

Long-term Monitoring of Temperature in Coral Reef Waters of the Colombian Caribbean



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Vinculado al Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible - MADS
Santa Marta, Colombia

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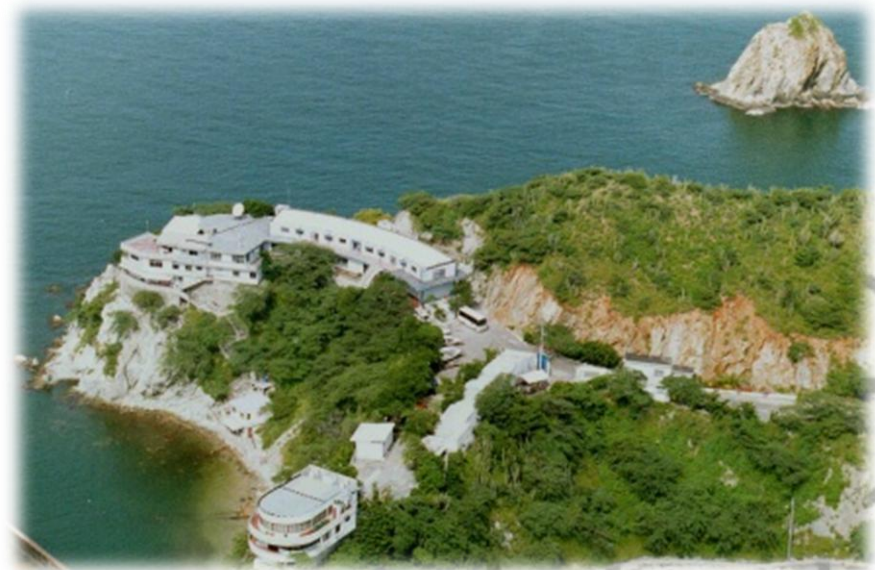
1. Introduction of data used
2. Historical tendencies of temperature
3. Relation with bleaching events
4. Case Study: Chengue Bay
5. Calculation of coral thresholds
6. Conclusions



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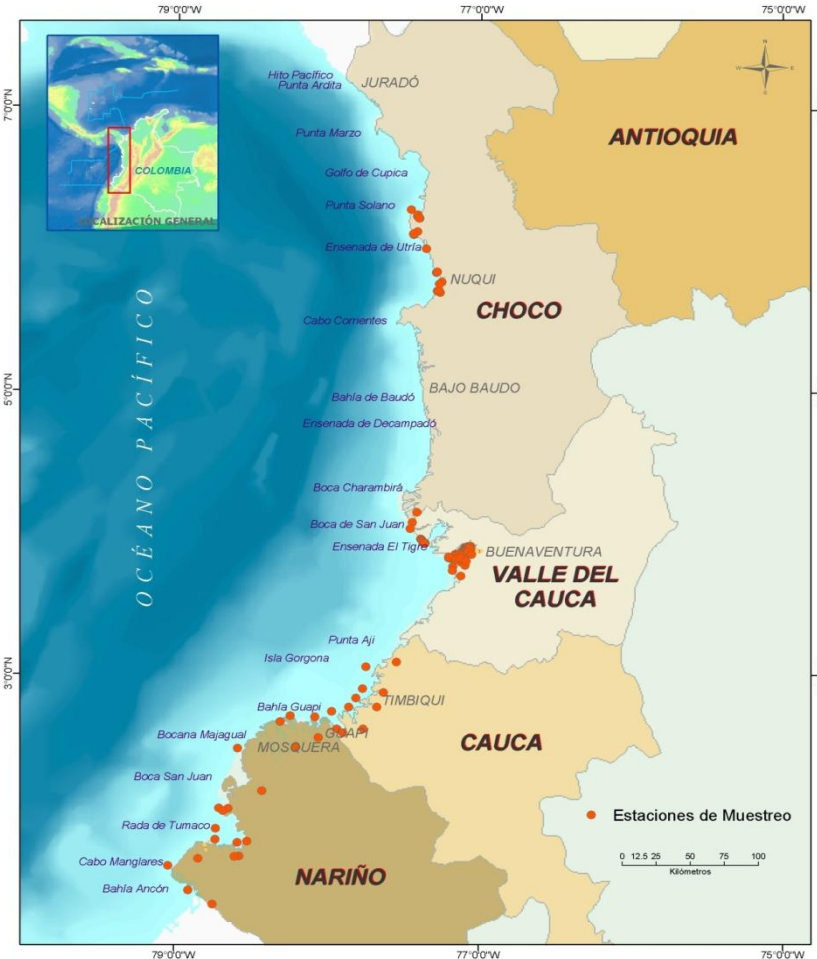
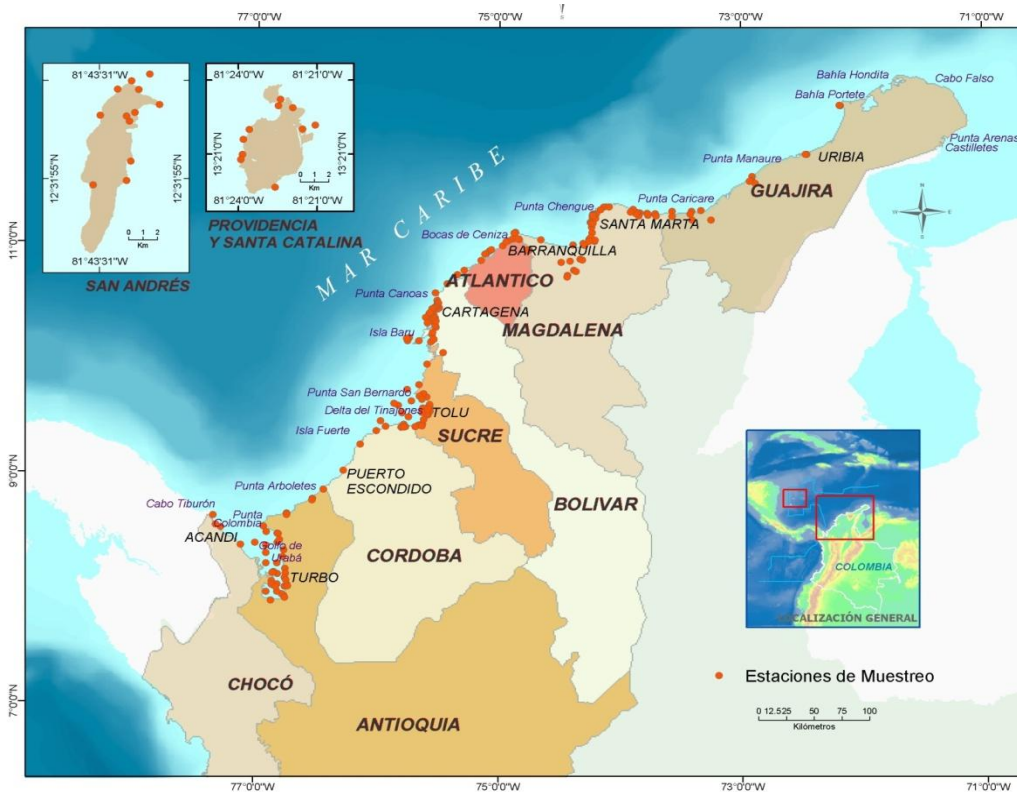


Data used in this study:

1. REDCAM Monitoring Program
2. SIMAC Monitoring Program
3. NOAA
 - NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis 1
 - Coral Reef Watch



Monitoring Network for Marine and Coastal Water Quality - REDCAM



STATIONS

CARIBBEAN : 236

PACIFIC: 122

TOTAL: 358

PARAMETERS (~25)

Tem, Sal, pH, DO

Nutrients

Sediments

**Microbiological
Hydrocarbons**

**Pesticides
Heavy Metals**

Monitoring Network for Marine and Coastal Water Quality - REDCAM



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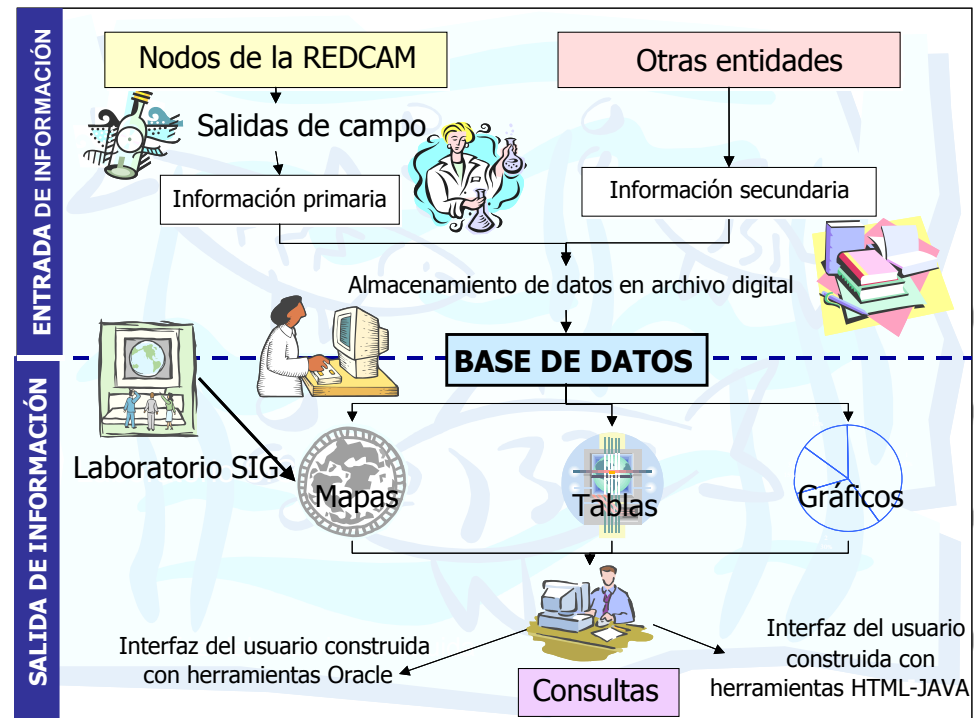


