

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BIEA25)

Eagle Island · surveyed 2015-03-17



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

16%

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

30.0 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.4°C

+0.5°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

20

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1907, 71.3184



BIEA25 splits almost exactly in two: forty minutes over a barren, low-relief plain of pale rubble and sparse *Porites* heads, then a sudden shift to dense corymbose *Acropora* thickets where live cover jumps to 60%, so the site's 15.7% published cover describes an average of two very different habitats. A large octopus occupied three consecutive frames, and lined and powder-blue surgeonfish schooled over the thickets. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 15.7 · [CoralNet](#) 29.5 · In-house DINOv3 25.6 · CoralSCOP edited 29.8 · Claude 16.4

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 20 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-biea25.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.