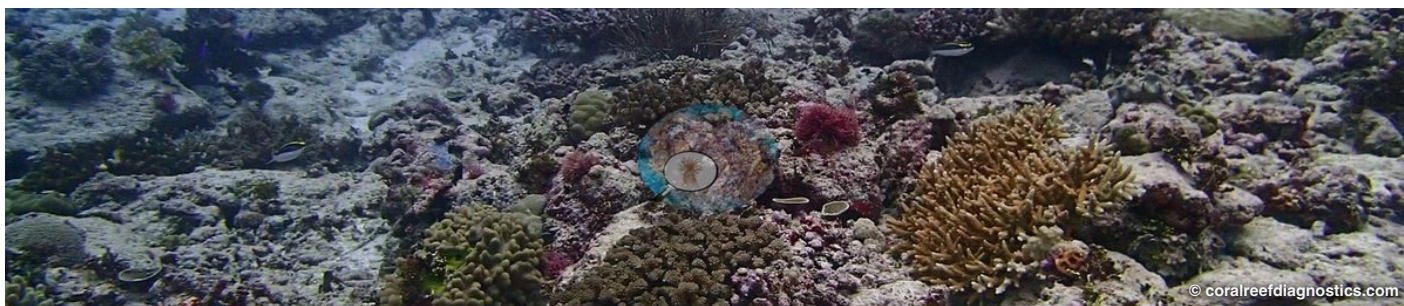


Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BICC51)

Central Chagos · surveyed 2015-03-25



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

15%

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

29.2 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

+0.9°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.8°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

17

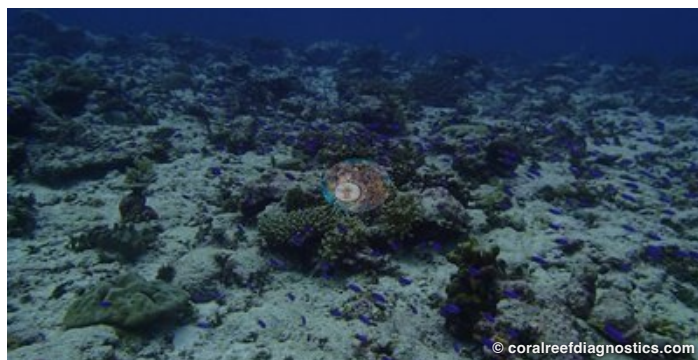
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.3002, 71.5696



BICC51 is the single most algae-dominated reef of all 109 Chagos sites surveyed, with 70% algal cover against just 15.4% coral, split fairly evenly between *Pocillopora*, *Acropora*, and *Porites*. A whitetip reef shark rested under a plating colony, with fish traffic notably out of proportion to the modest coral cover. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 15.4 · [CoralNet](#) 21.9 · In-house DINOv3 24.1 · CoralSCOP edited 27.5 · Claude 20.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 17 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bicc51.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.