

# Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

# 2025

Dear spawning community, wow, 2024 was rough. Corals in our region suffered from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease plus the hottest year on record. By fall spawning season, surviving corals were too stressed to spawn and much of the Caribbean saw nearly complete spawning failure. But this year, the water is cooler and surviving corals are spawning. We do suggest watching for an extra month if possible, because early full moons and cooler water may delay spawning as corals recover/recalibrate. Wishing a prolific spawn to all!

## Spring Corals

Spring Corals		NAFM	10	11	12	13					10	11	12	13					10	11	12	13
		DATE	Tue 22-Apr	Wed 23-Apr	Thu 24-Apr	Fri 25-Apr					Thu 22-May	Fri 23-May	Sat 24-May	Sun 25-May					Sat 21-Jun	Sun 22-Jun	Mon 23-Jun	Tue 24-Jun
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	6:48 PM	6:48 PM	6:48 PM	6:48 PM				6:54 PM	6:54 PM	6:55 PM	6:55 PM					7:02 PM	7:02 PM	7:03 PM	7:03 PM	
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral			5:38–6:58 PM							5:43–7:03 PM								5:51–7:11 PM			

## July Corals

July Corals	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	Thu 10-Jul	Fri 11-Jul	Sat 12-Jul	Sun 13-Jul	Mon 14-Jul	Tue 15-Jul	Wed 16-Jul	Thu 17-Jul	Fri 18-Jul	Sat 19-Jul	Sun 20-Jul	Mon 21-Jul	Tue 22-Jul	Wed 23-Jul
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:03 PM	7:03 PM
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral													5:54–7:14 PM	
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					7:19–10:49 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral							7:29–8:59 PM							
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral							7:34–8:34 PM							
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:34–9:44 PM											
Acropora palmata (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			9:24–10:14 PM (Spawning is possible as early as July 8; this species varies its spawning dates in our region)											
Acropora cervicornis (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral			9:34–10:14 PM (Spawning is possible as early as July 8)											
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral							10:09–11:14 PM					With early full moons and cooler waters, Jul/Aug corals may shift toward Aug/Sept		
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral							10:09–11:19 PM							
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral							10:24–11:34 PM							

With early full moons and cooler waters, Jul/Aug corals may shift toward Aug/Sept

## August Corals

August Corals	NAFM*	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	DATE	Sat 9-Aug	Sun 10-Aug	Mon 11-Aug	Tue 12-Aug	Wed 13-Aug	Thu 14-Aug	Fri 15-Aug	Sat 16-Aug	Sun 17-Aug	Mon 18-Aug	Tue 19-Aug	Wed 20-Aug	Thu 21-Aug	Fri 22-Aug	
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	6:58 PM	6:57 PM	6:57 PM	6:57 PM	6:56 PM	6:56 PM	6:55 PM	6:55 PM	6:54 PM	6:54 PM	6:53 PM	6:52 PM	6:52 PM	6:51 PM
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral													5:46–7:06 PM		
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					7:12–10:42 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)										
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral						7:20–8:50 PM									
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral							7:25–8:25 PM (Peak in first 30 min)								
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:28–9:38 PM												
Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral			8:23–9:38 PM (Understudied in August but spawns for multiple weeks in Sept-Oct; please help us explore this window!)												
Acropora palmata (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			9:18–10:08 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Aug 6; this species varies its spawning dates in our region)												
Acropora cervicornis (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral			9:28–10:08 PM (As early as Aug 6)												
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral						10:01–11:06 PM									
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral						10:01–11:11 PM									
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						10:15–11:25 PM									

