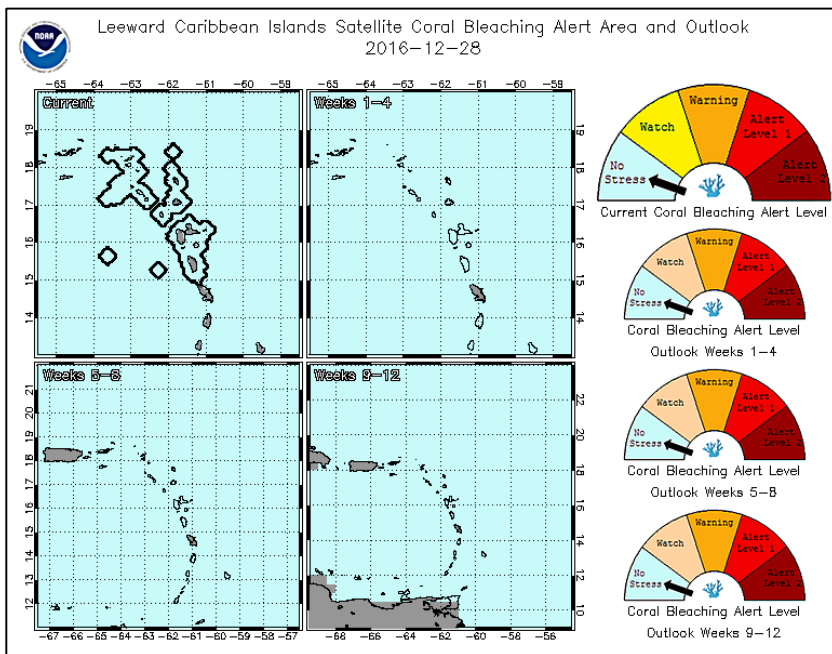
# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



**...Zero thermal stress on corals...**

## Situation and forecast

Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda is above normal for December. The mean SST is around **28.0 °C (82.4 °F)**. However, this is well below the **bleaching threshold** of **29.6 °C (85.3 °F)**, which is expected for this time of the year. This means that the thermal stress on corals has reduced to zero; hence, no advisories are in effect. The SST is about 0.8 °C (1.4 °F) higher than usual for December. The sea surface has cooled by around 0.4 °C (0.7 °F) over the last month. The record high SST for December of 28.8 °C (83.8 °F), was observed in 1962.



No thermal stress is anticipated over through **April** (see above) and certainly not before summer 2017 (see update).

## The rest of the region

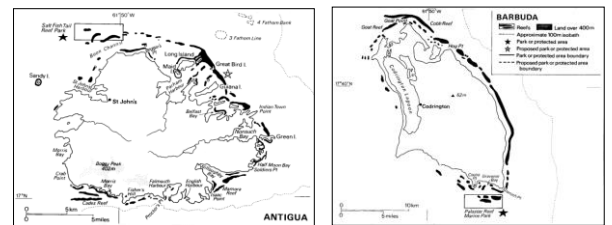
The thermal stress levels across the Caribbean, as of **December 28, 2016**, like Antigua and Barbuda, is at zero. No thermal stress is anticipated before June: **January 2016 to April 2017** (See also [Caribbean Coral Reef Watch](#)).

## Sunscreen may be killing corals

It turns out that our choice of lotions for snorkelling may be harming our priceless endangered corals. A not so recent paper in [Springer](#) by Downs, C.A., Kramarsky-Winter, E., Segal, R. et al. indicates that the chemical Oxybenzone found in sunscreens and other personal-care products, which protects us from the sun's harmful rays, may be contributing to the destruction of coral reefs. Oxybenzone is described as a photo-toxicant, genotoxicant and a skeletal endocrine disruptor, which are all bad for corals. It exacerbates coral bleaching, damage their DNA and cause death among other problems, [click for more](#).

## Why should we care?

**Coral reefs are especially important** given their immeasurable contribution to tourism, fisheries, leisure and disaster risk reduction. Click on the maps below to see the location of our coral reefs:



## Related resources:

- [Recent 30-day SST anomaly animation](#)
- [Education and outreach](#)
- [Subscribe | Past Issues](#)

[NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)

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