

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BIEA17)

Eagle Island · surveyed 2015-03-14



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

4.8%

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

27.5 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.6°C

+0.7°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

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none on file

POSITION

-6.1810, 71.3483



BIEA17 is the poorest coral site at Eagle Island and the third-poorest in the entire Chagos Archipelago, with just 4.8% coral cover against a smothering 44% sediment-laden turf - the highest turf figure of any of the 109 Chagos sites. *Acropora* is nearly absent here, unusual for a lagoonal reef, and no photographs survive from this dive to document its condition directly. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).

Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-biea17.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.