



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CORAL REEF WATCH



...Widespread bleaching and some coral deaths are expected...

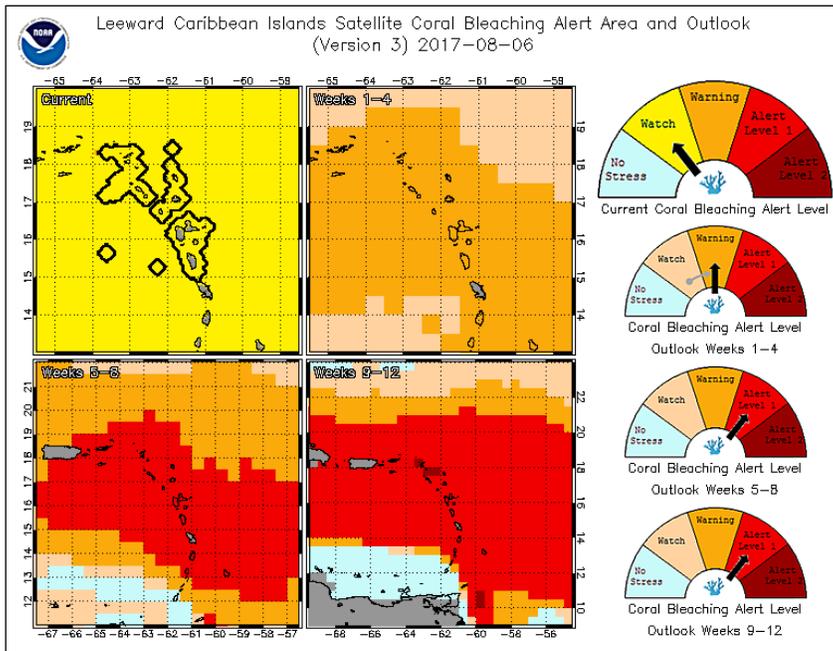
Situation and forecast

Preliminary data indicate that sea surface temperature (SST) around Antigua and Barbuda is above normal for July. This would make the 23th consecutive month of higher than normal SST for the area. The mean SST is around 28.9 °C (84.0 °F). Nevertheless, this is below the bleaching threshold of 29.3 °C (84.7 °F), which is expected for this time of year. Notwithstanding, there is low-level thermal stress due to SST remaining above the max monthly mean; hence, a coral bleaching watch is in effect. The SST has warmed by around 0.4 °C (0.72 °F) since last month. The record high SST for July is 29.2 °C (84.6 °F), observed in 2010 and 2005, based on NOAA's ERSTv4.

USVI divers aid in coral reef conversation



NOAA is using local SCUBA divers in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to gather vital information on coral reefs to aid in conservation efforts. [Read more...](#)



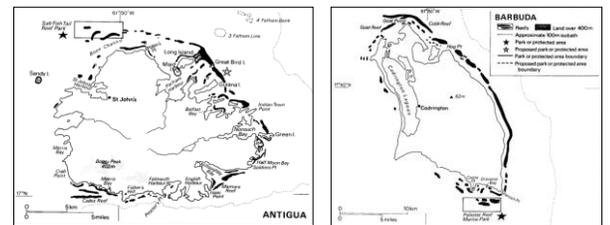
A lot of thermal stress is expected over of the period August-November; hence, widespread bleaching and some coral deaths are expected, as alert level 2 stress – the highest level, is possible (see update).

The rest of the region

The thermal stress levels across the Caribbean, as of July 31, 2017, is at watch or warning levels. Like Antigua and Barbuda, alert level 2 stress is possible or expected for most of the region: August to November 2017 (See also Caribbean Coral Reef Watch).

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:

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 For more information, contact:
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