



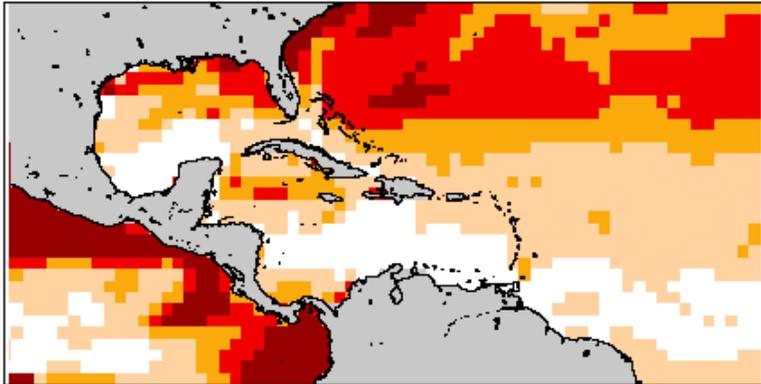
Mote Marine Laboratory / Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Coral Bleaching Early Warning Network
Current Conditions Report #20140530



Updated May 30, 2014

Summary: Based on climate predictions, current conditions, and field observations, the threat for mass coral bleaching within the FKNMS is currently **LOW**.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Thermal Stress Outlook June 2014-Sept. 2014 (experimental)



Potential Stress Level: Watch Warning Alert Level 1 Alert Level 2
 Figure 1. NOAA's Experimental Coral Bleaching Thermal Stress Outlook for June 2014– Sept. 2014

http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleachingoutlook_cfs/outlook_cfs.php

Weather and Sea Temperatures

According to the newly released NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) experimental Coral Bleaching Thermal Stress Outlook, there is potential for coral bleaching throughout the Florida Keys region in the coming months, as well as the rest of Caribbean for the remainder of the summer of 2014 (Fig.1).

Recent remote sensing analysis by NOAA's CRW program indicates that the Florida Keys region is presently experiencing minimal thermal stress. NOAA's new experimental 5 km Coral Bleaching HotSpot Map (Fig.2), which illustrates current sea surface temperatures compared to the average temperature for the warmest month, shows that sea surface temperatures are not elevated above normal in the Florida Keys. Similarly, NOAA's new experimental 5 km Degree Heating Weeks (DHW) map, which illustrates how much heat stress has built up over the past 12 weeks (Fig.3), indicates no accumulated temperature stress is currently evident in the Florida Keys region. NOAA's Integrated Coral Observing Network (ICON) monitoring stations, which provide near real time *in-situ* sea temperature data along the outer reef tract throughout the Florida Keys, confirm that temperatures are still well below 30°C over the past four weeks (Fig.4), likely due in part to breezy conditions observed during this time frame (Fig. 5). *In-situ* sea temperature data is currently not available for Sand Key or Sombbrero. Dry Tortugas is not recording any data at this time.

Mote Marine Laboratory will continue to monitor the NOAA HotSpot maps, DHW maps, and ICON sea temperature data from NOAA monitoring stations on a weekly basis for the remainder of the bleaching season.

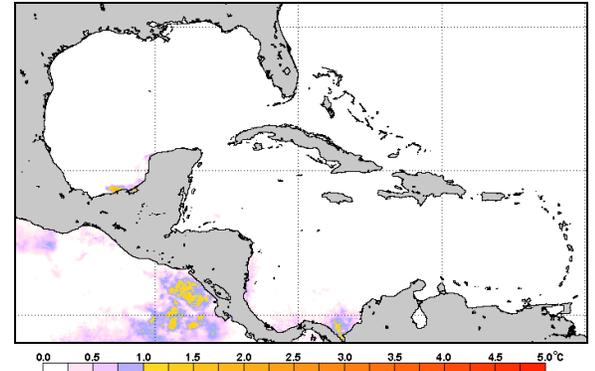


Figure 2. NOAA's Experimental 5 km Coral Bleaching HotSpot Map for May 29, 2014.

<http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km>

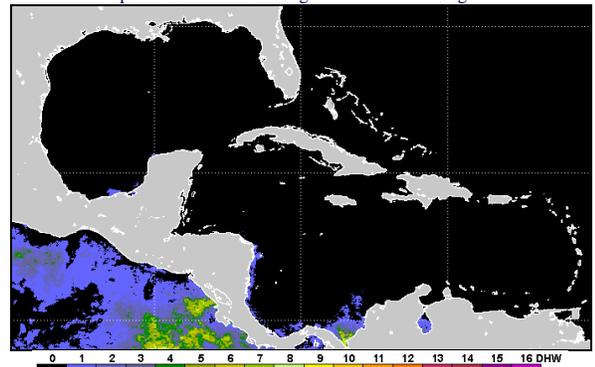


Figure 3. NOAA's Experimental 5 km Degree Heating Weeks Map for May 29, 2014.

