



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



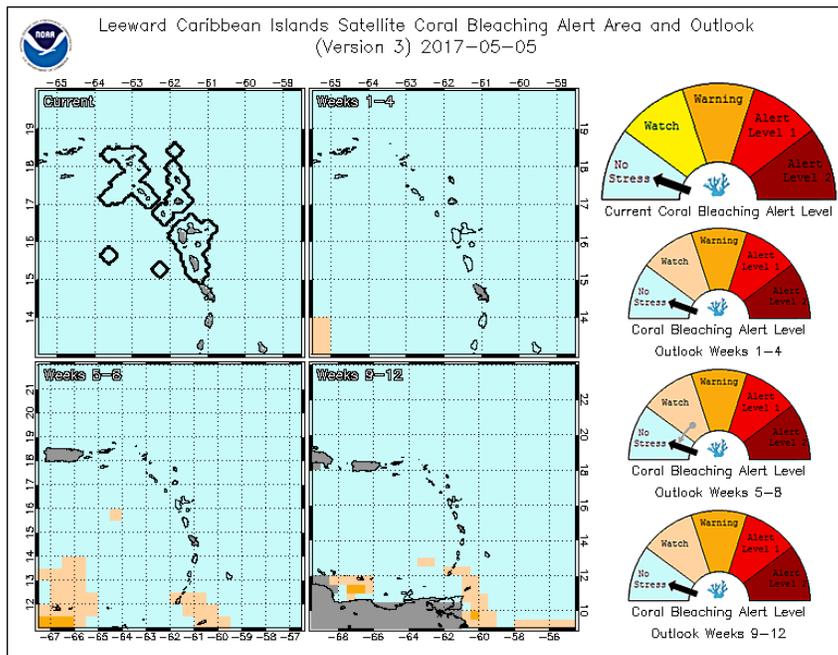
...High chance of thermal stress on corals...

Situation and forecast

Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda is above normal for April. This would make the 20th consecutive month of higher than normal SST for the area. The mean SST is around 27.0 °C (80.6 °F). Nevertheless, this is well below the bleaching threshold of 29.6 °C (85.3 °F), which is expected for this time of year. This means that the thermal stress on corals remains at nil, currently. The SST is about 0.2 °C (0.36 °F) higher than usual for April. The sea surface has warmed by around 0.3 °C (0.54 °F) since last month. The record high SST for April is 27.8 °C (82.0 °F), observed in 2010, based on NOAA's ERSSTv4.

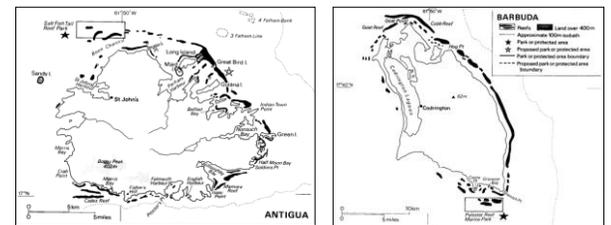
Coral mortality under local amplification

The global community is seeking to prevent the global temperature from rising beyond 2 °C (3.6 °F) of pre-industrial levels. This is deemed to be the threshold temperature rise that would lead to the most devastating impacts of climate change. The task of preventing the temperature from rising above 2 °C is believed to be impossible by many. However, even if this task were to be achieved, it would not save the corals, as per a recently released paper by Thomas M DeCarlo et al. The paper showed that local conditions, such as changes in winds could amplify that 2 °C to upward of 6 °C (10.8 °F), which is devastating to corals. This amplification is not just theoretical but has happened in during the last El Nino, resulting in mass coral death. [Read 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:



There is a high chance of thermal stress over portions of the period [May-August](#) (see above), but it is not definite ([see update](#)).

The rest of the region

The thermal stress levels across the Caribbean, as of [April 30, 2017](#), like Antigua and Barbuda, is at nil. Warning level stress is expected for parts of the region: [May to August 2017](#) (See also [Caribbean Coral Reef Watch](#)).

Related resources:

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

[NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)
 For more information, contact:
dale_destin@yahoo.com