



Photo: G.P. Schmahl, NOAA Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

# Coral Bleaching Webinar Resources

## Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Education

<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/education>

Education at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary comes in many shapes and sizes. From students and teachers to recreational divers and fishers, the sanctuary delivers a message of conservation, appreciation and action.

### Coral Basics

<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/education/coralbasics.html>

Hard corals are the building blocks of coral reefs, and the mainstay of the coral cap at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Soft corals are completely missing from this area of the sanctuary.

### Coral Bleaching

<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/education/bleaching.html>

Coral bleaching describes a situation in which corals appear to turn white. This happens when coral polyps expel their symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) as the result of some kind of stress event. Without the algae, the coral polyps are mostly clear, allowing you to see through to their white skeletons beneath. This results in a bleached appearance.

## NOAA's Ocean Service Coral Reef Education

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/corals/welcome.html>

These resources provide information, online data, and activities about the biology of the coral organism, types and distribution of coral; the populations, habitats, and dynamics of coral ecosystems; and the monitoring and conservation of coral ecosystems.

### Coral Bleaching Infographic

[https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/coral\\_bleach.html](https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/coral_bleach.html)

When corals are stressed by changes in conditions such as temperature, light, or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white.