

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB32)

South Brother · surveyed 2015-03-19



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

30%

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

29.6 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.4°C

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

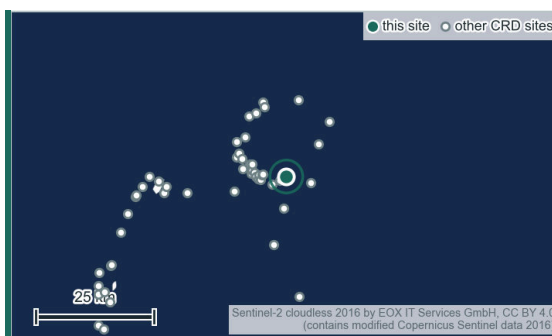
PHOTOGRAPHS

19

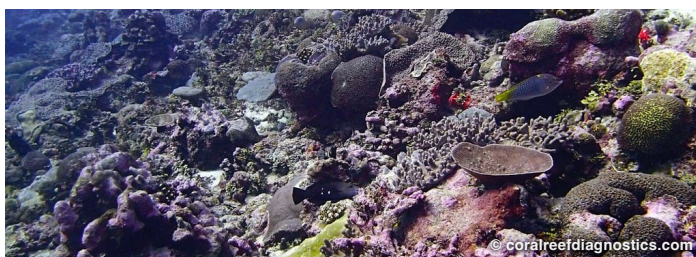
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POSITION

-6.1715, 71.5934



A low-relief bank reef packed with small colonies of many different corals over purple-pink coralline pavement, with thinner rubble patches where Moorish idols and fusiliers gather. There was no crown-of-thorns, disease, or fresh damage, only ordinary old dead patches. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 30.3 · [CoralNet](#) 16.7 · In-house DINOv3 11.8 · CoralSCOP edited 19.9 · Claude 11.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 19 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb32.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.