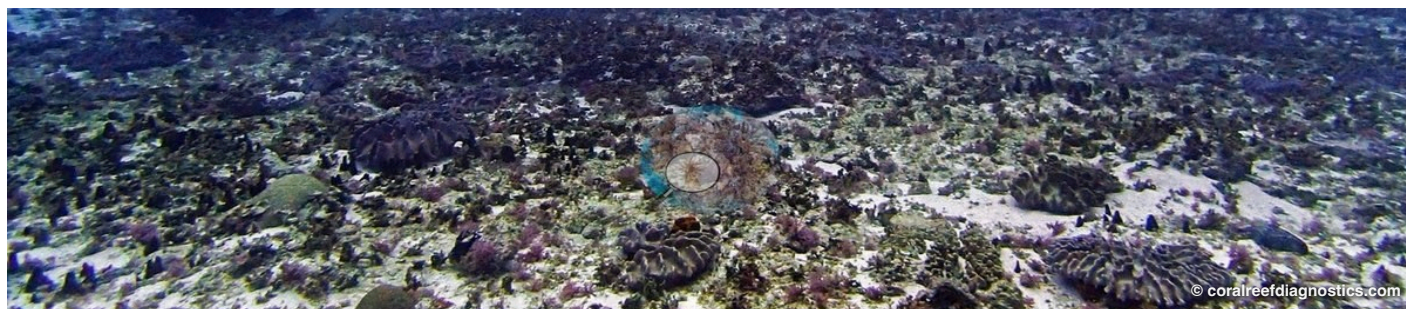


Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BICC50)

Central Chagos · surveyed 2015-03-25



Coral Health Index: 3.50/5

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

12%

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

20.1 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

30.0°C

+1.2°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.8°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

11

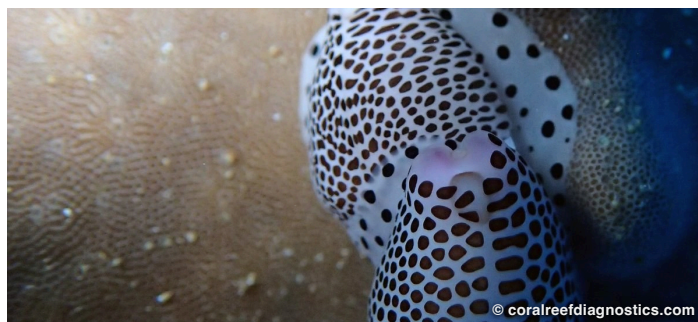
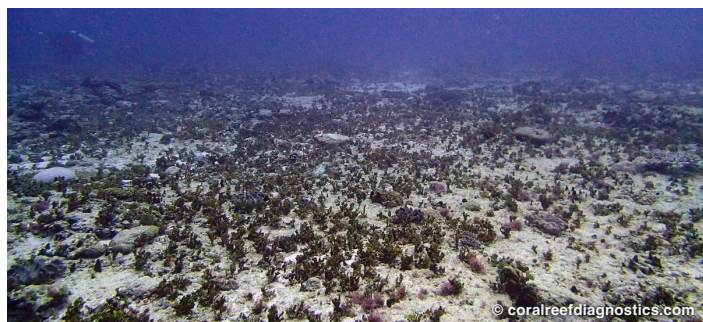
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.3994, 71.6173



BICC50 is a low-cover Central Chagos lagoon reef (12.1%) where cover was actually higher at depth than in the shallows. Two shark passes were logged and no disease or crown-of-thorns seen; a published bleaching figure for this site is considered unreliable, apparently inflated by a photograph of pale-mantled gastropods being misread as bleached coral. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 12.1 · [CoralNet](#) 29.4 · In-house DINOv3 30.0 · CoralSCOP edited 28.8 · Claude 15.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 11 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bicc50.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.