Database Management

Capacity Building



INVEMAR 18/05/2012



National System for Coral Reef Monitoring in Colombia - SIMAC

- Health status of coral reefs
- Changes in coral reefs and causes
- Recommendations for sustainable use and conservation



SIMAC Monitoring Program



Benthic organism coverage using point-intercept transects



Presence y abundance of urchins and other invertebrates



Richness and abundance of reef fish



Ocurrence of bleaching and diseases



Abundance of gorgonians

Reanalysis 1

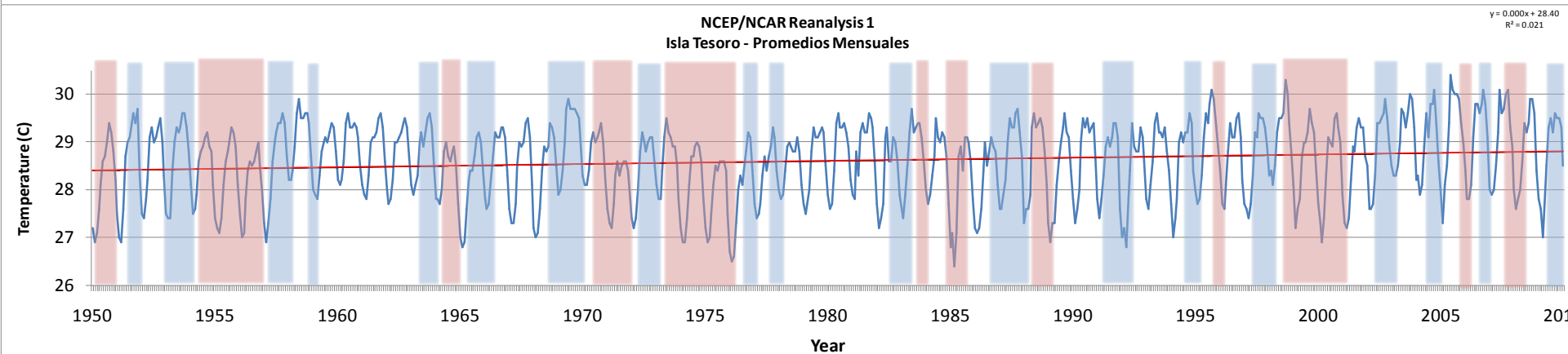
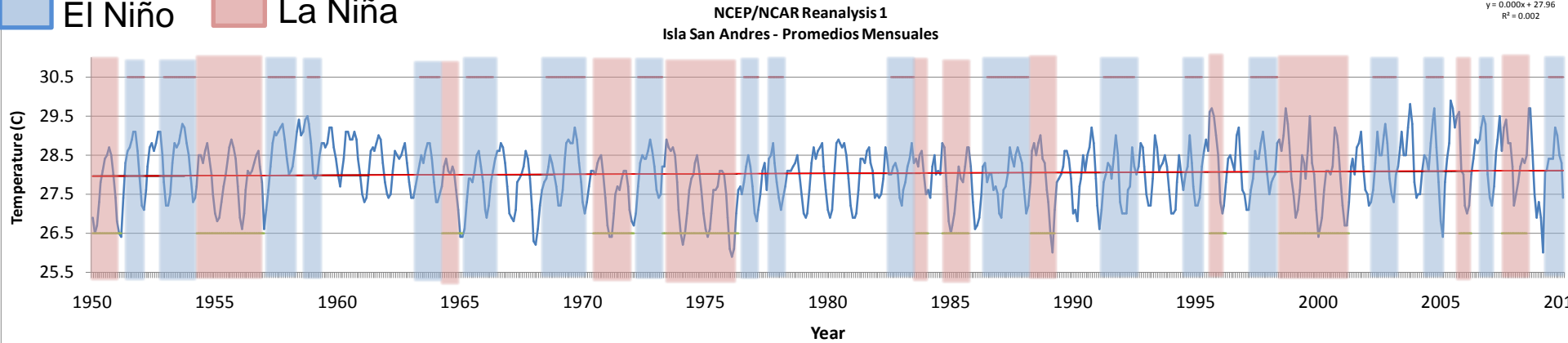
Temp. Data: 1950 – 2010

Increases: 0.3 - 0.4 °C

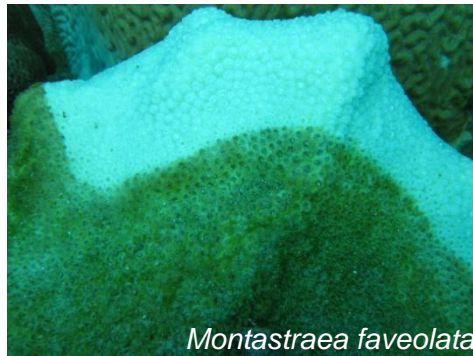
Rate: 0.006 °C/y



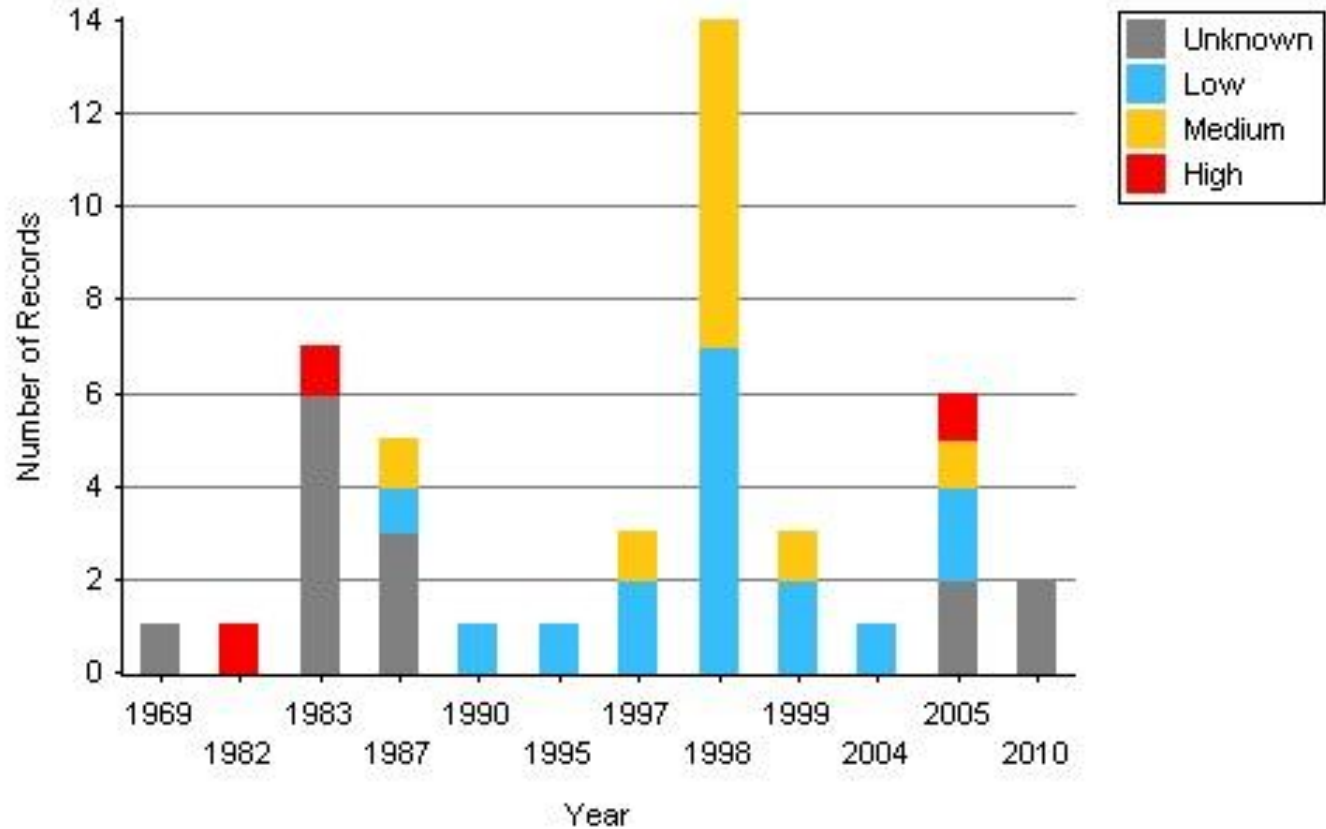
El Niño
 La Niña



Historical Coral Bleaching Events in Colombia



Bleaching Records For Colombia (By Bleaching Severity)



