

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB33)

South Brother · surveyed 2015-03-19



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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

19%

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

22.3 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.5°C

+0.6°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

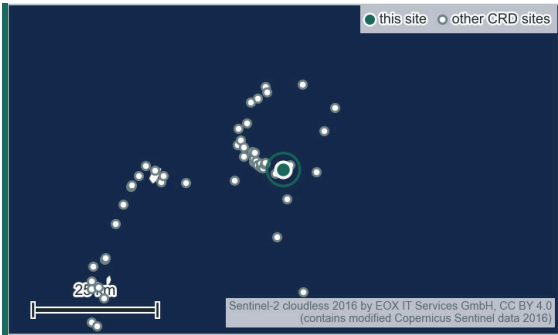
PHOTOGRAPHS

27

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1793, 71.5813



A lower-cover bank reef (18.5%) where coral gathers in healthy patches of gold-green *Acropora* tables and staghorn over sand and rubble. Its highlight is an enormous school of several hundred spotted, yellow-finned trevally filling the water column, along with dense fusilier schools. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



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CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 18.5 · [CoralNet](#) 20.3 · In-house DINOv3 11.5 · CoralSCOP edited 22.3 · Claude 7.9

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 27 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb33.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.