Tonga - Ha'apai (TOHA03)

surveyed 2013-09-12



0 — 5

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 over 5 transects — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs (17 frames) and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

20%

Benthic transects+photo-quadrats

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

24.3°C **0.0°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · -2.5°C vs the past-365-day mean (26.8°C) · NOAA No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

8.1°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

14.6 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

23.9°C

CTD-cast midpoint of 23.9–24.0°C

-2.7°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (26.6°C)

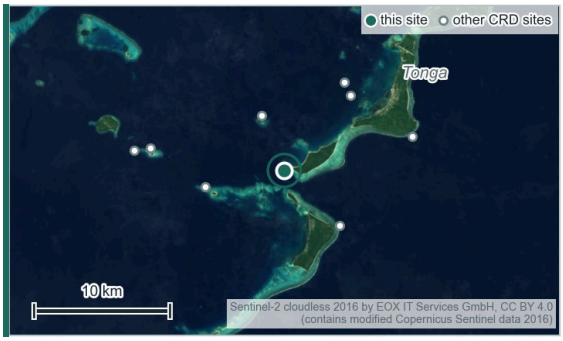
PHOTOGRAPHS

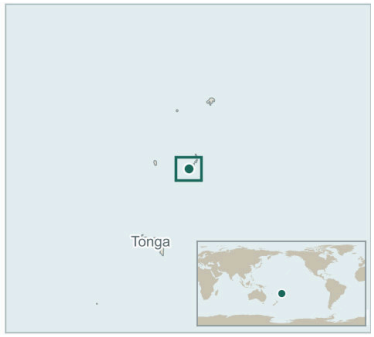
17 in the gallery · 17 on file

POSITION

-19.8561, -174.4268

Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).





TOHA03 is not uniformly low-relief: alongside sparse mound-top mosaics, the photos reveal an '*Acropora* mountain,' Anderson's own name for an enormous mound blanketed in branching and staghorn coral reaching almost to the surface, and a soft coral garden of mustard-yellow and gray-green lobed colonies. A banded sea snake tracks across coralline rubble and sand in two frames; cover measured 20%, and no bleaching, disease lesion, or crown-of-thorns feeding scar is visible in any of the 17 frames. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. ʻOku ʻikai ke tatau pē hono māʻulalo ʻo TOHA03: fakataha mo e ngaahi konga feo siʻisiʻi ʻi he funga ʻo e ngaahi puke (mounds), ʻoku fakahā ʻe he ngaahi tā ha '*Acropora* mountain' (moʻunga Acropora), ko e hingoa ʻo Anderson ki ha puke lahi ʻaupito kuo ʻufiʻufi ʻe he feo fakavaʻavaʻa mo e staghorn ʻo meimei aʻu ki he funga tahi, mo ha ngoue ʻo e feo molū (soft coral) ʻo e ngaahi kulupu lanu engeenga-mastati (mustard-yellow) mo e efuefu-mata. ʻOku kolo atu ha ngata tahi (banded sea snake) ʻi he maka momoa feo mo e ʻoneʻone ʻi he tā ʻe ua; naʻe 20% ʻa e ʻufiʻufi, pea ʻoku ʻikai hā ha hinehina (bleaching), lavea mahaki, pe mata kai ʻa e ʻalamea (crown-of-thorns) ʻi ha taha ʻo e tā ʻe 17. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): Transect mean (all transects) 20.1 · CoralSCOP unedited 32.0* · Claude (edited photos) 20.4* The two computer-vision methods disagree by 11.6 pp (20.4–32.0%) and read 0.3–11.9 pp above the in-water transect (20.1%); the headline is the in-water transect because a diver transect is independent of the photographs. *Based on only 16 reef-habitat photos; this estimate is less certain.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 17 in the gallery · 17 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-ha-apai-toha03.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 (Southern Tonga) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.