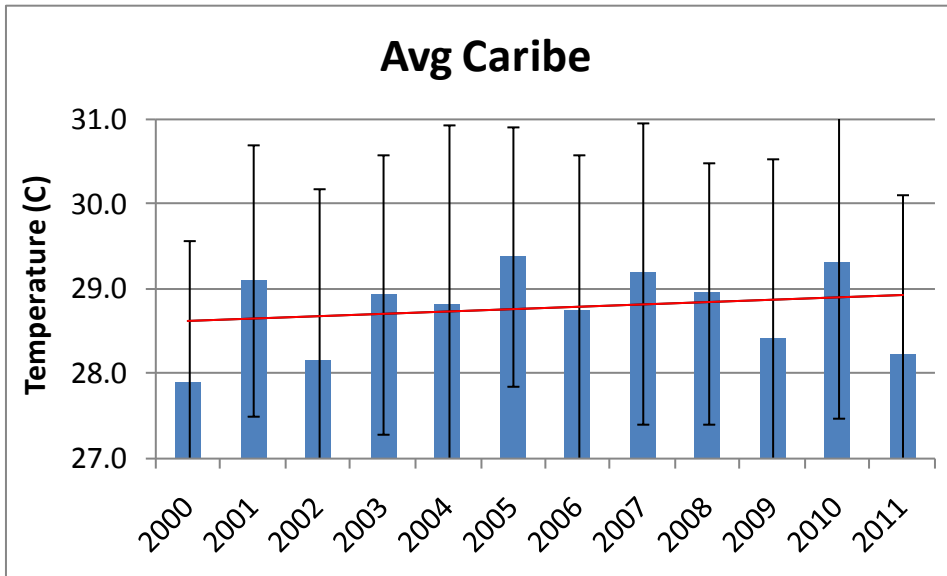
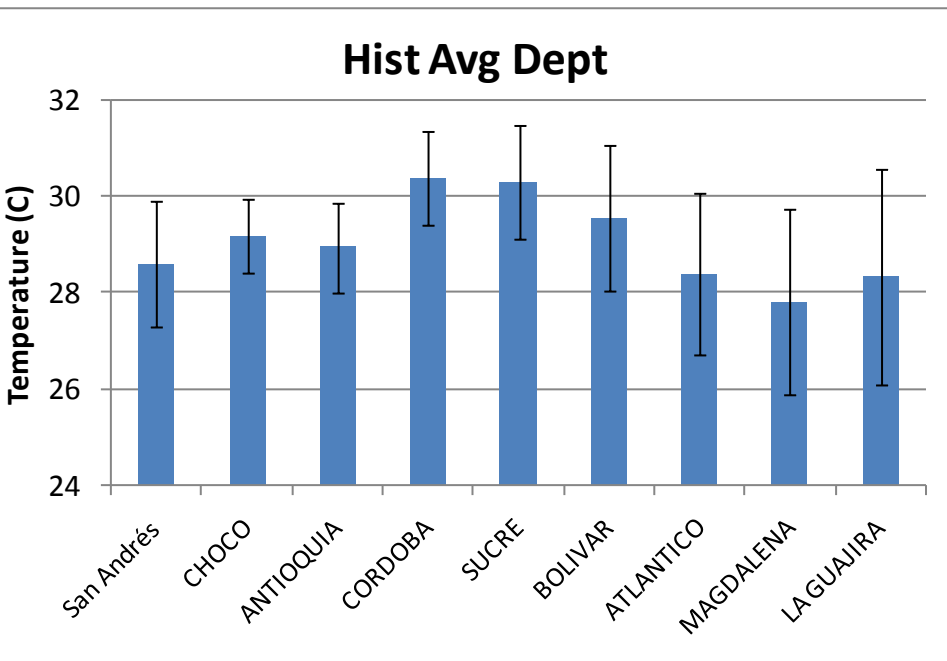
from: www.ReefBase.org

