

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BIEA52)

Eagle Island · 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

34%

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

19.8 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.9°C

+1.0°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

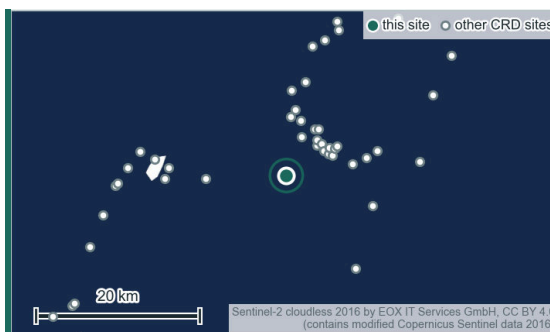
PHOTOGRAPHS

15

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1988, 71.4931



BIEA52, despite being filed under Eagle Island, sits close enough to Three Brothers that it likely belongs there instead. It carries a balanced, no-single-taxon-dominant coral assemblage at 34% cover, unusually high non-coral invertebrate cover (28.5%), and a photograph showing a crown-of-thorns starfish beside forceps - evidence of an active, deliberate removal rather than a chance sighting. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 34.1 · [CoralNet](#) 38.1 · In-house DINOv3 21.8 · CoralSCOP edited 39.1 · Claude 34.5

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 15 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-biea52.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.