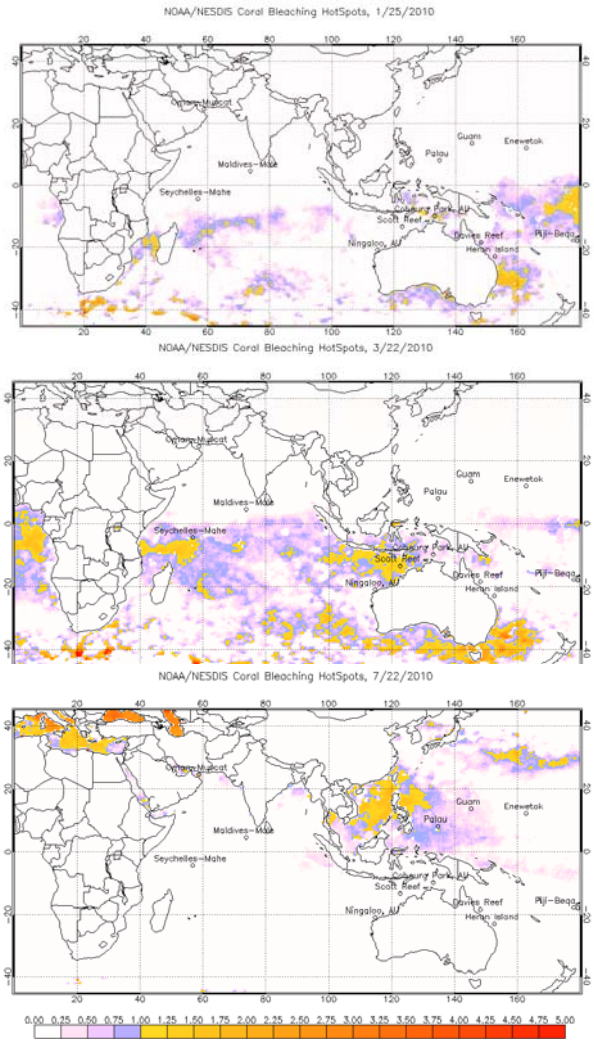
The hot sea !!!

This year the sea is exceptionally hot. NOAA hot spot showed that the temperature in South Indonesia was started raising up above average since February, peaking up in March, and fading off in June. The heat now is moving up North towards The Philippines, Palau, and Guam.



The HotSpot value of 1.0 °C (the sea surface temperature is currently 1.0 °Cwarmer than the highest climatological monthly mean SST for that location) is a threshold for thermal stress leading to coral bleaching. To highlight this threshold, HotSpot values below 1.0 °C are shown in purple, and HotSpots of 1.0 °C or greater range from yellow to red. Global images and data sets are at 0.5-degree (50-km) resolution, and are updated twice-weekly. http://www.osdpd.noaa.gov/ml/ocean/cb/hotspots.html

This year, bleaching is reported happening from Madagascar to Andaman Sea. In Indonesia, about 20 locations reported a mass bleaching event. In Sabang and East Aceh, up to 90% bleaching were reported. Bali this year has a mild-medium bleaching (up to 40% at Lypah Bay, Amed) It is predicted that by 2020, coral reefs in many parts of the world may suffer bleaching and mortality every year (Hoegh-Guldberg 1999).

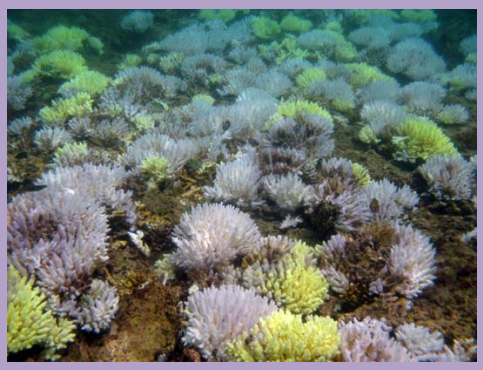
Many famous diving sites in Maldives, Thailand, and Malaysia reported severe bleaching, some up until 100% bleaching. The government in Malaysia even already closed some sites in Tioman and Redang for divers to reduce stress.

Bleaching at Racahi Yai, Thailand. Photo by Dr. Mark Eakin

Bleached Acropora table in Lypah bay, Amed, photo by: Jensi Sartin, RCFI

Bleaching in other places In Indonesia

Sabang, July 2010. Photo by Epon, WCS



Padang, June 2010. Photo by Yasser Arafat, Yayasan Minang Bahari

Spermonde, May 2010. Photo by Muhajir MacLauda

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