Historical Record of Temperature in Marine Waters of the Colombian Caribbean

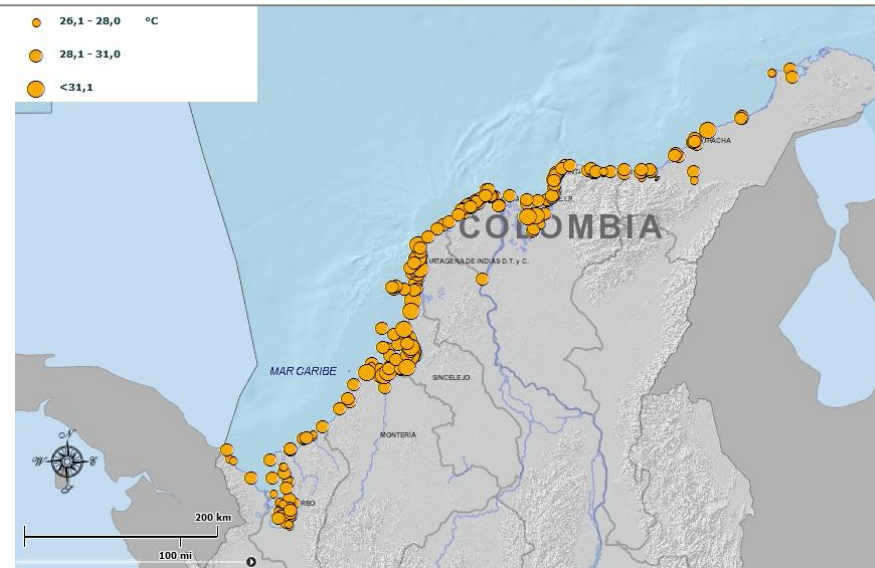


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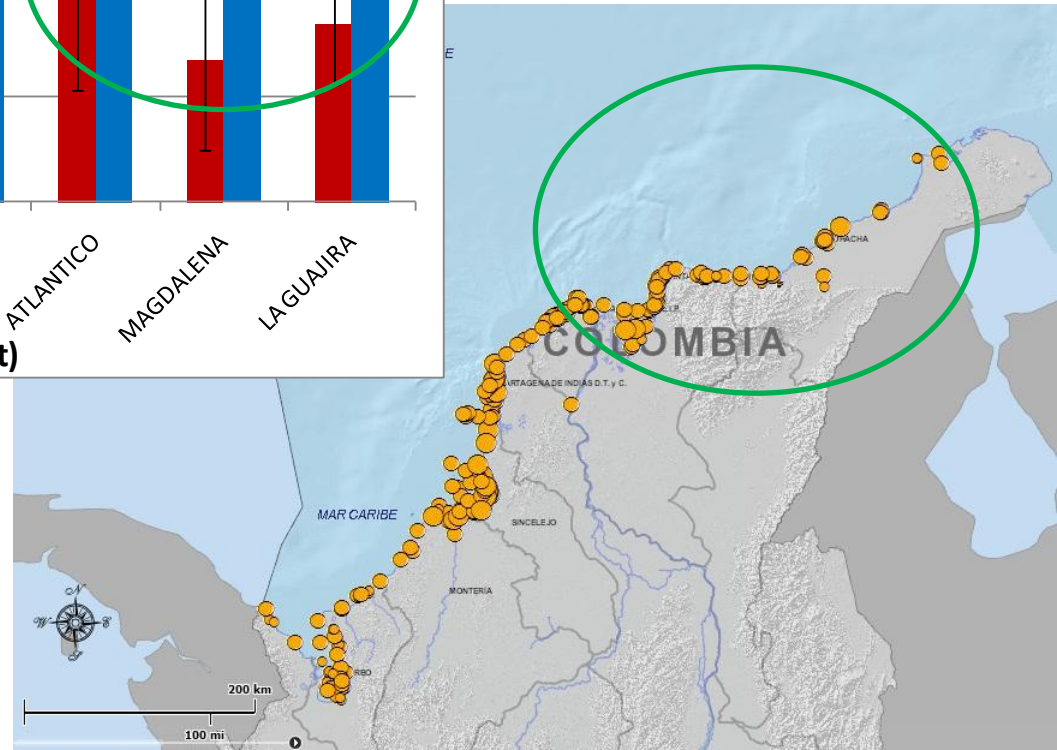
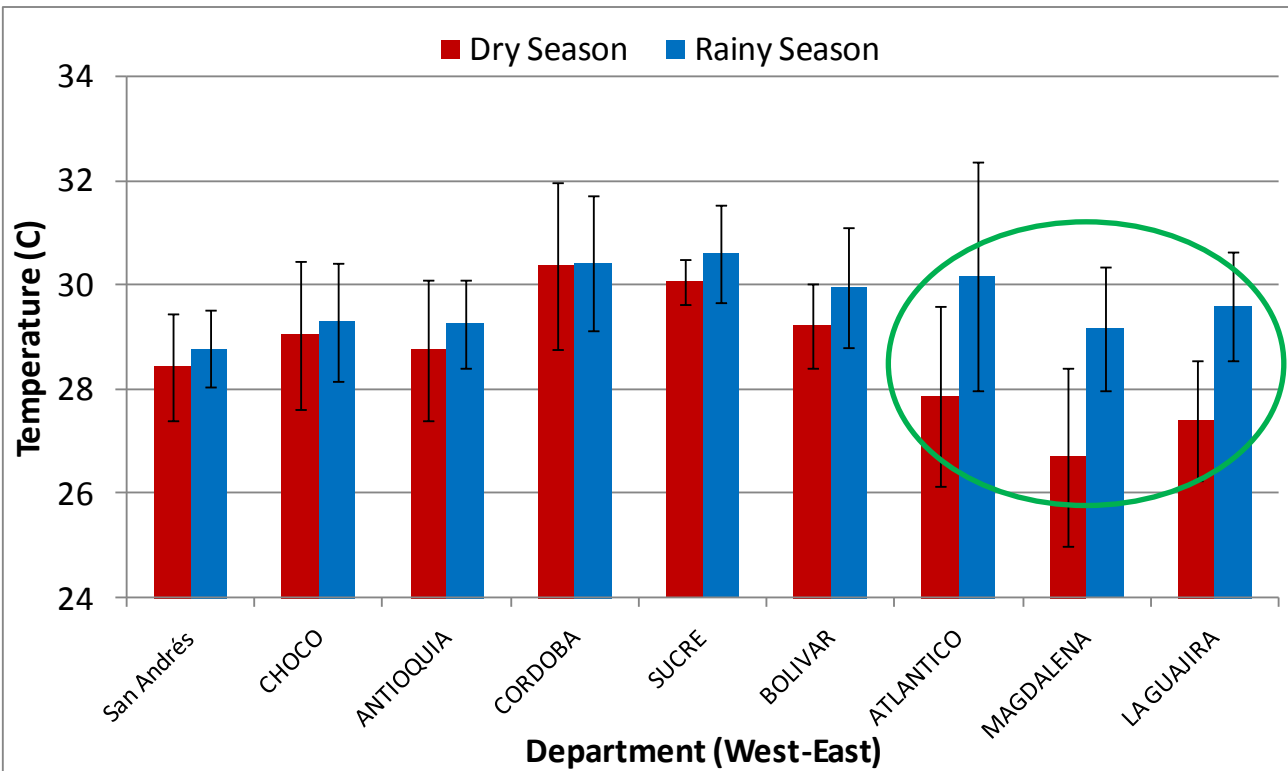
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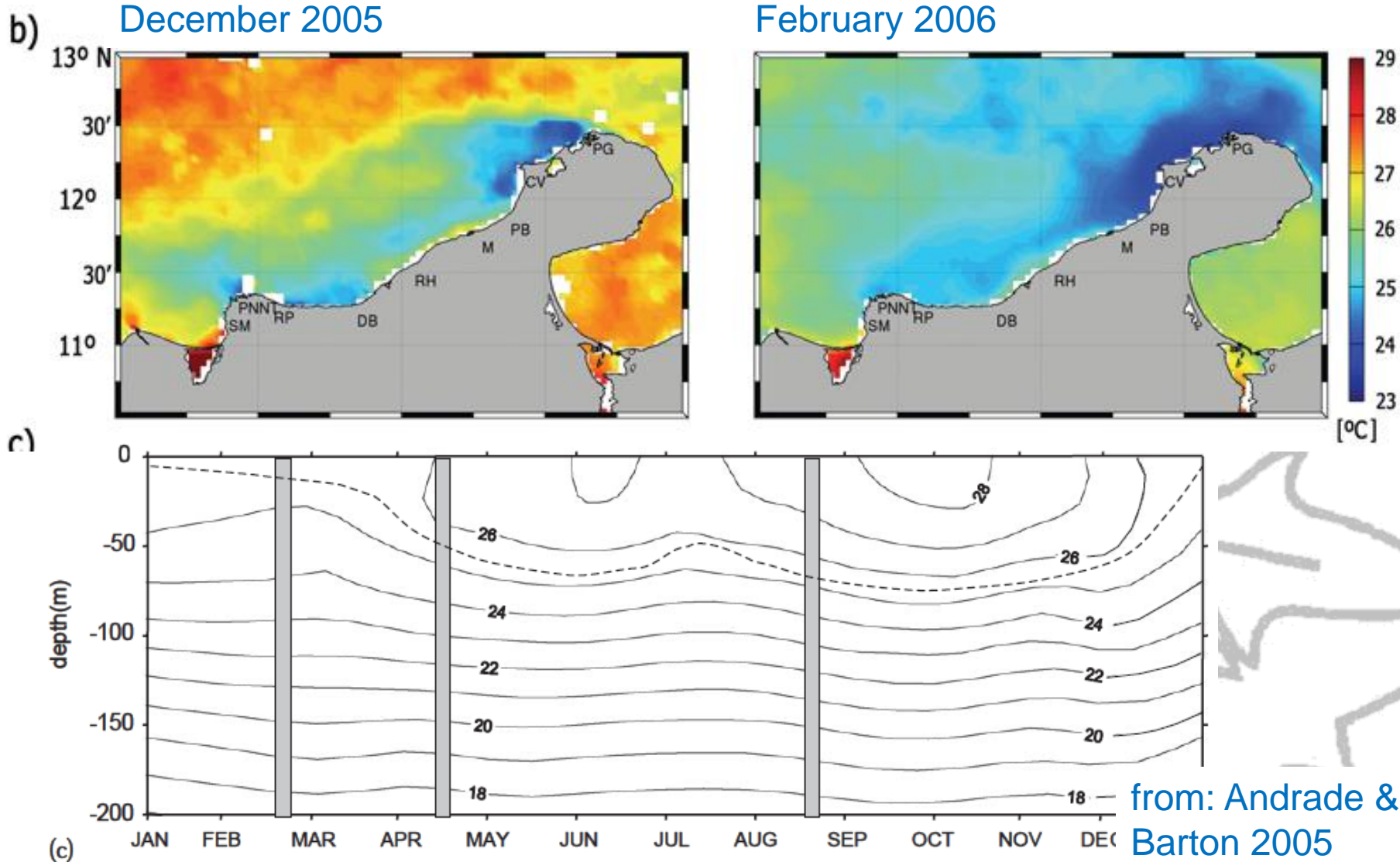
Temp. Data: 2000 – 2011
Increases: 0.3 °C
Rate: 0.03 °C/y



