

2016

Coral spawning predictions

Note that 2016 is characterized by a strong El Nino resulting in unusual temperature regimes that could affect spawning times
Acropora palmata was not observed spawning in August 2015 though the full moon was much earlier in the month than in 2016

		20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug
Stony corals that spawn in August									
<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Elkhorn Coral	could happen any of these days (up to day 12) between 2100-2200, this species is highly unpredictable							
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Staghorn Coral	??	1900-2230	1900-2230	??	??			
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	Pilar Coral	2000-2100	2000-2100	2000-2100	??				
Days after full moon		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

		18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep
Stony corals that spawn in September OR October									
October									
<i>Diploria spp.</i>	Brain corals					??	2215-2330	2215-2330	??
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	Pilar Coral	2000-2100	2000-2100	2000-2100					
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i>	Boulder brain coral						1900-2015	1900-2015	
<i>Montastrea cavernosa</i>	Large-cup Star Coral				??	1845-2200	1845-2200	??	
<i>Montastrea annularis complex</i>	Star Corals				2130-2230	2130-2230	2130-2230	??	
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i>	Flower Coral				??	2115-0000	2115-0000	2115-0000	2115-0000
<i>Madracis senaria</i>	Ten-ray Star Coral		all night	all night	all night	all night	all night	all night	all night
<i>Agaricia humilis/A. agaricites</i>	Lettuce Coral		all night	all night	all night	all night	all night	all night	all night
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i>	Blushing Star Coral				??	2200-2300	2200-2300	2200-2300	??
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i>	Massive starlet Coral				2205-2300	2205-2300	2205-2300		
Days after full moon		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

2. Sea-urchins, -stars, -cucumbers that spawn in September or October (see dates above)									
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Black Sea-urchin	1200 till around 2100							
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber	1200 till around 1800, every afternoon							
Ophiuroidea	Brittle stars/serpent stars	1930-2300, every night							
3. Gorgonians that spawn in September or October (see dates above)									
<i>Plexaura</i>	Sea Rods	starting 1900, every day							
4. Worms that spawn in September or October (see dates above)									
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm	1200 till around 1900, every afternoon							
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm	2100-2230, every day							
5. Sponges that spawn in September or October (see dates above)									
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>	Do-not-touch-me Sponge	1400-1700	1400-1700	1400-1700	??				

To observe spawning:
 make multiple dives
 dive in a place with high coral cover
 do not dive deeper than 50ft to maximize bottom time
 use a moderately bright dive light

* Question marks indicate there may or may not be spawning on that night, unpredictable
 Note that the times listed in this table are predictions based on last year's observations. They do not guarantee that spawning occurs during this times.
 Please report all spawning observations (i.e. species, time and general observations) to m.vermeij@carmabi.org

