

Chagos Archipelago - Blenheim (BIBL86)

Blenheim · surveyed 2015-04-23



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Coral cover here was measured on in-situ benthic transects run by divers on the [Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition](#) — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

47%

Benthic surveys

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

28.9°C

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · -0.1°C vs the annual mean (29.0 °C)
· [NOAA](#) No heat stress

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

4.4°C-weeks

[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

30.0 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

+0.6°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (29.1°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

27

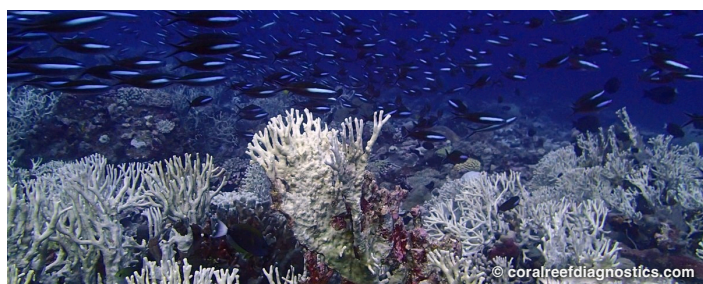
on file for this site

POSITION

-5.1780, 72.4571



BIBL86 is the most turf-dominated reef recorded anywhere in the Chagos Archipelago, with fire coral (*Millepora*) rather than *Acropora* as its leading taxon. Coral cover measured 47% with about 10% of coral bleached, and cover varied enormously by depth, from 24% to 66% across the profile. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) **47.2** · [CoralNet](#) 31.9 · In-house DINOv3 36.0 · CoralSCOP edited 25.1 · Claude 34.4

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 27 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-blenheim-bibl86.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 (Chagos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.