Tonga - Ha'apai (TOHA06)

surveyed 2013-09-13



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
23%
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

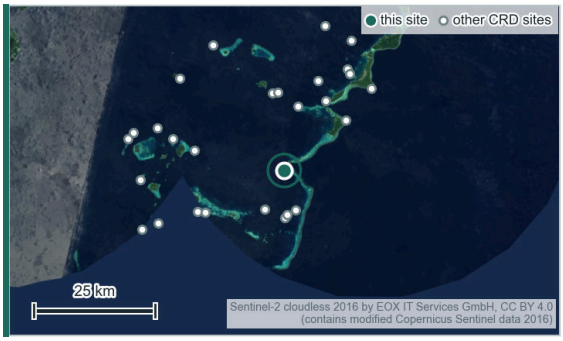
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
8.1°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12°C-weeks

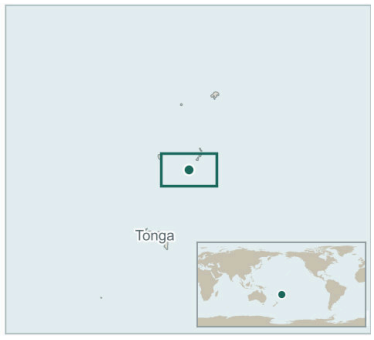
MAX. DEPTH
31.4 m
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
24.1°C
CTD-cast midpoint of 24.0–24.1°C
-2.4°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (26.5°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
17 in the gallery · 17 on file

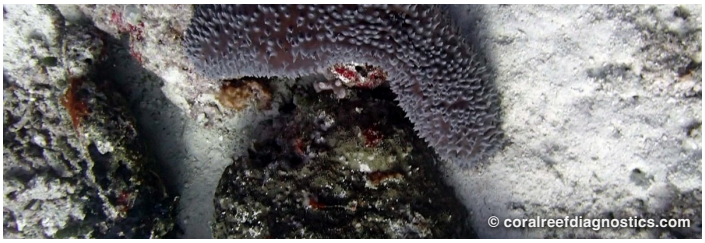
POSITION
-19.9850, -174.5085
Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).





A Ha'apai reef of very large seaward mounds, with coral thickest at 12-20 m and dropping to almost nothing by 30 m, and an undercut ledge hung with orange cup corals and soft corals. Ten of the 17 photographs are of one enormous blotched stingray on the sand flat, and more than 20 sea cucumbers were counted on a single dive. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. Ko ha hakau ʻi Haʻapai ʻo e ngaahi puke lalahi ʻaupito ʻi he tafaʻaki ki tahi, ʻoku matolu taha ai ʻa e feo ʻi he 12-20 m pea ʻoku meimei ʻikai ha feo ʻi he 30 m, mo ha tafungofunga kuo keli ʻi lalo (undercut ledge) ʻoku tautau ai ʻa e ngaahi feo ipu lanu moli (orange cup corals) mo e feo molū (soft corals). Ko e tā ʻe hongofulu ʻi he tā ʻe 17 ko e ʻuhi pē ʻe taha lahi ʻaupito (stingray) ʻoku pulepule ʻi he tafaʻaki ʻoneʻone, pea naʻe lau ha loli (sea cucumbers) ʻe laka hake ʻi he 20 ʻi ha uku pē ʻe taha. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





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-toha06.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.