NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®
People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance

Sea Surface Temperature Trends and Recent Coral Bleaching Events at Top Five Dive and Snorkel Destinations for Americans

Location	Sea Surface Temperature Trend 1985-2000	Recent Bleaching Events	Prognosis for the Future
Florida Keys	+ 0.3 degrees C	Scattered bleaching in inshore waters in early 1997, additional extensive bleaching in 1998. Emerging diseases. Some mortality.	Good to poor. Public support for management increasing, but little recovery so far.
Bahamas	+ 0.014 degrees C	Extensive bleaching in 1998, with over 60% of some corals bleached.	Good to fair. Pressures increasing. Threatened by pollution, coral disease, anchor damage, destructive fishing. Bleaching threat.
Cozumel	+0.011 degrees C	Major bleaching events in 1989 and 1995, recent damage from bleaching and Hurricane Mitch.	Increasing pollution and fishing pressures in region. Bleaching threat.
U.S./British Virgin Islands	+ 0.38 degrees C	Major bleaching in 1987, 1990, and again in 1998. At least 50% of colonies of numerous species affected in some areas.	Good to poor. Previous bleaching events and other stressors have increased vulnerability.
Puerto Rico	+ 0.35 degrees C	Near-shore reefs have suffered significant degradation from coastal development and related problems. Bleaching, diseases, storm damage are added problems.	Good to poor. Growing efforts to better understand, protect, and manage the reefs, but significantly more is needed.
	Overall mean sea surface temperature trend. Source: Preliminary data from NOAA's Coral Reef Watch	Source: Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2002.	Source: Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, "Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2002." Based on assessment of country reports and the level of political will for conservation in the particular region.

Other parts of the world have seen similar trends, from southeast Asia to the Great Barrier Reef.