

U.S. CORAL REEFS ARE IN FAIR CONDITION, BUT ARE VULNERABLE AND DECLINING

VERY GOOD

CRITICAL



What do the scores mean?

The colors below designate the condition of indicators used to measure the overall health of U.S. coral reefs (See basin wheels to the right). U.S. coral reefs were scored based on indicators within four major themes: **Corals & Algae** make up the base of the coral reef ecosystem, providing food and shelter for fish and other reef creatures; **Fish** are key to healthy reefs, coastal economies, and the livelihoods of local communities; **Climate**, especially temperature and ocean chemistry, indicate the level of environmental stress to the reef (changing climate conditions can vary on both regional and local levels); **Human Connections** to coral reefs helps gauge local support for reef management, conservation, and community engagement.

90–100% Very Good

All or almost all indicators meet reference values. Conditions in these locations are unimpacted, or minimally impacted or have not declined. Human connections are very high.

80–89% Good

Most indicators meet reference values. Conditions in these locations are lightly impacted or have lightly declined. Human connections are high.

70–79% Fair

Some indicators meet reference values. Conditions in these locations are moderately impacted or have declined moderately. Human connections are moderate.

60–69% Impaired

Few indicators meet reference values. Conditions in these locations are very impacted or have declined considerably. Human connections are lacking.

0–59% Critical

Very few or no indicators meet reference values. Conditions in these locations are severely impacted or have declined substantially. Human connections are severely lacking.