



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



Near normal temperature ... no thermal stress on corals

Situation and forecast

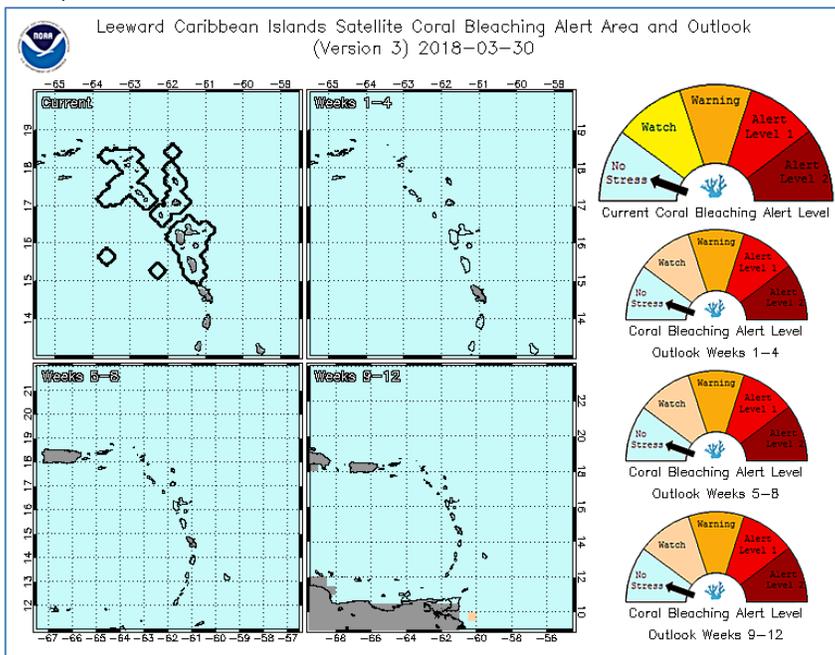
Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda was near normal for March. If this is confirmed, it would be the first time in over two-and-a-half years that the SST was not above normal. The mean SST for the month is around 26.3 °C (79.3 °F). However, this is 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. Overall, the SST has not change since last month – February, which is normal. The record high SST for March is 27.5 °C (81.5 °F), observed in 2010, based on NOAA's ERSTv4.

Buoy installed at Monk's Head Reef Antigua



Monk's Head Reef Buoy

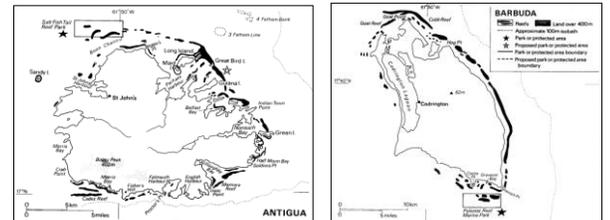
A **buoy station** was installed at Monk's Head Reef Antigua this month, as a part of our coral reef early warning system (CREWS). Data from the station can be obtained [here](#) and [here](#). [Read more...](#)



There is only a slight chance of **thermal stress** over of the period **April-July**, as can be expected ([see update](#)).

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:



The rest of the region

There is no **thermal stress** on corals being experienced **across the region**. However, for **April-July**, a watch is in place for low-level heat stress for the southern and western Caribbean Sea – near Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. See [Caribbean Coral Reef Watch](#) for more.

Related resources:

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[NOAA Coral Reef Watch methodology](#)

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