Historical Record of Temperature in Marine Waters of the Colombian Caribbean



The Guajira Upwelling System

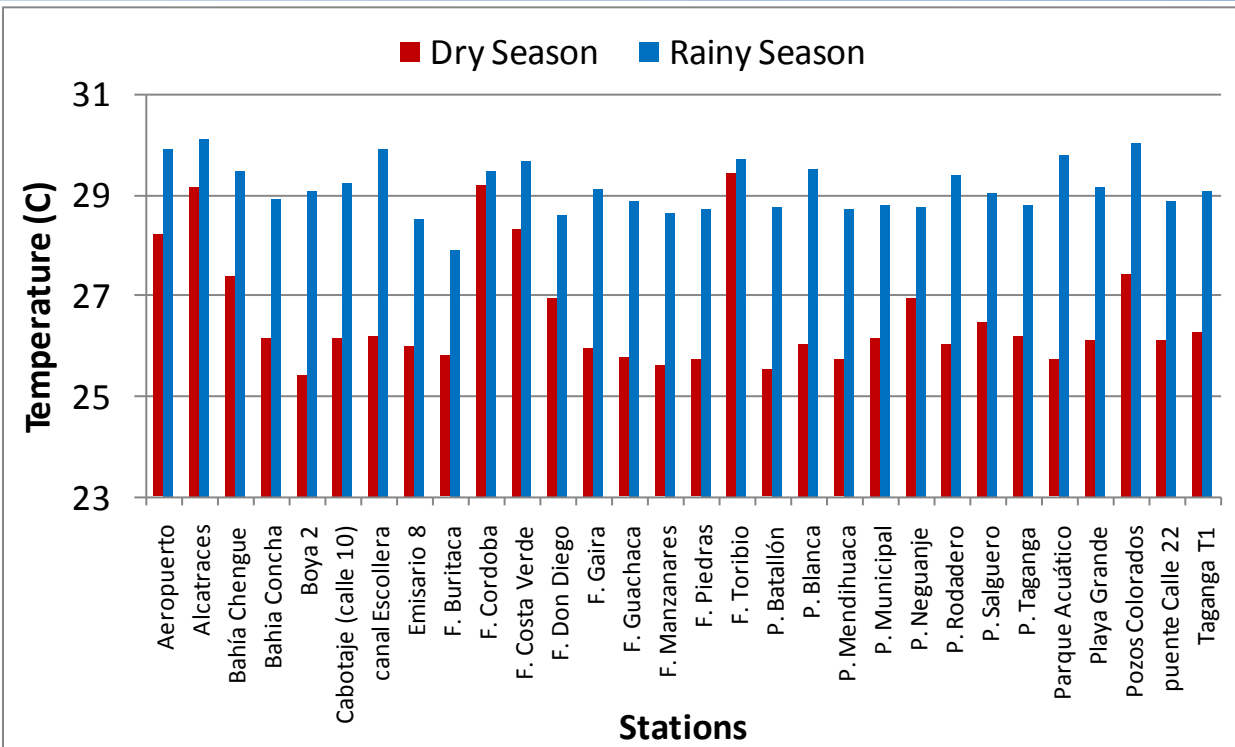


Historical Record of Temperature in Marine Waters of the Department of Magdalena

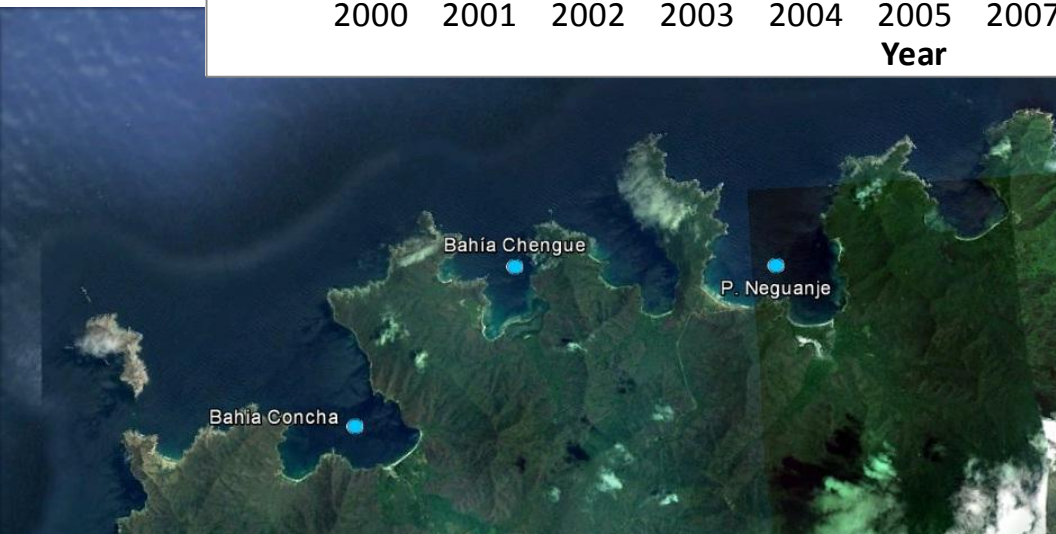
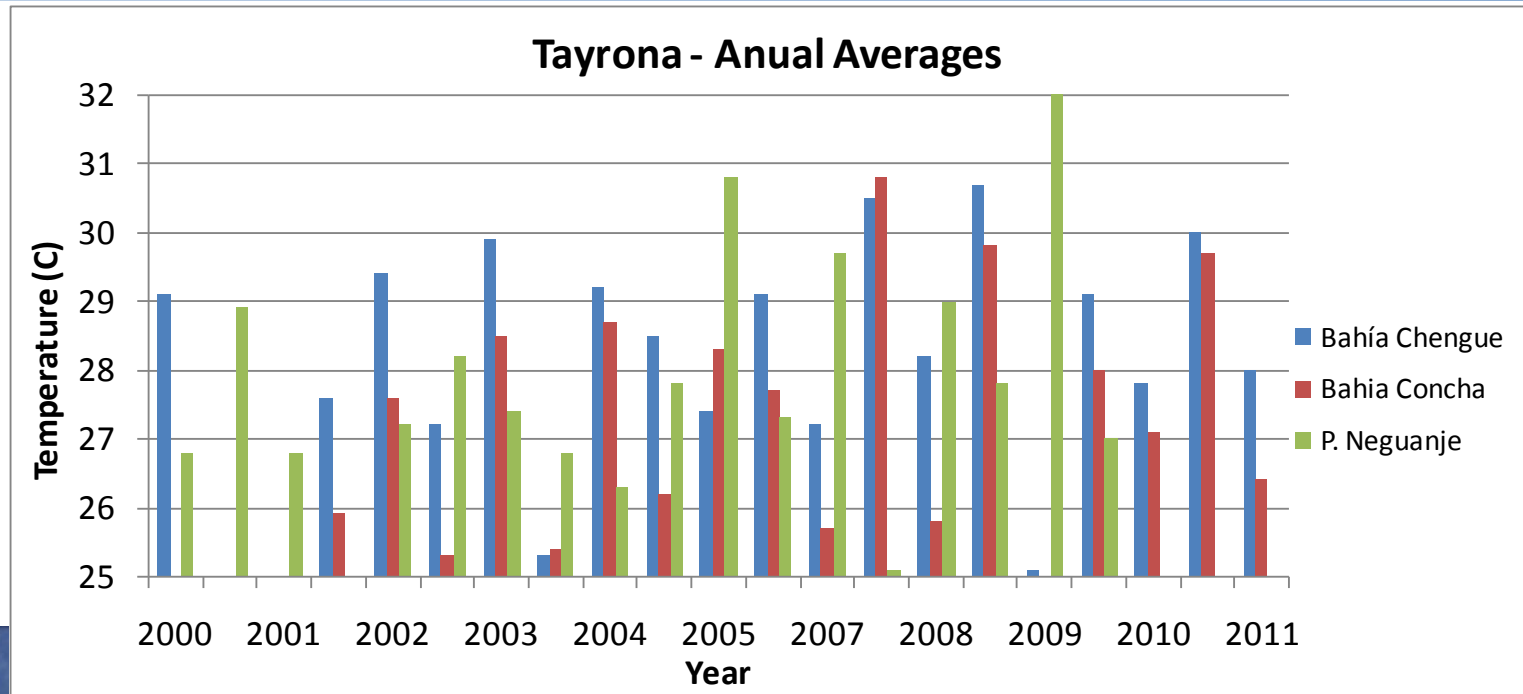


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Historical Record of Temperature in Marine Waters of Tayrona Park



Chengue Bay Tayrona National Natural Park



Watershed:

Area: 8 km², natural

Ecosistemas:

- Manglares
- Pastos marinos (*Thalassia*)
- Corales
- Fondos blandos
- Litoral rocoso

Live Coral Coverage: 27.05%

Number of Coral Species: 30 sp

Predominant Species: *Montastraea faveolata*,
Colpophyllia natans
Montastraea annularis
Diploria strigosa

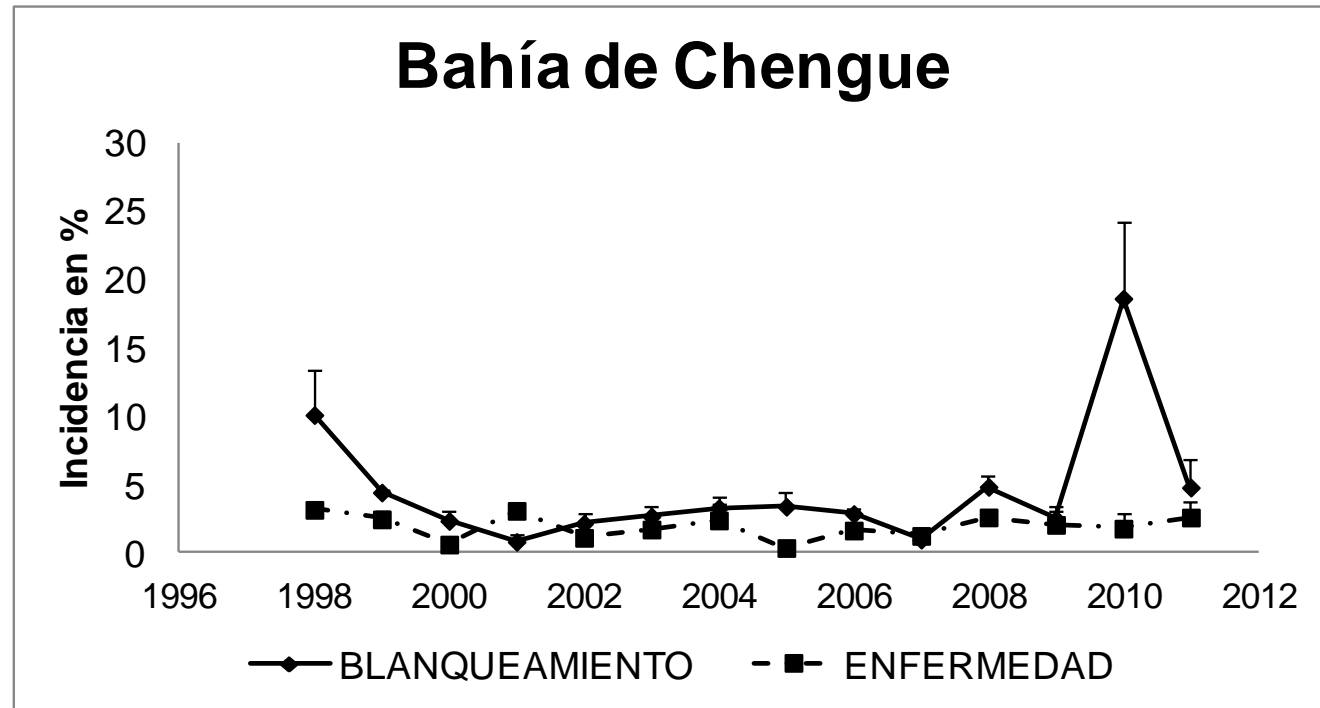
Chengue Bay Bleaching Events



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La Niña 2010:

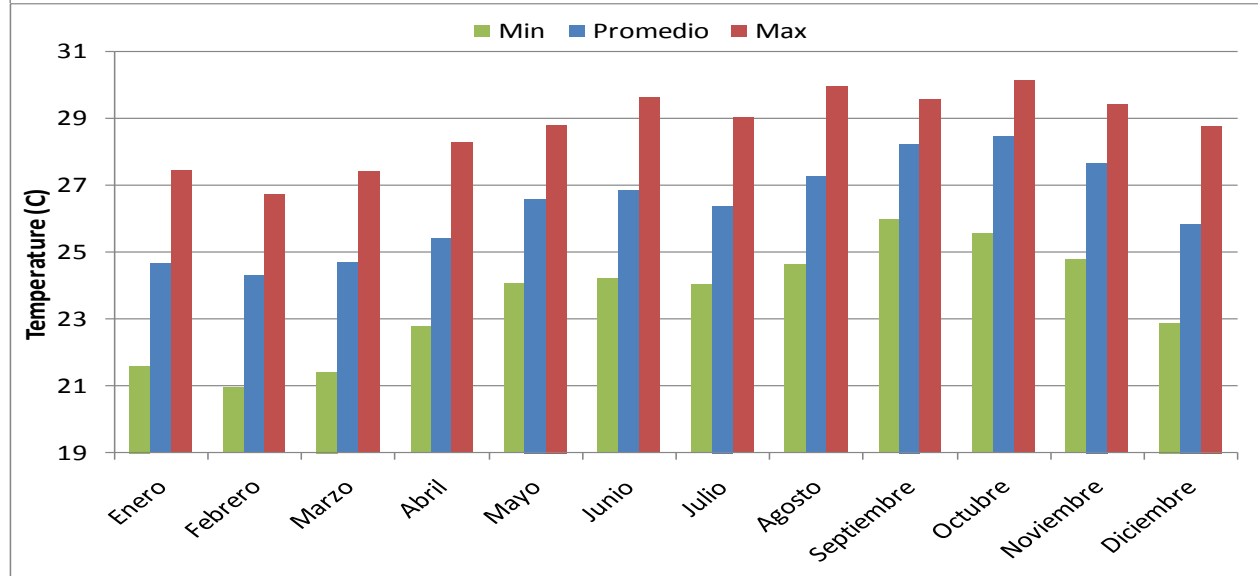
- ↑ Temperature (30 °C)
- ↓ Salinity (30 ppt)
- ↑ Turbidity

