

Chagos Archipelago - Cauvin Banks (BICA01)

Cauvin Banks · surveyed 2015-03-09



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.

HARD CORAL COVER

4.6%

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

22.6 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

28.9°C

+0.1°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.8°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

3

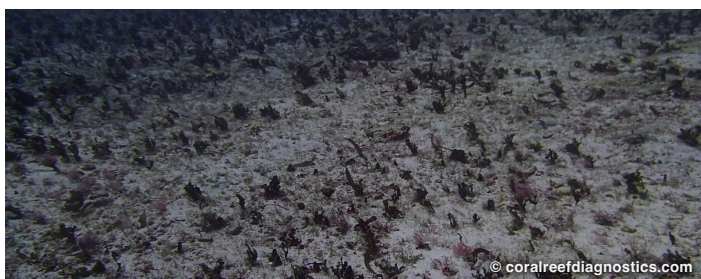
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.8037, 72.3854



Cauvin Banks has the second-lowest coral cover of the 109 Chagos sites, at 4.6%, with a third of the bottom bare and much of the rest sediment-bound turf and coralline crust. Yet its sparse corals are unusually diverse and evenly mixed, a thin veneer on open ground rather than a collapsed reef, and no bleaching was recorded. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 4.6 · In-house DINOv3 3.3 · CoralSCOP edited 0.3 · Claude 0.0

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 3 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-cauvin-banks-bica01.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.