

2023

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

Spring Corals

NAFM	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	10	11	12	13
DATE	Sat 15-Apr	Sun 16-Apr	Mon 17-Apr	Tue 18-Apr	Mon 15-May	Tue 16-May	Wed 17-May	Thu 18-May	Tue 15-Jun	Wed 16-Jun	Thu 17-Jun	Fri 18-Jun
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name											
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	18:47	18:47	18:47	18:48	18:52	18:52	18:53	18:52	18:52	18:53	18:53
*Monthly "DIAB" spawning has been seen from April to October in Curaçao, Bonaire, DR, and Mexico. Does this occur across the entire region? New observations are encouraged!												

July Corals**

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Mon 3-Jul	Tue 4-Jul	Wed 5-Jul	Thu 6-Jul	Fri 7-Jul	Sat 8-Jul	Sun 9-Jul	Mon 10-Jul	Tue 11-Jul	Wed 12-Jul	Thu 13-Jul	Fri 14-Jul	Sat 15-Jul	Sun 16-Jul
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name													
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)														
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)														
<i>Dendrogya cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)														
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)														
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150-190 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)														
**How early does "fall" spawning begin? To help improve future predictions, we welcome new Jul/Aug observations this year, especially if seawater temperatures are unusually warm.														

August Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Tue 1-Aug	Wed 2-Aug	Thu 3-Aug	Fri 4-Aug	Sat 5-Aug	Sun 6-Aug	Mon 7-Aug	Tue 8-Aug	Wed 9-Aug	Thu 10-Aug	Fri 11-Aug	Sat 12-Aug	Sun 13-Aug	Mon 14-Aug
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name													
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	19:01	19:01	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)														
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)														
<i>Dendrogya cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)														
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)														
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)														
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> *** (150-190 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)														
***Staghorn coral spawning can be difficult to observe in our region - to help better predict its future behavior, we are seeking new observations of this critically-endangered species in Aug/Sept this year.														

September Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Wed 30-Aug	Thu 31-Aug	Fri 1-Sep	Sat 2-Sep	Sun 3-Sep	Mon 4-Sep	Tue 5-Sep	Wed 6-Sep	Thu 7-Sep	Fri 8-Sep	Sat 9-Sep	Sun 10-Sep	Mon 11-Sep	Tue 12-Sep
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name													
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	18:47	18:46	18:46	18:45	18:44	18:44	18:43	18:43	18:42	18:42	18:41	18:40	18:39
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)														
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)														
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90-150 MAS)														
<i>Dendrogya cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)														
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)														
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)														
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> *** (150-190 MAS)														
<i>Stephanocoenia interseta</i> (160-265 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)														
<i>Siderastrea sidera</i> (195-280 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)														
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)														
<i>Agarcia humilis/Agarcia agaricites</i> (All night)														

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Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean, cont'd

October Corals

NAFM	0****	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Fri 29-Sep	Sat 30-Sep	Sun 1-Oct	Mon 2-Oct	Tue 3-Oct	Wed 4-Oct	Thu 5-Oct	Fri 6-Oct	Sat 7-Oct	Sun 8-Oct	Mon 9-Oct	Tue 10-Oct	Wed 11-Oct	Thu 12-Oct
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name													
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	18:27	18:26	18:25	18:25	18:24	18:23	18:23	18:23	18:22	18:22	18:21	18:20	18:19
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)														
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)														
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90-150 MAS)														
<i>Dendrogya cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)														
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)														
<i>Stephanocoenia interseta</i> (160-265 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)														
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)														
<i>Siderastrea sidera</i> (195-280 MAS)														
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)														
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)														
<i>Agarcia humilis/Agarcia agaricites</i> (All night)														

November Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Sat 28-Oct	Sun 29-Oct	Mon 30-Oct	Tue 31-Oct	Wed 1-Nov	Thu 2-Nov	Fri 3-Nov	Sat 4-Nov	Sun 5-Nov	Mon 6-Nov	Tue 7-Nov	Wed 8-Nov	Thu 9-Nov	Fri 10-Nov
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name													
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS-10 MAS)	SUNSET	18:11	18:11	18:10	18:10	18:10	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:07
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)														
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)														
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)														

Fall Sponges, Stars, Gorgs, and More

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	1-Aug 29-Sep	2-Aug 30-Sep	3-Aug 1-Oct	4-Aug 2-Oct	5-Aug 3-Oct	6-Aug 4-Oct	7-Aug 5-Oct	8-Aug 6-Oct	9-Aug 7-Oct	10-Aug 8-Oct	11-Aug 9-Oct	12-Aug 10-Oct	13-Aug 11-Oct	14-Aug 12-Oct
Scientific name	Common Name													
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>														
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>														
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>														
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>														
<i>Plexaura</i> , <i>Pseudoplexaura</i> , <i>Eunicia</i>														
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>														
<i>Ophiuroidea</i>														
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.														
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>														

Abbreviations and Colors

- NAFM:** Nights After the Full Moon
- MBS:** Minutes Before Sunset
- MAS:** Minutes After Sunset
- Pale Blue:** Spawning may be possible but data are sparse: Please help us make new discoveries by diving these dates
- Pale Yellow:** Spawning is possible: Spawning has been observed on these dates
- Bright Orange:** Spawning is likely: Spawning is often observed on these dates
- Red:** Spawning is very likely: Spawning is reliably observed on these dates

Tips for Observers

- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive in a place with high coral cover
- Enter the water well before predicted times
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize dive time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water column for clouds of spawn

Notes and Thanks

- Spawning predictions are based on previous observations, but spawning is never guaranteed, especially in a changing climate. When in doubt, go for a dive!
- Spawning times vary based on your local sunset times; see www.timeanddate.com
- Your discoveries help coral research and conservation. Please send your observations (species, male/female, date, time, site, photos if possible) to carmablog@gmail.com, or post to the Coral Spawning Research Facebook page. To contribute to the Coral Restoration Consortium spawning database, contact v.chamberland@secure.org.
- Special thanks to everyone who contributed their observations over the past 30 years.
- Thank you to Scuba Diving Magazine for featuring us in the Jan/Feb 2023 issue!
- The Curacao team wishes you a safe and productive 2023 spawning season!
- Suggested Citation: KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007-2023." CARMABI, Curacao