\*FM is very early on Aug 9: we suggest starting dives a day earlier than usual

# Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

## September Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Sun 7-Sep	Mon 8-Sep	Tue 9-Sep	Wed 10-Sep	Thu 11-Sep	Fri 12-Sep	Sat 13-Sep	Sun 14-Sep	Mon 15-Sep	Tue 16-Sep	Wed 17-Sep	Thu 18-Sep	Fri 19-Sep	Sat 20-Sep
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:41 PM	6:41 PM	6:40 PM	6:39 PM	6:39 PM	6:38 PM	6:37 PM	6:37 PM	6:36 PM	6:35 PM	6:34 PM	6:34 PM	6:33 PM	6:32 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:48–7:48 PM (Expected nightly to at least Sept 27: new observations welcome any date)							5:28–6:48 PM	
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:54–10:24 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								7:02–8:32 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								7:07–8:07 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:53–11:08 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								8:09–9:09 PM							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:11–9:21 PM												
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral							8:06–9:21 PM (Spawns from at least mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations encouraged!)								
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			9:01–9:51 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Sept 5: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)												
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral			9:11–9:51 PM (As early as 9/5)												
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral								9:19–10:54 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								9:44–10:49 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								9:44–10:54 PM							
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral						9:54–11:19 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								10:07–10:52 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								9:57–11:07 PM							
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night							
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night							

With early full moons and cooler waters, Sept/Oct corals may shift toward Oct more than usual

## October Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Mon 6-Oct	Tue 7-Oct	Wed 8-Oct	Thu 9-Oct	Fri 10-Oct	Sat 11-Oct	Sun 12-Oct	Mon 13-Oct	Tue 14-Oct	Wed 15-Oct	Thu 16-Oct	Fri 17-Oct	Sat 18-Oct	Sun 19-Oct
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:22 PM	6:21 PM	6:21 PM	6:20 PM	6:19 PM	6:19 PM	6:18 PM	6:18 PM	6:17 PM	6:17 PM	6:16 PM	6:16 PM	6:15 PM	6:15 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:29–7:29 PM (Expected nightly to at least Oct 26: new observations welcome any date)							5:09–6:29 PM	
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:35–10:05 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								6:43–8:13 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								6:48–7:48 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:34–10:49 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								7:49–8:49 PM							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral				7:52–9:02 PM											
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral							7:47–9:02 PM (Expected nightly across the October lunar cycle: new observations encouraged on any date)								
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral								9:00–10:35 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								9:24–10:29 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								9:24–10:34 PM							
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							9:34–10:59 PM								
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								9:48–10:33 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								9:38–10:48 PM							
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night							
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night							

# Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

## November Corals

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	Wed 5-Nov	Thu 6-Nov	Fri 7-Nov	Sat 8-Nov	Sun 9-Nov	Mon 10-Nov	Tue 11-Nov	Wed 12-Nov	Thu 13-Nov	Fri 14-Nov	Sat 15-Nov	Sun 16-Nov	Mon 17-Nov	Tue 18-Nov
<b>Scientific name (and spawning window)</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	SUNSET	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral														
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								6:17–7:17 PM (Expected every night through the end of Nov)						
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral								7:22–10:37 PM						
									7:33–8:48 PM (Has been observed from mid-September to mid-November, new observations are highly encouraged!)						

## Fall Sponges, Stars, Gorgs, and More

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug
<b>Scientific name (and spawning window)</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm														
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin														
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge														
<i>Plexaura</i> , <i>Pseudoplexaura</i> , <i>Eunicia</i>	Sea Rods														
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod														
Ophiuroidea	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star														
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.	Sea Plume														
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm														

## Abbreviations & Colors

NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon

MBS: Minutes Before Sunset

MAS: Minutes After Sunset

Palest Green: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse:

Please help by diving on these dates

Light Green: Spawning is possible:

Spawning has been observed on these dates

Medium Blue: Spawning is likely:

Spawning is often observed on these dates

Darker Blue: Spawning is very likely:

Spawning is reliably observed on these dates

Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)



## Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions don't include buffers; be sure to enter the water well before the predicted spawning time
- Dive at sites with high coral cover
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
  - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots
  - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand
  - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

## More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at [www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2025).
- **New Coral Breeding Reference Sheets:** This new community resource for coral propagation, led by Val Chamberland, is now available to download here: <https://www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting>.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is now collecting and distributing regional spawning data. Therefore, if you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start and stop times, area monitored in m2, # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all very welcome! Send reports to [carmabilog@gmail.com](mailto:carmabilog@gmail.com), [v.chamberland@secore.org](mailto:v.chamberland@secore.org), or [kristen@marhaverlab.com](mailto:kristen@marhaverlab.com). You can also post your observations at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch>.
- **Huge thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Last year was tough but we are optimistic for 2025. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2025."