

# Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank North (BINI78)

Nelson Island · surveyed 2015-04-20



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.

HARD CORAL COVER

**19%**

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

**20.3 m**

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

**29.4°C**

+0.4°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (29.0°C)

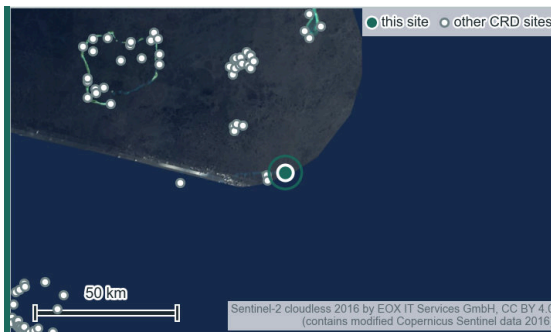
PHOTOGRAPHS

**16**

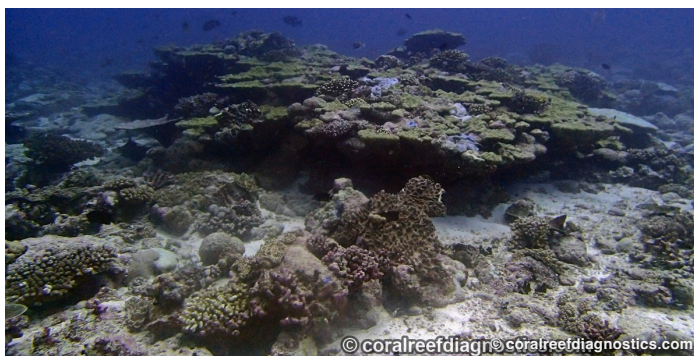
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POSITION

**-5.6805, 72.3815**



A low-cover (19%) Nelson Island reef whose standout feature is an unusually high load of sponges and other invertebrates, including a pale blue-gray encrusting sponge that easily passes for bleached coral. Its published 11.6% bleaching figure is driven largely by misread frames (pale growing tips and that sponge), while the frames with genuinely white coral scored no bleaching at all. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 19.1 · [CoralNet](#) 24.4 · In-house DINOv3 29.0 · CoralSCOP edited 28.4 · Claude 24.8

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 16 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-north-bini78.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.