



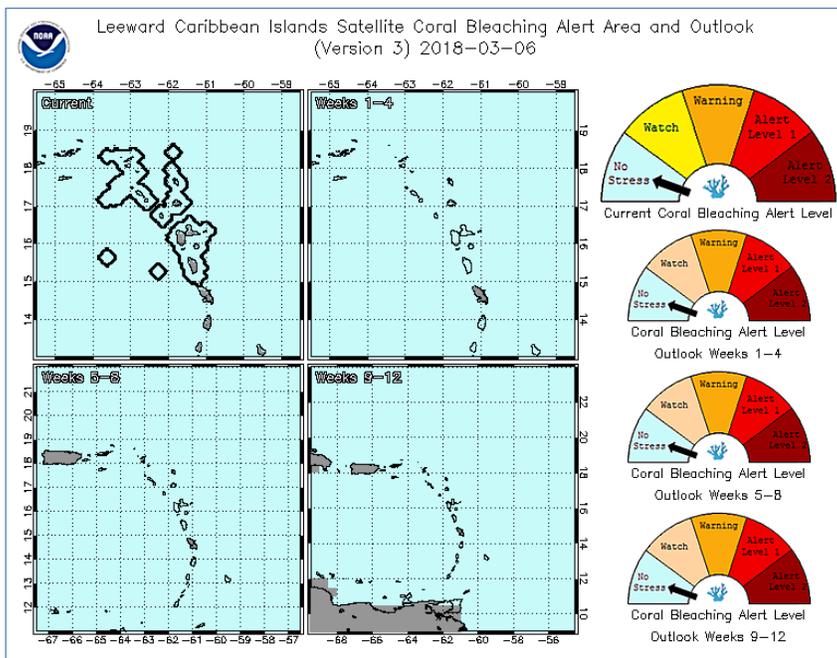
# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



...Continued above normal temperature but no thermal stress on corals...

## Situation and forecast

Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda was above normal for February. This would make the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of higher than normal SST for the area. The mean SST for the month is around 26.3 °C (79.3 °F). However, this is well below the **bleaching threshold of 29.3 °C (84.7 °F)**, as is expected for this time of the year. Hence, no stress for corals. The SST has cooled by around 0.3 °C (0.6 °F) since last month – January, which is normal. The record high SST for February is 27.1 °C (80.8 °F), observed in 2010, based on NOAA's ERSTv4.



No **thermal stress** is expected over of the period **March-June**, as can be expected ([see update](#)).

## The rest of the region

There is no **thermal stress** on corals being experienced **across the region**. However, for **March-June**, a watch is in place for low-level heat stress for the southwest Caribbean Sea, near Panama. See [Caribbean Coral Reef Watch](#) for more.

## Don't kill the corals with your sunscreen

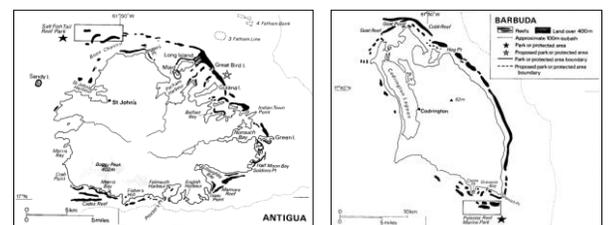


Courtesy the New York Times

The Big Blue, an eco-based adventure business, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, is taking steps to protect corals from the deadly chemicals in sunscreens. We all need to act to protect coral reef from these sunscreens, as they are a bigger threat to corals than climate change. [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:



## Related resources:

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

[NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)

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