Chengue Bay Historical Temperature Records



Data Logger:

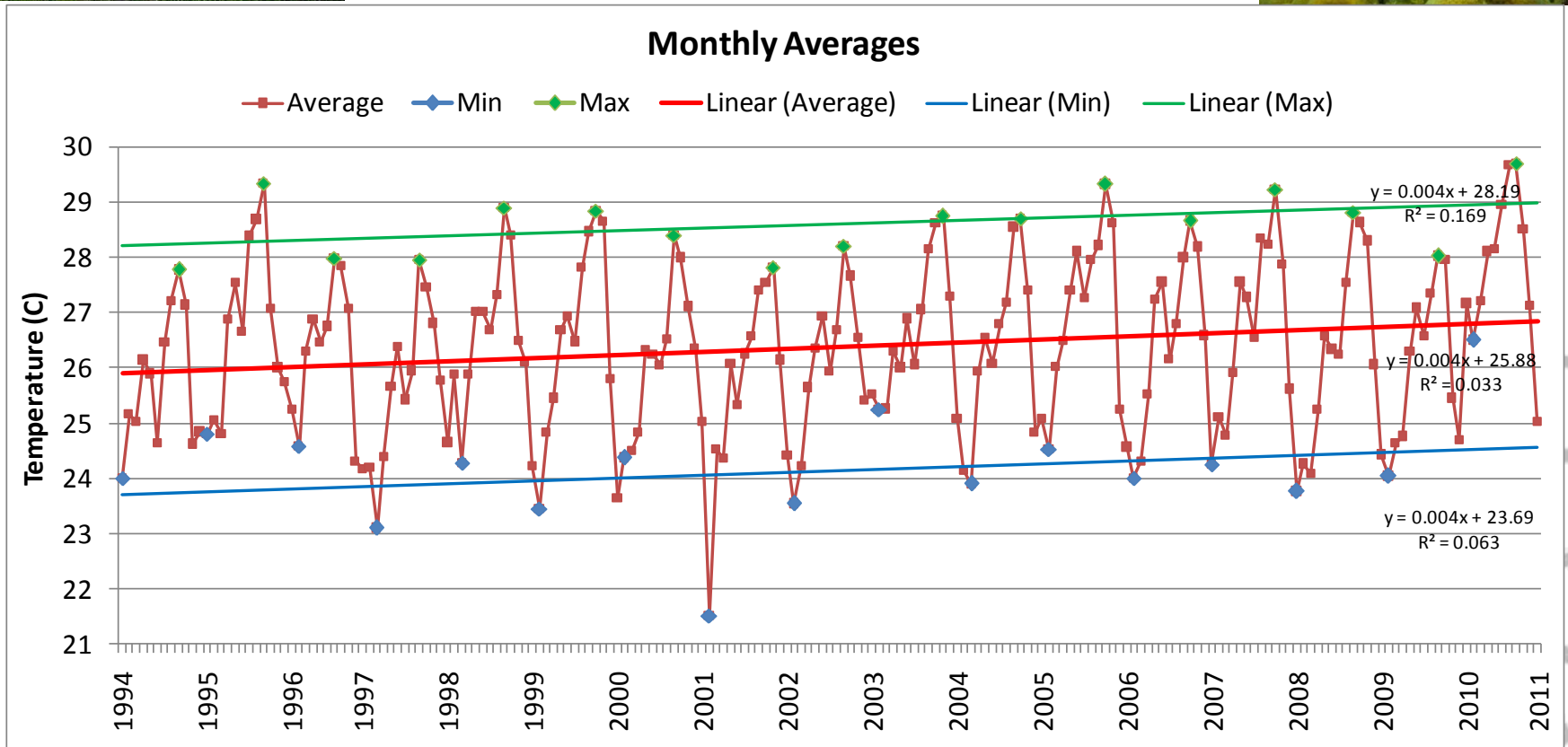
- Hourly
- 1994 – 2010
- Rate: 0.06 °C/y



Chengue Bay Historical Temperature Records



Increase: 0.8 °C
Rate: 0.05 °C/y



Chengue Bay Historical Temperature Records



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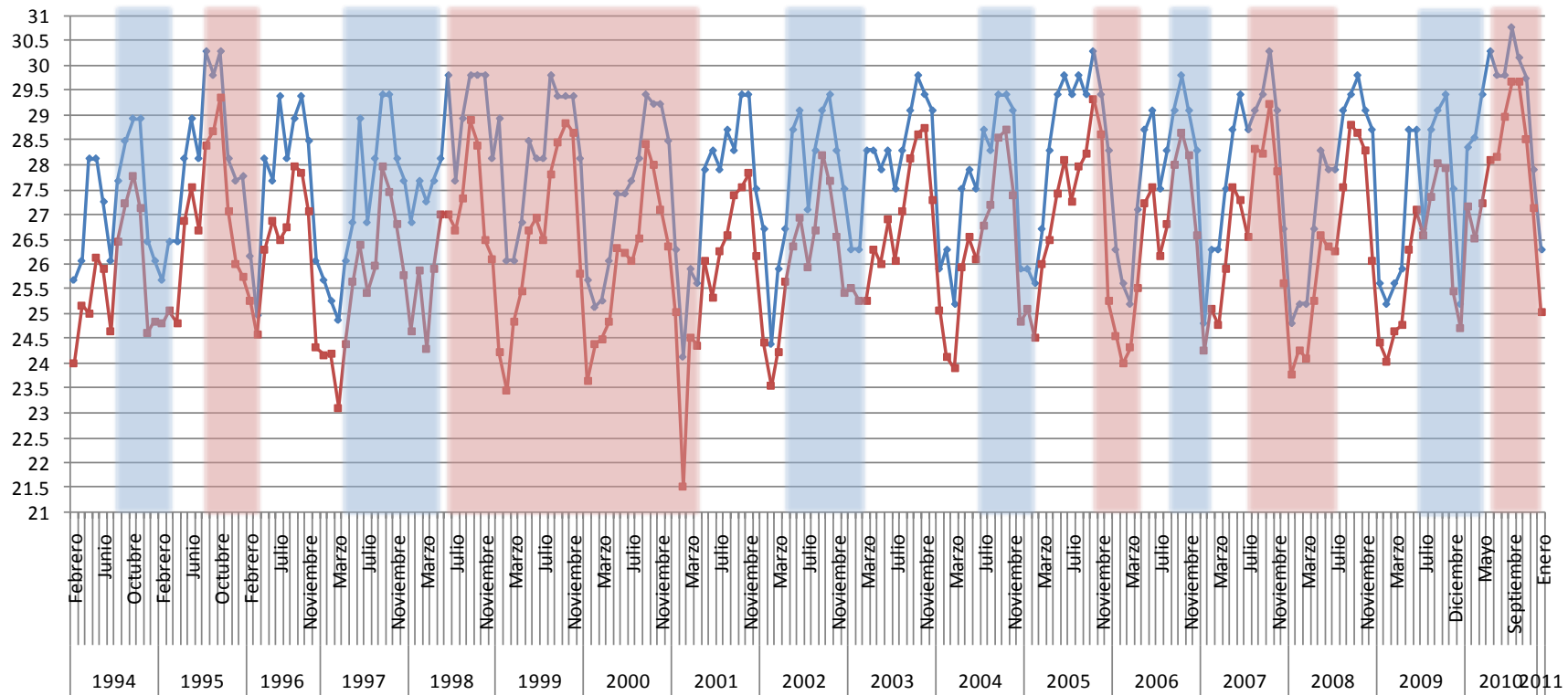
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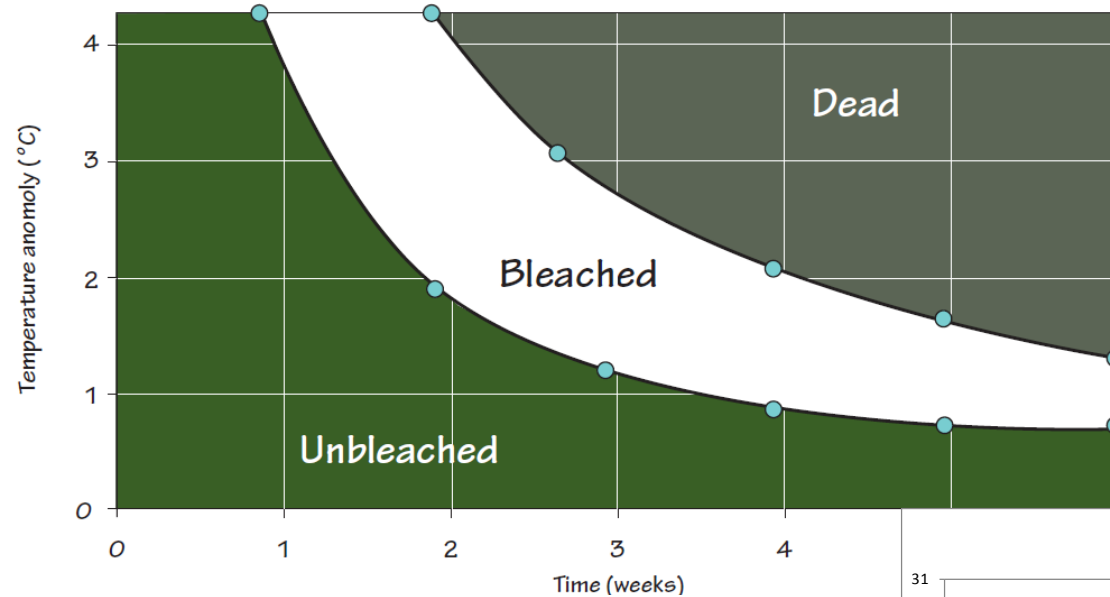


