

Chagos Archipelago - Blenheim (BIBL87)

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

41%

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

29.9 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

35

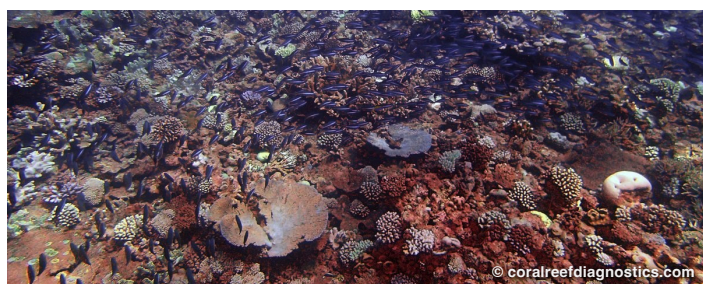
on file for this site

POSITION

-5.2320, 72.4430



BIBL87 has the highest coral genus diversity of all 109 Chagos sites surveyed (36 genera), with no single taxon dominating - *Acropora* leads at just 20%. Cover measured 41% with about 10% of coral bleached, and the reef alternates between open pavement and denser branching-and-table habitat. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 40.6 · [CoralNet](#) 27.9 · In-house DINOv3 34.0 · CoralSCOP edited 29.5 · Claude 30.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 35 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-blenheim-bibl87.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.