



# Mote Marine Laboratory / Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

## Coral Bleaching Early Warning Network

### Current Conditions Report #20250813



Updated August 13, 2025

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

#### NOAA Coral Reef Watch Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook August 13, 2025 (experimental)

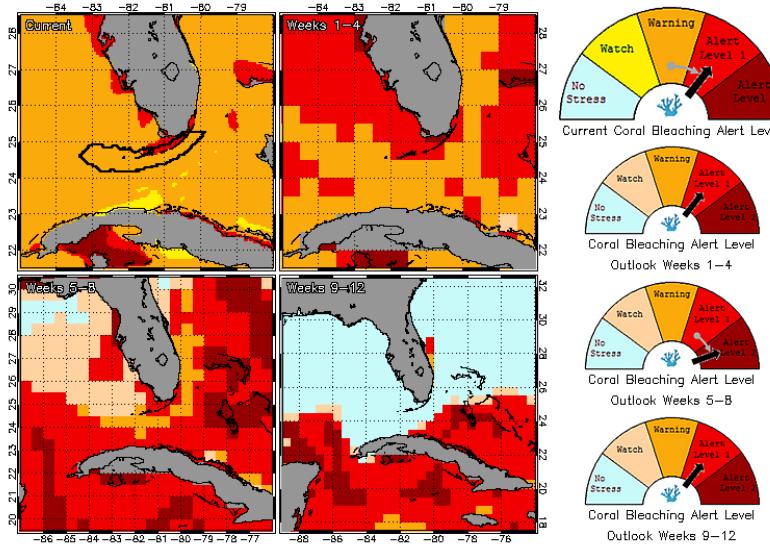


Figure 1. NOAA's 5 km Experimental Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook Areas through October 2025. Updated August 13, 2025.  
[http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida\\_keys.php](http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida_keys.php)

#### Weather and Sea Temperatures

According to the current NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) experimental 5-kilometer (km) Satellite Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Area, most areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary are under a “Bleaching Alert Level 1”, which means there is a reef-wide risk of bleaching and potential for more bleaching warnings and alerts if sea temperatures continue to be elevated in the next few weeks (Fig. 1).

Recent remote sensing analysis by NOAA's CRW program indicates that most areas of the Florida Keys region are currently experiencing 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 sea surface temperatures are currently elevated above normal in the Florida Keys. Similarly, NOAA's experimental 5 km Degree Heating Weeks (DHW) map (Fig. 3), which illustrates how much heat stress has built up over the past 12 weeks, indicates accumulating temperature stress is evident in the Florida Keys region. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Aqualink, which provides near real time *in-situ* wind data at Mote's Sand Key Coral Nursery, as well as Aqualink *in-situ* temperature data confirm that temperatures remain above historical maximums, with all areas above 30°C (Fig. 4). Mote Marine Laboratory will continue to monitor the NOAA HotSpot maps, DHW maps, and Aqualink sea temperature data from FKNMS monitoring stations on a weekly basis for the remainder of the bleaching season.

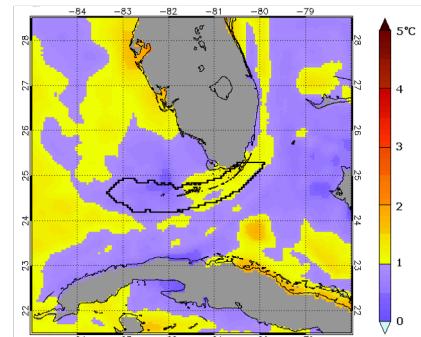


Figure 2. NOAA's Experimental 5km Coral Bleaching HotSpot Map for Florida August 13, 2025.  
[NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website](http://NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website)

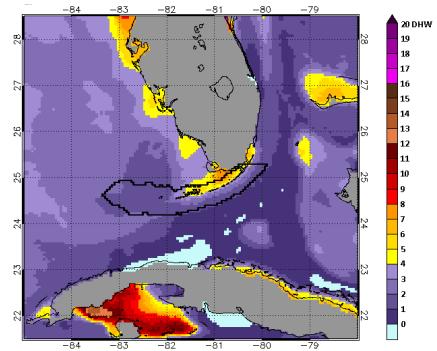


Figure 3. NOAA's Experimental 5km Degree Heating Weeks Map for Florida August 13, 2025.  
[NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website](http://NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website)

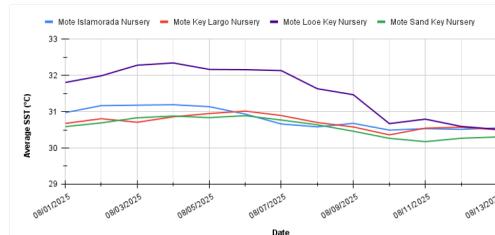


Figure 4. *in-situ* sea temperature from Aqualink monitoring stations (August 1-13, 2025).

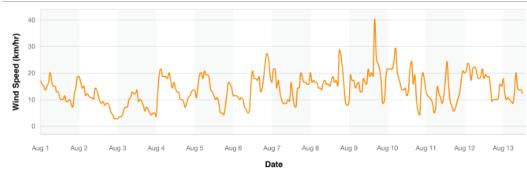


Figure 5. Wind speed data from Aqualink's Sand Key Mote Coral Nursery monitoring station (August 1-13, 2025).



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## Current Coral Conditions

A total of 19 BleachWatch observer reports were received during the first two weeks of August (Fig. 6), with 15 reports indicating colonies exhibiting signs of paling or partial bleaching (Fig. 8). The remaining 4 reports indicated no significant signs of coral bleaching were observed.

At those sites where paling/bleaching was noted, the overall percentage of corals exhibiting signs of stress was 11-30% and majority of paling/partial bleaching observations consisted of isolated colonies of Smooth Star Coral (*Solenastrea bournoni*) (Fig 7) and Finger Coral (*Porites porites*) (Fig. 8), and Encrusting/Mound/Boulder corals (*Orbicella faveolata*). Other observations included paling and bleaching of *palythoa spp*, and several reports of coral disease, mainly tissue loss, and Black Band disease.



Photo: Kerri Marinino-Cuva  
LCARE



Photo: Caely Hickson Long  
LCARE

Figure 7. Bleached white *Solenastrea bournoni* (SBOU), Rocky Top on 8/9/2025.

Figure 8. Partial Bleaching *Porites porites* at Captain Arnos on 8/7/2025.

Continued field observations are needed as widespread coral bleaching could potentially develop if environmental conditions continue to be favorable. Please remember to report even if there is no bleaching at your site. To submit an observation on coral conditions, or for more information on the Florida Keys BleachWatch program, please go to [www.mote.org/bleachwatch](http://www.mote.org/bleachwatch).

## BleachWatch reports for August 1-13, 2025



Figure 9. Overview of BleachWatch reports from August 1-13, 2025.

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

Email: [bleachwatch@mote.org](mailto:bleachwatch@mote.org)  
<http://www.mote.org/bleachwatch>