El Niño La Niña

Max Average



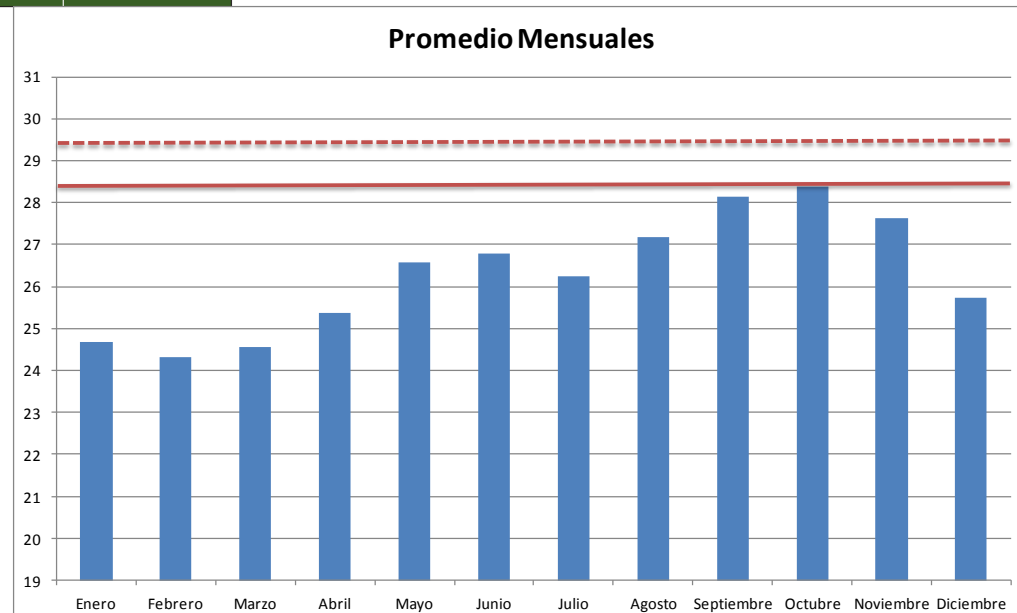
Coral Temperatura Thresholds



Bleaching Risk
 -Temp Intensity
 -Duration

from: Marshall and Shuttenberg 2006

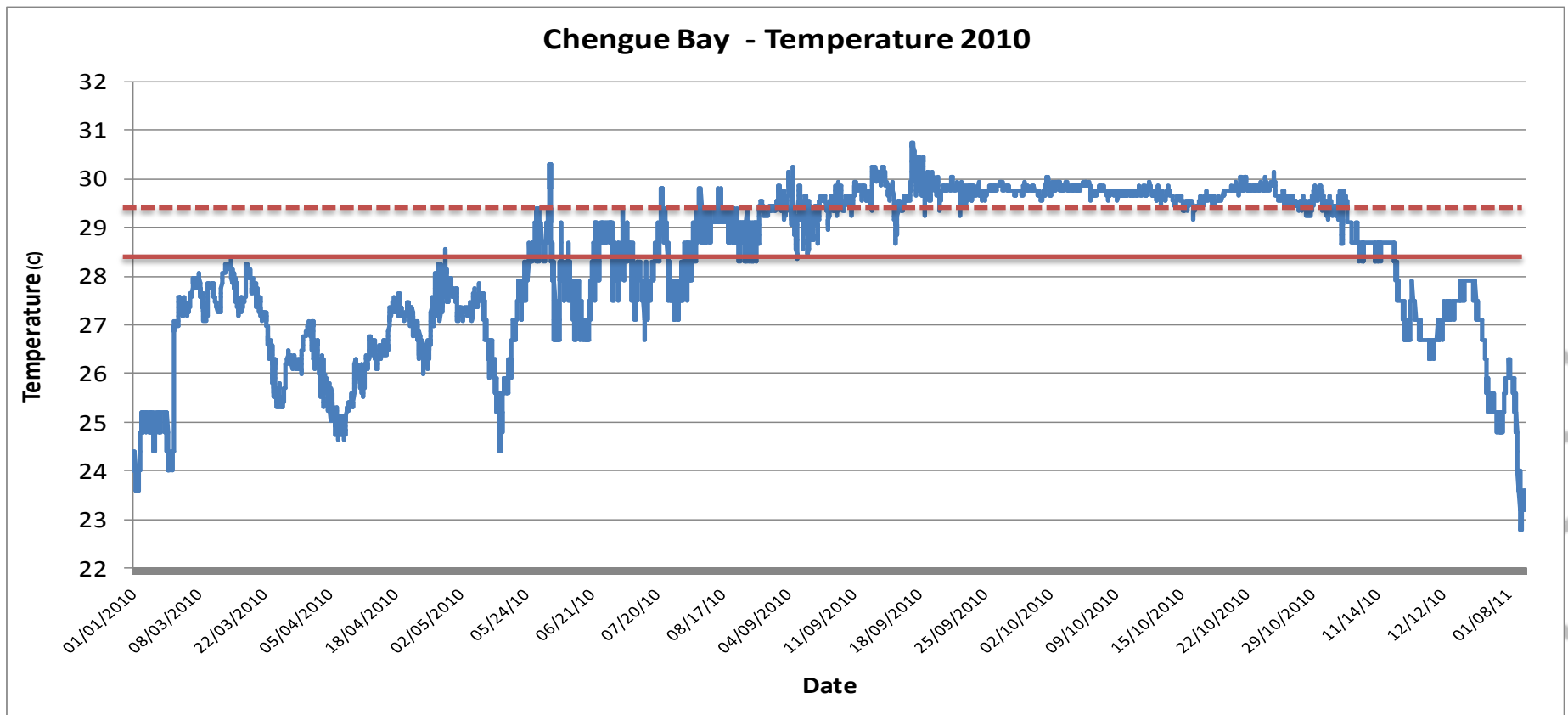
Temp Anomaly: Degrees
 above maximum monthly
 average.



Coral Temperatura Thresholds Bleaching Event 2010

Degree Heating Weeks (DHW) = Σ Anomaly x # weeks

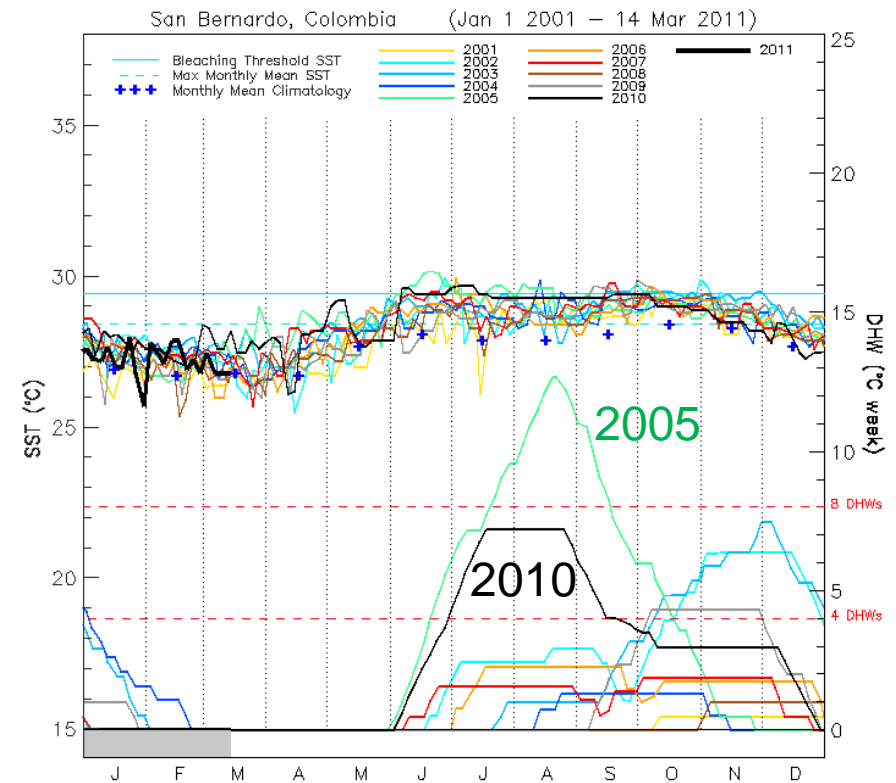
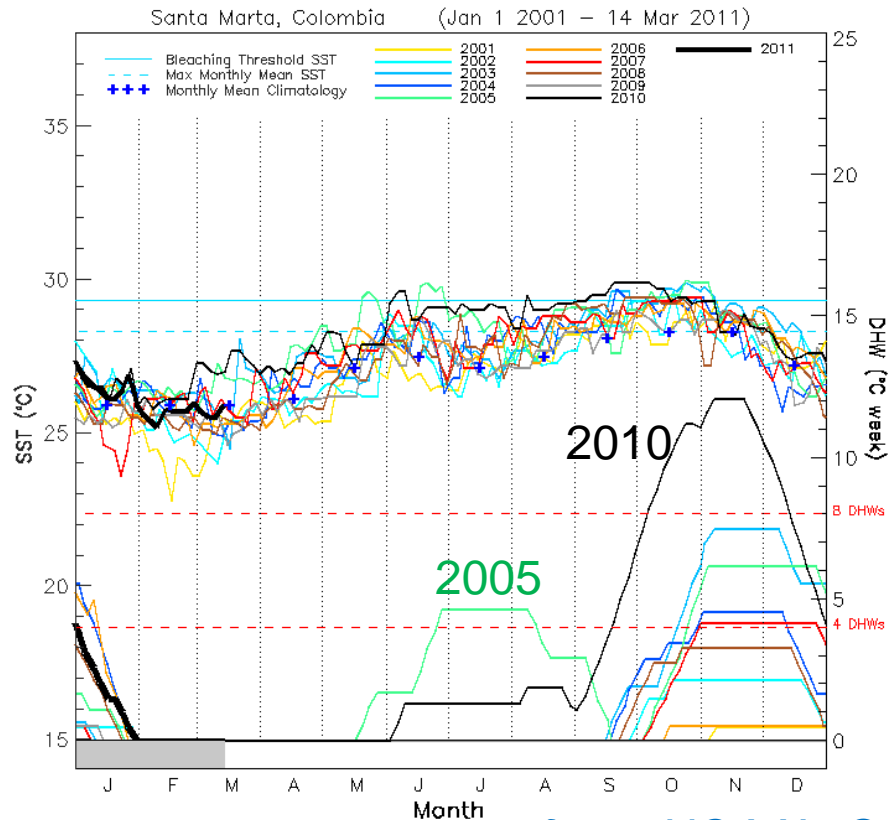
DHW > 4 → High stress DHW > 8 → Severe bleaching



