



Mote Marine Laboratory / Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Coral Bleaching Early Warning Network

Current Conditions Report #20260713



Updated July 13, 2026

Summary: Based on climate predictions, current conditions, and field observations, the threat for mass coral bleaching within the FKNMS is currently **ALERT LEVEL 1**.

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook July 11, 2026 (experimental)

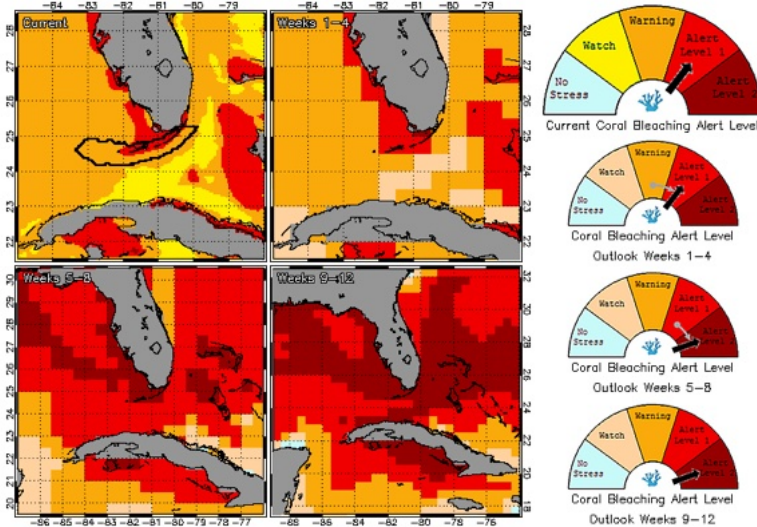


Figure 1. NOAA's 5 km Experimental Current and 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Alert Outlook Areas through August 2026. Updated July 11, 2026. http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida_keys.php

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.

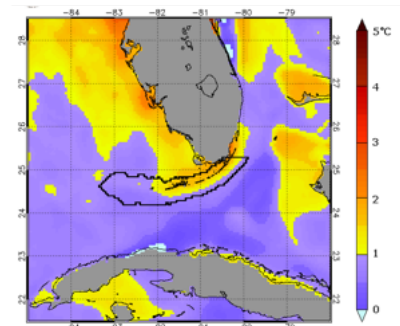


Figure 2. NOAA's Experimental 5km Coral Bleaching HotSpot Map for Florida July 11, 2026. [NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website](http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida_keys.php)

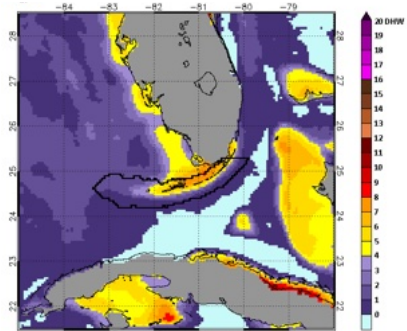


Figure 3. NOAA's Experimental 5km Degree Heating Weeks Map for Florida July 11, 2026. [NOAA Coral Reef Watch Website](http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/vs/gauges/florida_keys.php)

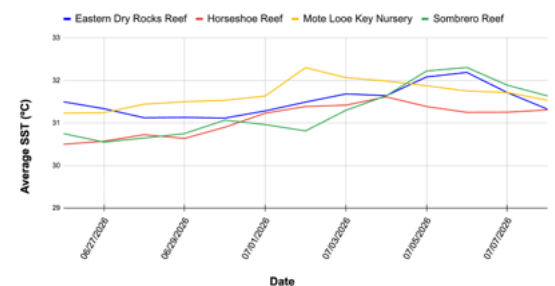


Figure 4. *in-situ* sea temperature from Aqualink monitoring stations (June 26-July 8, 2026).



Figure 5. Wind speed data from Aqualink's Sand Key Mote Coral Nursery monitoring station (June 26-July 8, 2026).



