



SEAFAN BleachWatch Program

CURRENT CONDITIONS REPORT #20251231
DECEMBER 2025



Summary: Based on climate predictions, current conditions and field observations, the risk of thermal stress that causes coral bleaching in the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve from Miami-Dade to Martin counties is LOW.

The 2025 Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) BleachWatch season has officially come to an end, with a total of 106 reports submitted by BleachWatch Observers across [Florida's Coral Reef](#). That total includes 99 reports from the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve (Coral AP), with the remaining seven reports coming from Monroe County. Of the reports for the Coral AP, there are 87 documented signs of bleaching and 31 confirmed observations of disease on stony corals.

At sites within the Coral AP where paling, partial or full bleaching was observed, the overall percentage of coral exhibiting signs of thermal stress ranged from 1-100%, **with most sites reporting between 1% and 10%**. Only one site recorded bleaching exceeding 75%. At sites where disease was observed, the percentage of coral showing signs of infection ranged from 1% to 10%, with most reports indicating no disease observed (**Figure 1**).

Overall Percentage of Live Coral Bleached and Diseased Across a Site

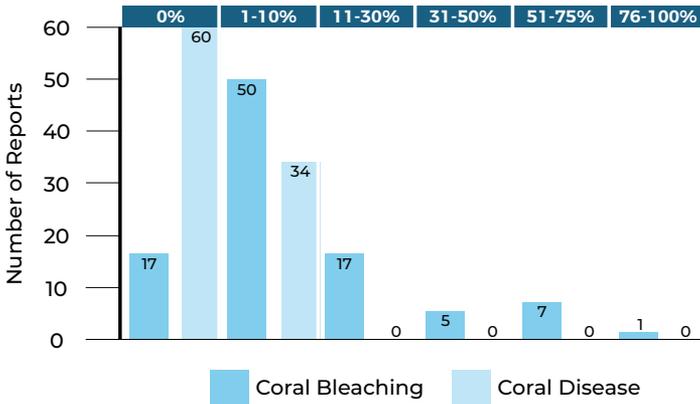


Figure 1. Number of BleachWatch reports received in 2025 indicating the overall percentage of live coral bleached and diseased across a site.





SEAFAN BleachWatch Observers reported that coral bleaching in 2025 primarily affected brain, branching and boulder coral colonies, with additional reports noting bleaching on plate, fleshy and flowering coral colonies. Bleaching was also observed on gorgonians (soft corals), *Palythoa* spp. and fire coral.

Observers also documented signs of coral disease, which primarily impacted brain, branching and boulder coral colonies, with some reports indicating disease on fleshy and plate coral colonies. The primary diseases observed were tissue loss diseases and black band disease. Signs of predation were also noted on several coral species.

The 2025 season was highly successful for the SEAFAN BleachWatch Program. This year, nine new BleachWatch instructors joined the network and have been working directly with local divers to educate them on monitoring bleaching and disease on coral reefs. With over 100 reports submitted and 127 new observers trained through 17 classes, the [DEP Coral Reef Conservation Program](#) extends its gratitude to the network for its significant contribution to monitoring critical coral reef habitat.

BleachWatch reports have been instrumental in aiding resource management by helping to assess the status of the reef, identifying areas affected by bleaching and disease and providing insights into reef recovery. Reports documenting no bleaching observed are just as important as reports of bleaching events, as these data are critical for accurately tracking reef health over time.

Coral AP staff worked in conjunction with the BleachWatch Network throughout the summer season to also assess the status of the reef as part of the [Disturbance Response Monitoring](#) efforts led by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coral AP staff participated in monitoring from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 and completed assessments at 29 sites in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

Given current environmental conditions, significant coral bleaching in the Coral AP and surrounding waters is highly unlikely to continue at this time. Therefore, this will be the final Current Conditions report for 2025. SEAFAN encourages the BleachWatch Observer Network to [submit reports](#) on coral bleaching and disease after every dive on the reef, including reports of "No Bleaching" and "No Disease." Frequent observer reports, even of no bleaching, are critical for tracking conditions on the reef.





For information about National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite heat stress products, please visit [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](https://www.noaa.gov/coral-reef-watch) or email CoralReefWatch@NOAA.gov. For information about [SEAFAN BleachWatch](https://www.seafan.org), please email Coral@FloridaDEP.gov.

A big thank you to all BleachWatch Observers for making the 2025 season a success! Be sure to check out [FloridaAquaticPreserves.org](https://www.floridaaquaticpreserves.org) to learn more.

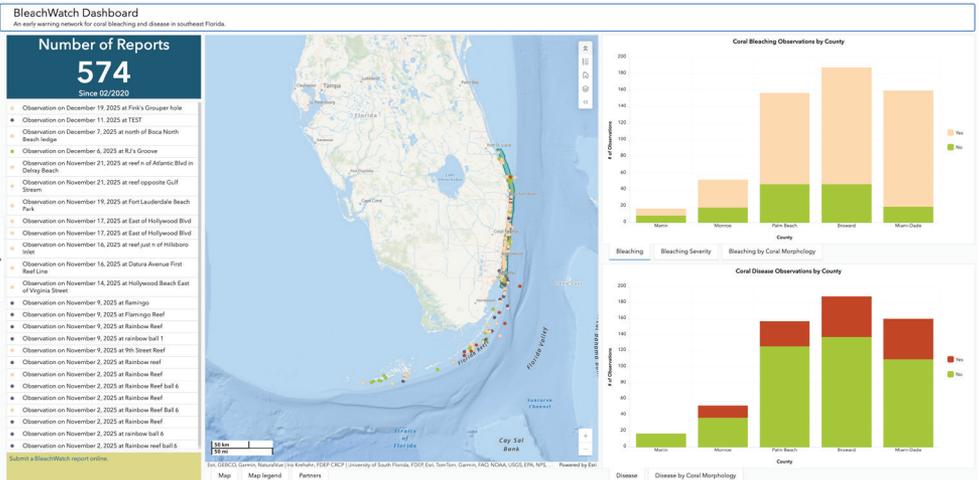


Figure 2. Map showing the distribution of submitted coral bleaching and disease reports on the BleachWatch Dashboard.

Offer your feedback on the BleachWatch Program through our [survey](#). [Learn more about the current conditions on coral reefs in the Florida Keys.](#)

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