Mote Marine Laboratory / Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

# Coral Bleaching Early Warning Network

## Current Conditions Report #20260626

**Updated June 26, 2026**

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

**NOAA Coral Reef Watch Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook June 24, 2026 (experimental)**

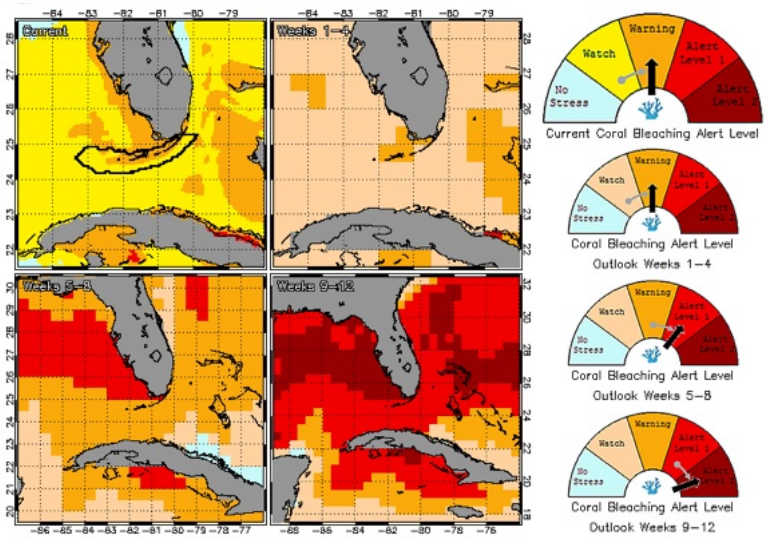


Figure 1. NOAA's 5 km Experimental Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook Areas through August 2026. Updated June 24, 2026. http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida_keys.php

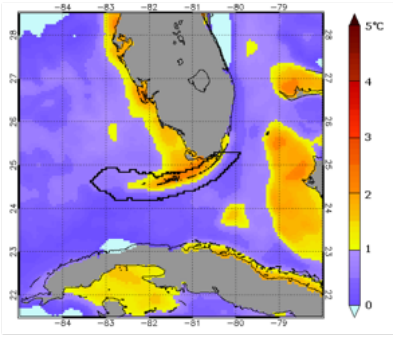


Figure 2. NOAA's Experimental 5km Coral Bleaching HotSpot Map for Florida June 24, 2026.
NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website

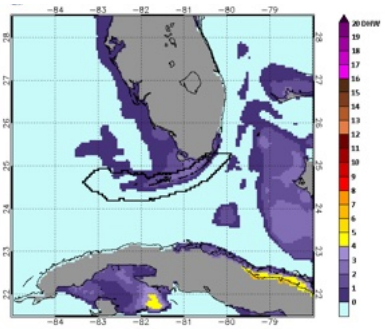


Figure 3. NOAA's Experimental 5km Degree Heating Weeks Map for Florida June 24, 2026.
NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website

## 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, there is currently a **bleaching warning** for all the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with potential for bleaching alerts Level 1 and 2 if sea temperatures continue to increase in the next few weeks. (Fig. 1).

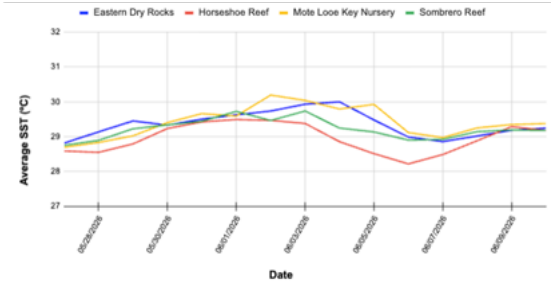


Figure 4. *in-situ* sea temperature from Aqualink monitoring stations (May 27-June 26, 2026).


Figure 5. Wind speed data from Aqualink's Sand Key Mote Coral Nursery monitoring station (May 27-June 26, 2026).

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, which illustrates how much heat stress has built up over the past 12 weeks (Fig.3), 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 have been steadily increasing over the past month, with Mote's Looe Key nursery buoy breaching the bleaching threshold of 30.5°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.

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## Current Coral Conditions


Figure 7. Paling *Agaricia lamarcki* (AAGA), Conch Wall Reef

A total of 36 BleachWatch observer reports have been received since May 27, 2026 (Fig. 6). 14 of those reports indicated no bleaching observed, with the remaining 22 reports reporting bleaching, mostly in the southern Florida Keys (Fig. 8). At those sites where paling/bleaching was noted, the overall percentage of corals exhibiting signs of stress was 1-10%, and paling/partial bleaching observations consisted of colonies of boulder and brain coral species, including Lamarck's Sheet Coral (*Agarcia lamarcki*) (Fig 7.). Other observations included paling and bleaching of *gorgonians and palythoa,* and several reports of coral disease, including tissue loss and yellow band disease.

As bleaching season continues, BleachWatch observers are encouraged to continue submitting your coral reef observations after every visit to the reef, **even if NO bleaching was observed.** Frequent coral condition observations from throughout the Florida Keys are needed for the remainder of the summer season.

If you know of anyone interested in becoming an observer, online training is available year-round on www.mote.org/bleachwatch .

### BleachWatch reports for May 27-June 26, 2026


Figure 6. Overview of BleachWatch reports from May 27-June 26, 2026.

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

Email: bleachwatch@mote.org
http://www.mote.org/bleachwatch

**Funding Provided By:**