Coral Temperatura Thresholds Bleaching Event 2010

Degree Heating Weeks (DHW) = Σ Anomaly x # weeks

DHW > 4 \rightarrow High stress DHW > 8 \rightarrow Severe bleaching



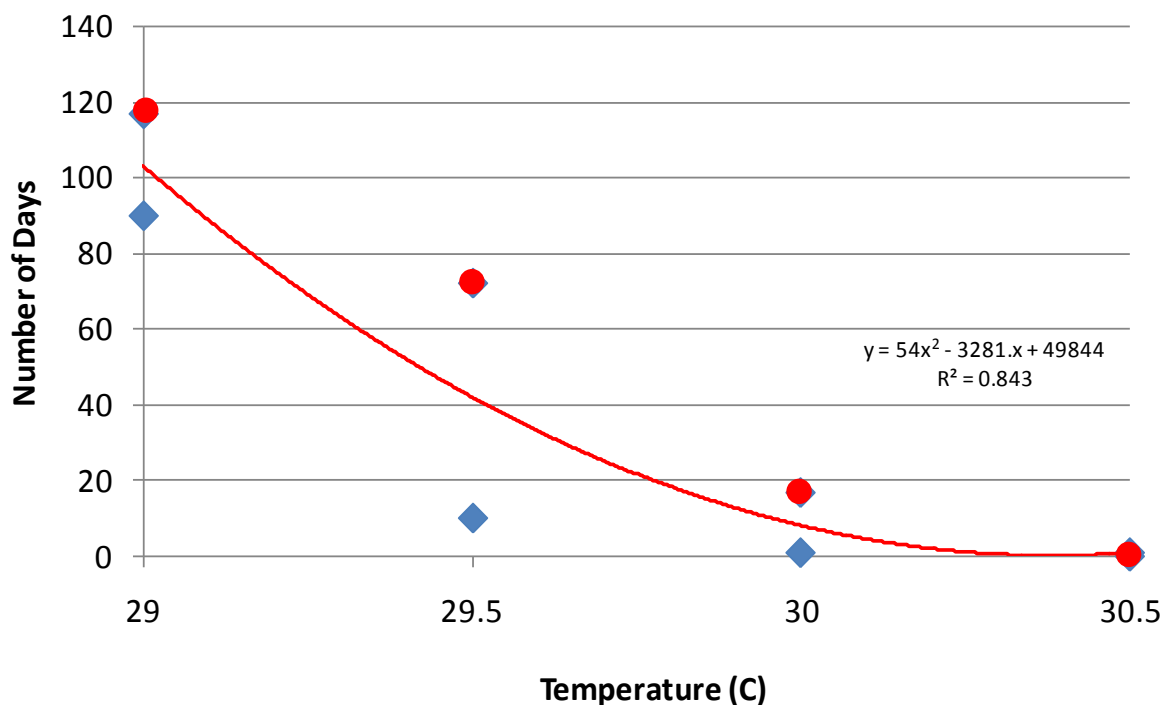
Coral Temperatura Thresholds



Observational Data:

- Max Temp
- # Days

Max Temp vs Number of Days



Year	Number of Days			
	> 29.0	> 29.5	> 30.0	> 30.5
1995	44	22	5	
1996	3			
1997	7			
1998	32			
1999	29	9		
2000	19			
2001	10			
2002	9			
2003	45			
2004	37			
2005	90	10	1	
2006	29	1		
2007	55	12	1	
2008	59	2		
2010	117	72	17	1

Coral Temperatura Thresholds Laboratory Experiments

Tratamiento	Temperatura	Intensidad lumínica
Tratamiento 1	Baja (≈ 28 °C)	Baja (≈ 3.000 Lux)
Tratamiento 2	Baja (≈ 28 °C)	Alta (≈ 4.000 Lux)
Tratamiento 3	Alta (≈ 30 °C)	Alta (≈ 4.000 Lux)
Tratamiento 4	Alta (≈ 30 °C)	Baja (≈ 3.000 Lux)

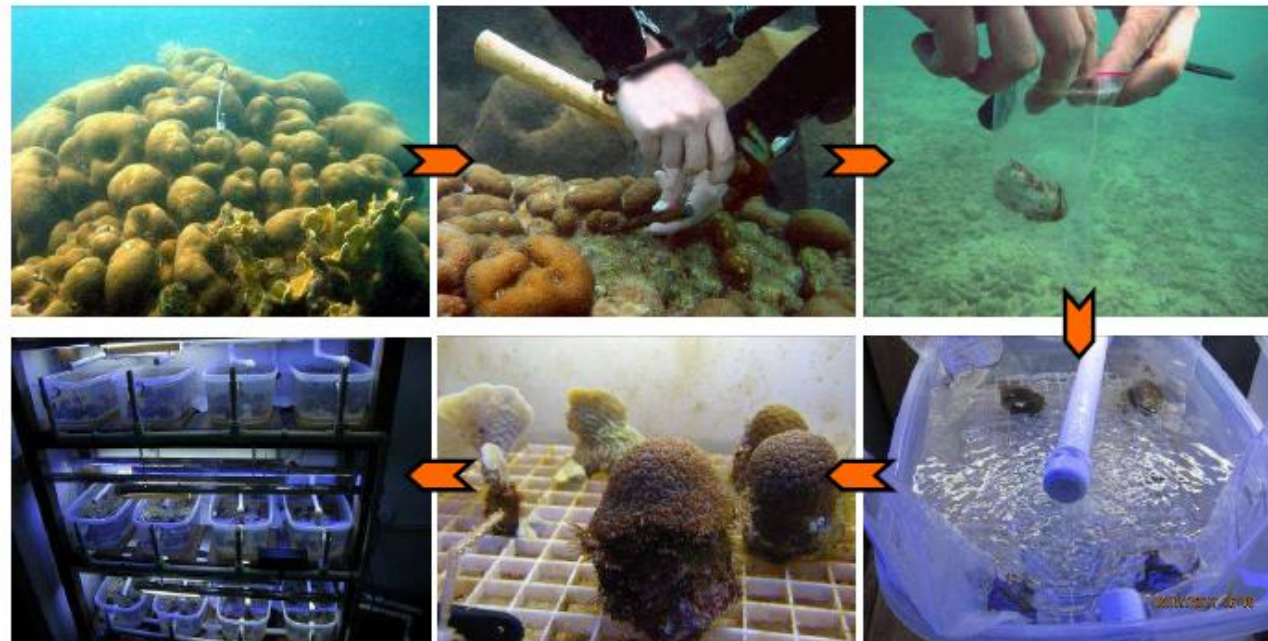
Effect
(# Weeks):

3

2

1

4



From:
López Londoño et al. 2011

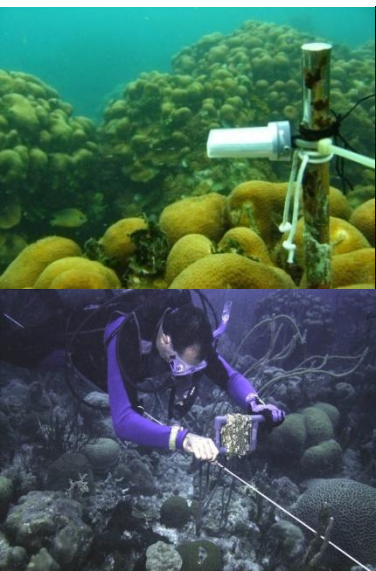


Conclusions

- Temporal data show increases in temperature at regional ($0.006 - 0.03$ °C/y) and local scales (0.06 °C/y).
- Spatial variation of temperature along the Caribbean coast of Colombia, highlighted by strong seasonal variation in the eastern provinces.
- While climatic phenomena can affect sea surface temperature, local procesos (eg. upwelling) may have greater effect.
- Predictive tools provided by NOAA were shown to be effective in identification of coral bleaching risks.
- Precision of bleaching-temperature relationship at local scale is recommended.
- Predictive tools, however useful, are limited by their lack of incorporation of other factors (eg. Light intensity, sedimentation, salinity, etc.)

Acknowledgements

- REDCAM, SIMAC, NOAA, INAP
- Beatriz Almonacil, David Alonso, Luisa F. Espinosa, Diana Isabel Gomez, Kelly Gomez Campo, Carolina Gutierrez, Tomas Londoño Lopez, Laura Perdomo, Johanna Vega Sequeda, Lizbeth Janet Vivas Aguas
- Joint ICTP-TWAS Workshop on Climate Change in Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas: Research experiences and new scientific challenges.



Gracias por su atención



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