<http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km>

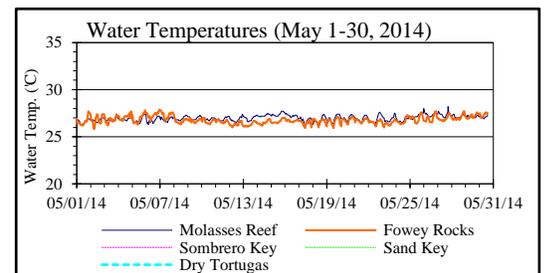


Figure 4. *in-situ* sea temperature from NOAA/ICON monitoring stations (May 1- 30, 2014).

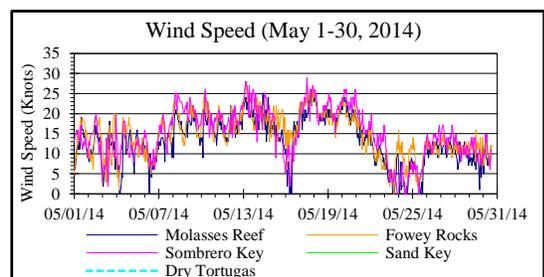


Figure 5. Wind speed data from NOAA/ICON monitoring stations (May 1-30, 2014).



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Conditions of Corals

NOAA's CRW experimental 5km Coral Bleaching Alert Area (Fig. 6) currently indicates no alert levels for the Florida Keys area. However, BleachWatch observers are encouraged to start submitting your observations after every visit to the reef, **even if**



NO bleaching was observed. Frequent coral conditions observations from throughout the Florida Keys are needed for the remainder of the summer season. To submit an observation on coral condition, or for more information on the Florida Keys BleachWatch program, please go to www.mote.org/bleachwatch

For information on joining the BleachWatch program, or to organize a training session for your group or organization, please contact the number below.

**NOAA Coral Reef Watch Satellite Coral Bleaching Alert Area
 May 29, 2014**

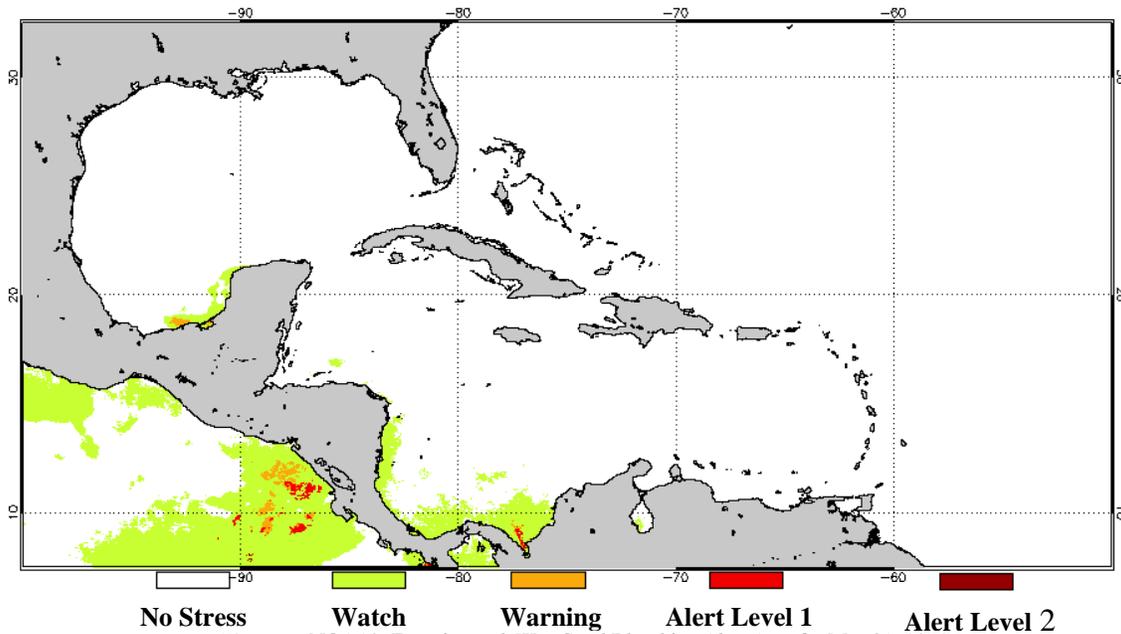


Figure 6. NOAA's Experimental 5Km Coral Bleaching Alert Area for May 29, 2014
<http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km>

***For more information about the BleachWatch program,
 or to submit a bleaching observation, contact:***

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<http://www.mote.org/bleachwatch>

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