

**Status: Bleaching Watch**

**Trinidad & Tobago Current Bleaching Status**

Trinidad and Tobago is in the peak of the Coral Bleaching Season and the current status is “**Bleaching WATCH**” as indicated in Figure 1. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are approximately **29.1°C**, which is **below** the Bleaching Threshold (29.4°C), but above the Maximum Monthly Mean Sea Surface Temperature (28.4°C).

Table 1: T&T Index Summary

|           |               |  |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| SST       | ~ 29.1°C      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SST: Sea Surface Temperature</li> <li>• SSTA: Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly</li> <li>• SST: Sea Surface Temperature Trend</li> <li>• HS: Hot Spot</li> <li>• DHW: Degree Heating Weeks</li> </ul> |
| SSTA      | +1.1°C        |  |
| SST trend | -1.0 to 1.0°C |  |
| HS        | 0             |  |
| DHW       | ~ 3           |  |

**Regional Current Bleaching Status**

Most of the Caribbean region is currently under Coral Bleaching “**WATCH**”. However, patches of elevated stress due to warmer SSTs exist in isolated areas in waters near the borders of northern South America and east of the southern Caribbean. The current status for these isolated patches is either “**Warning or Alert Level 1**”.

The Caribbean Sea from Belize to Panama is also under Coral Bleaching “**Watch**” while further north, from the Florida Keys to most of the Bahamas are experiencing cooler SSTs and are under **NO STRESS**.

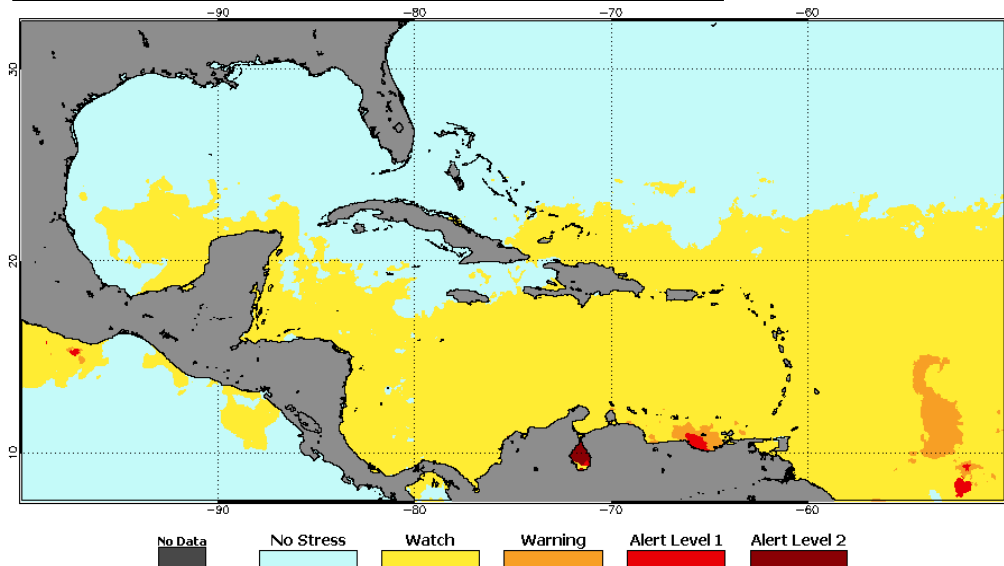


Figure 2. NOAA—Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Bleaching Alert Area 7day Max

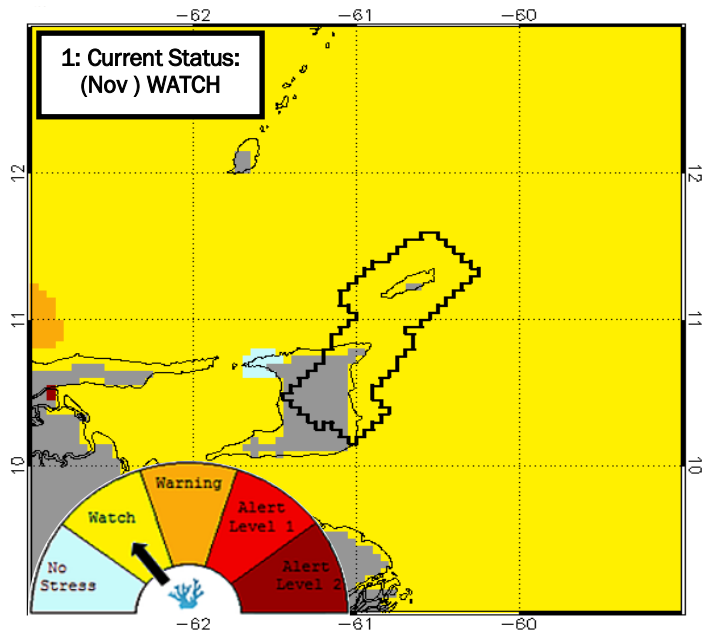
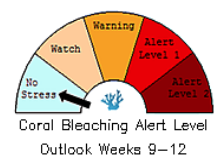
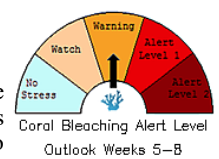
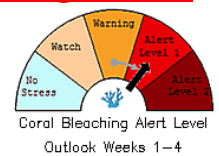


Fig 1: NOAA-CRW Trinidad & Tobago Bleaching Alert Area

**Trinidad and Tobago Coral Bleaching Outlook**

Although cooling is observed in northwest Trinidad, SSTs are likely to warm within 1-4 weeks, resulting in increased thermal stress. Consequently, **Trinidad and Tobago’s Bleaching Alert Status is predicted to increase to ALERT LEVEL 1.**

In 5-8 weeks, SSTs are likely to decrease, and the bleaching alert level is likely to be reduced to **WARNING LEVEL**. Temperatures are expected to further decrease within 9-12 weeks, therefore stress on corals is expected to be reduced significantly, leading to **NO STRESS**.



**RESOURCES:**

1. NOAA. (2018, 10 30). *5 km Regional Virtual Stations (Version 3)*. Retrieved 10 31, 2018, from Coral Reef Watch: <https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/map.php>
2. NOAA. (2018, 10 30). *Caribbean 90% Four-Month Coral Bleaching Outlook (Version 5, released on 27 March 2018, updated weekly)*. Retrieved 10 31, 2018 from Coral Reef Watch: [https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleachingoutlook\\_cfs/current\\_image/cur\\_cfsv2\\_outlook-4mon\\_v5\\_90pct\\_caribbean.gif](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleachingoutlook_cfs/current_image/cur_cfsv2_outlook-4mon_v5_90pct_caribbean.gif)
3. NOAA. (2018, 10 30). *Trinidad and Tobago 5-km Bleaching Heat Stress Gauges (Version 3)*. Retrieved 10 31, 2018, from Coral Reef Watch: [https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/trinidad\\_tobago.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/trinidad_tobago.php)

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