Cheeca Rocks (FKNMS)

Florida Keys / South Florida · 8 visits (16 dives), 2019-05-31 – 2021-05-06



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Method: photo-transect point count (NOAA NCRMP/AOML), over 40 frames. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER
32%
Photo-transect point count (NOAA NCRMP/AOML)

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD
28.5°C **13.7°C-weeks**
26 Oct 2026 · +0.4°C vs the past-365-day mean (28.1°C) · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 13.7°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
12.5°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
5.2 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
30.3°C
+2.8°C vs the 2019 mean sea temperature (27.5°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
18 in the gallery · 136 on file

POSITION
24.8974, -80.6157
Recorded site position.





An Upper Keys inshore patch reef with colonies tagged and genotyped by the NOAA AOML team in July 2017, which Anderson resampled in 2019 for thermal-stress and molecular research. NOAA's 2016 photo-transect survey put its coral cover at about 32% (29% on permanent plots in 2014, Gintert et al. 2018), though heat stress peaked at a severe 22.3 degree heating weeks in 2023 (NOAA Coral Reef Watch, Florida Keys virtual station).



CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): Transect (published) 31.7 · CoralSCOP edited 47.1 · Claude (edited photos) 39.7 The two computer-vision methods differ by 7.4 pp (39.7–47.1%) and read 8.0–15.4 pp above the in-water transect (31.7%); the headline is the in-water transect because a diver transect is independent of the photographs.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 2 on this card; 18 in the gallery · 136 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/cheeca-rocks-fknms.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 (Florida Keys) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.