

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB46)



Three Brothers · surveyed 2015-03-23



© coralreefdiagnostics.com



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

26%

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

27.3 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

30.0°C

+1.1°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

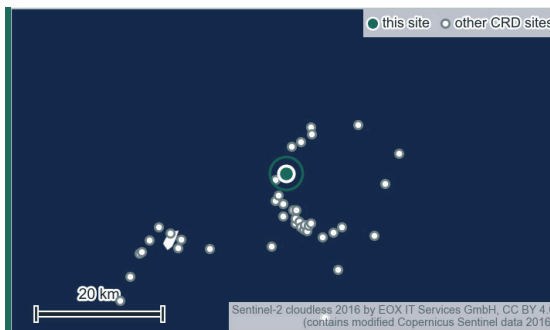
PHOTOGRAPHS

29

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.0961, 71.5143



Sitting at 27 m in the Three Brothers lagoon, BITB46 has the lowest coral cover of its group (25.8%), mostly *Porites*, spread over one of the thickest pink coralline crusts in Chagos (29.1% of the bottom, 4th of 109 sites), the sign of a well-grazed pavement and not a weedy reef. Gray and whitetip reef sharks, schooling surgeonfish and fusiliers, a cloud of baitfish, and a giant clam make the fish life a real highlight. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



© coralreefdiagnostics.com



© coralreefdiagnostics.com

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 25.8 · [CoralNet](#) 27.5 · In-house DINOv3 15.2 · CoralSCOP edited 31.3 · Claude 18.4

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 29 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb46.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.