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Current Coral Conditions

A total of 31 BleachWatch observer reports have been received since June 26, 2026, all of which reported some level of bleaching on the reported sites (Fig. 6). At sites with bleaching reported, the overall percentage of corals exhibiting signs of stress was averaging 11-30%, and paling/partial bleaching observations consisted of isolated colonies of star/bouldering/encrusting species and branching coral species, including Boulder Star Coral (*Orbicella annularis*) (Fig 7.).



Figure 7. Upper Surface Paling on *Orbicella annularis* (OANN), Newfound Harbor SPA

Other observations included paling and bleaching of *gorgonians* and *palythoa*, and several reports of coral disease, mainly tissue loss.

As bleaching season escalates, 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, an online training is available year-round on www.mote.org/bleachwatch.

BleachWatch reports for June 26 - July 13, 2026

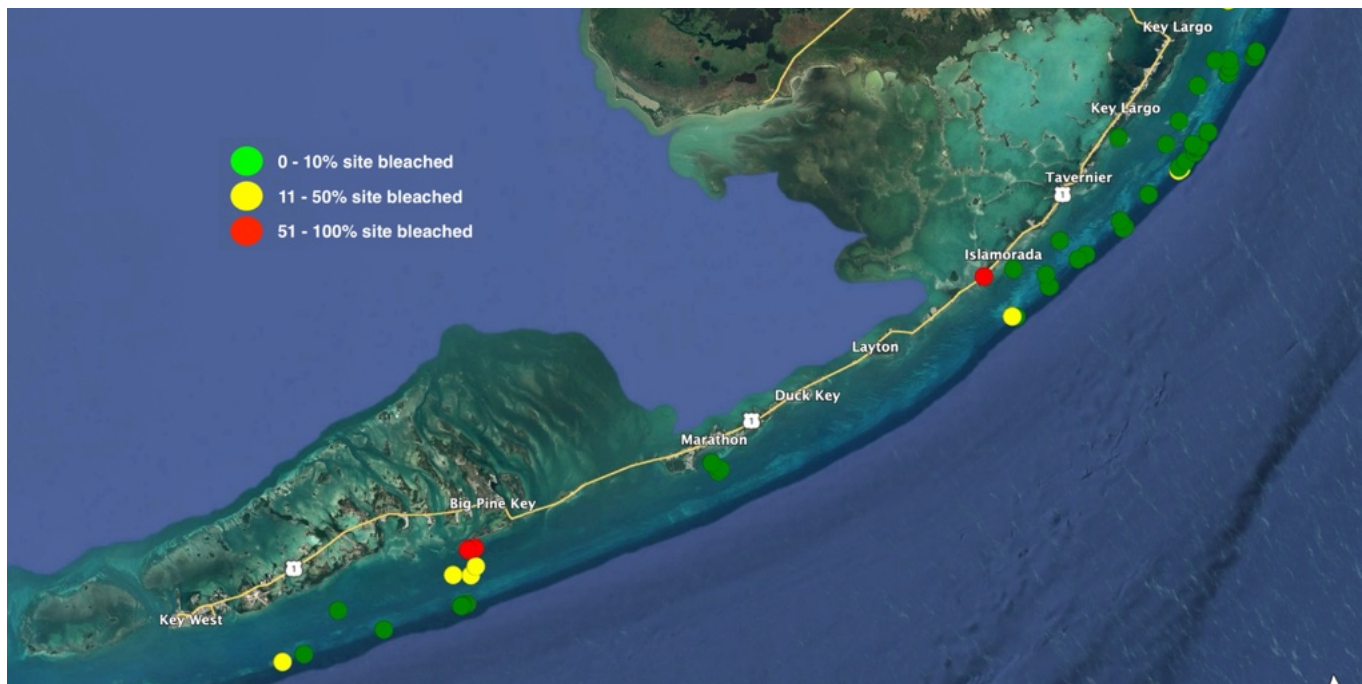


Figure 6. Overview of BleachWatch reports from June 26 - July 13, 2026.

**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:

