

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB54)

South Brother · surveyed 2015-03-26



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

50%

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

30.2 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.8°C

+0.9°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

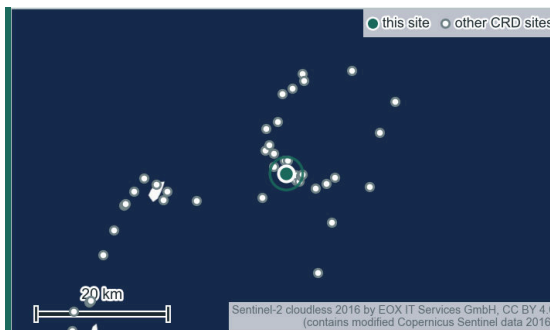
PHOTOGRAPHS

74

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1660, 71.5268



A structurally complex forereef off South Brother with 34 coral genera, unusually diverse for Chagos, where *Acropora* pushes cover to nearly 64% at mid-depth before plate-forming *Pachyseris* takes over deeper. Fish life is abundant, including two whitetip reef sharks, with little bleaching and no disease or crown-of-thorns. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 49.5 · [CoralNet](#) 34.3 · In-house DINOv3 20.8 · CoralSCOP edited 30.9 · Claude 29.8

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 74 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb54.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.