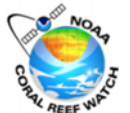




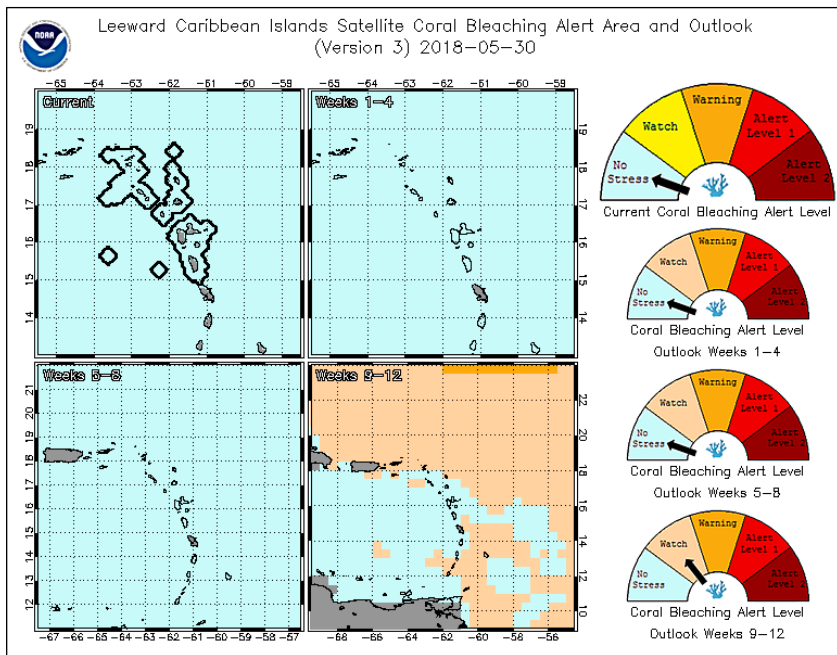
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



Low-level heat stress expected on corals

Situation and forecast

Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda was near normal for May. If this is confirmed, it would be the first time in 33 months that the SST was anything but above normal, based on the climate period 1981-2010. The mean SST for the month was around 27.6 °C (81.7 °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 increased by 0.6 °C (1.08 °F) since April, which is normal. The record high SST for May is 28.4 °C (83.1 °F), observed in 2010 and 2005, based on NOAA's [ERSSTv4](#).



A watch is expected for the forecast period - **June-September**, and a warning is possible. At least low-level **thermal stress** will take place (see [update](#)).

The rest of the region

There is **heat stress accumulating** across some coastal areas of the **Colombian and Yucatan Basins**. Elsewhere, there is no stress, but this will change over the period **June-September**. Most will go under a watch. See [Caribbean Coral Reef Watch](#) for more.

Coral education brought to life

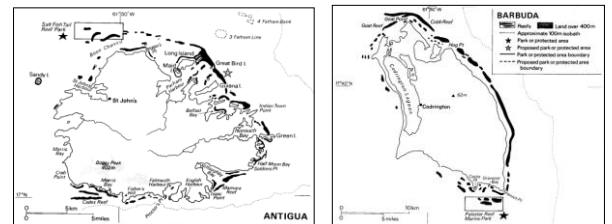


Check out this educational [video on corals](#).

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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