Barbados - Close Encounters

St Lawrence Gap, Christ Church (south coast) · surveyed 2020-01-18



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 64 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs (63 of the 72 frames on file) and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

19%

Claude computer vision (64 edited photos) · median 15%

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

29.5°C **8.1°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · +1.3°C vs the past-365-day mean (28.2°C) · NOAA Alert Level 2

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

14.3°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

15.8 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

27.7°C

-0.4°C vs the 2020 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)

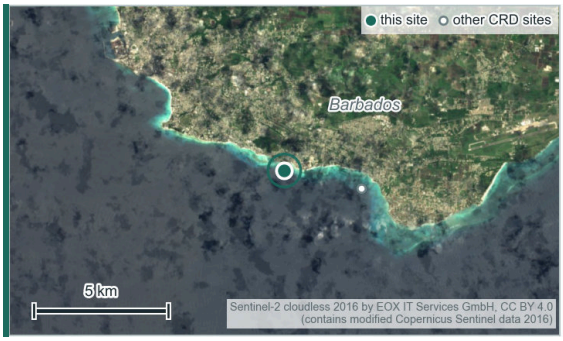
PHOTOGRAPHS

58 in the gallery · 72 on file

POSITION

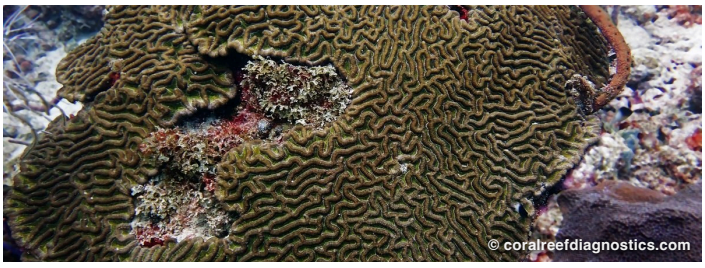
13.0640, -59.5708

Published dive-site position.





Close Encounters is a brain-coral-dominated reef under a heavy gorgonian and sponge canopy, with grooved mounding colonies from fist-sized to over a meter across. A dozen frames show discrete pale-to-white patches on otherwise pigmented colonies, a condition signal that could reflect disease, predation, or focal bleaching.





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): CoralSCOP edited 37.0 · **Claude (edited photos) 19.4** CoralSCOP (edited photos) reads 37.0%, 17.6 pp above Claude's blind point count (19.4%); the headline stays Claude's blind point count because no transect or manual count exists here.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 58 in the gallery · 72 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/barbados-close-encounters.html · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Windward Caribbean Islands) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.