

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BIEA26)

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

21%

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

26.8 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.2°C

+0.3°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

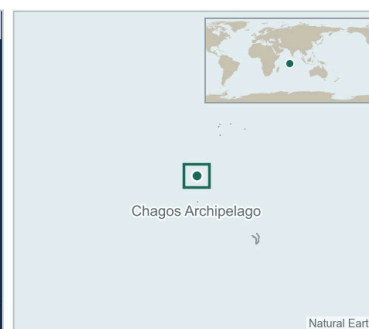
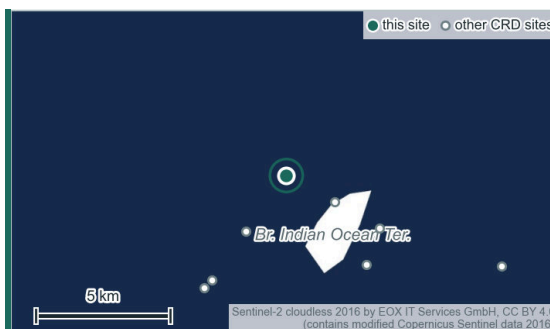
PHOTOGRAPHS

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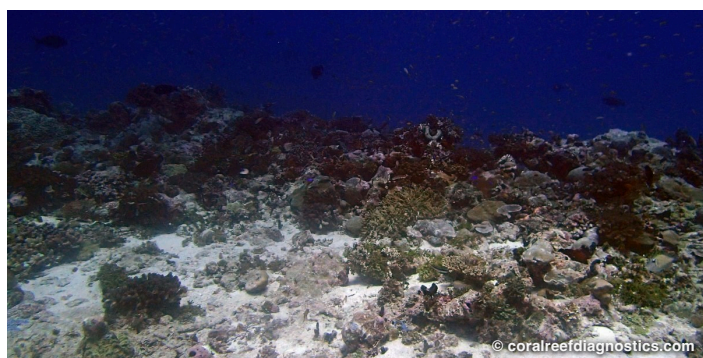
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1722, 71.3319



BIEA26 has the richest fish life of the Eagle Island survey series - a tawny nurse shark, a giant moray, a mauve-pink snapper, and dense anthias schools thick enough to fill a fifth of some frames. Published cover is 21%, with a notably *Porites*-heavy assemblage and more rubble than neighboring sites, consistent with an eroded reef plain. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 21.0 · [CoralNet](#) 21.0 · In-house DINOv3 14.1 · CoralSCOP edited 27.2 · Claude 14.5

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 32 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-biea26.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.