Tonga - Ha'apai (TOHA14)

surveyed 2013-09-16



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 6 transects — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs (38 frames) and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER
44%
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

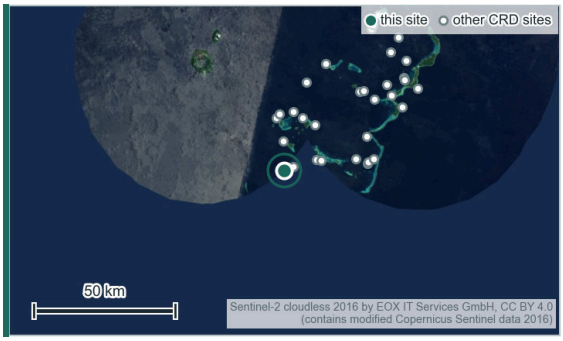
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
8.1°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12°C-weeks

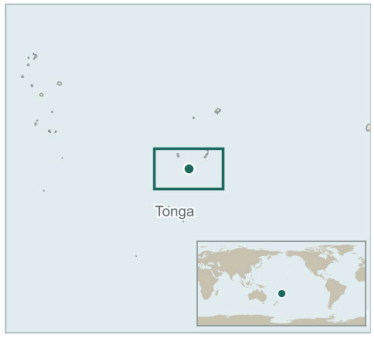
MAX. DEPTH
25.5 m
sample-sheet maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
24.2°C
CTD-cast midpoint; the cast read 24.2°C throughout
-2.3°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (26.5°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
38 in the gallery · 38 on file

POSITION
-20.0938, -174.7885
Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).





A densely built Ha'apai reef with almost no bare rock, crowded with lilac and violet *Acropora*, stacked table corals, and broad staghorn fields under schools of damselfish and surgeonfish. A boldly patterned giant clam anchors a crevice community, and no bleaching was visible. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. Ko ha hakau ʻi Haʻapai kuo langa fefuʻifuʻi, ʻoku meimei ʻikai ha maka tukuʻau, ʻoku fonu ʻi he *Acropora* lanu laileki mo vaioleti, ngaahi feo fakatēpile (table corals) fakafuʻufuʻu, mo e ngaahi ngoue staghorn fālahi ʻi lalo ʻi he ngaahi kulupu ika damselfish mo e surgeonfish. ʻOku nofo ha vāsuva (giant clam) ʻoku ngali faka-tā hono lanu ʻi ha kiʻi ava mo e ngaahi meʻa moʻui ʻoku nofo ai, pea naʻe ʻikai hā ha hinehina (bleaching). *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): Transect mean (all transects) 44.0 · CoralSCOP unedited 33.1 · Claude (edited photos) 36.2 The two computer-vision methods agree within 3.1 pp (33.1–36.2%) and read 7.8–10.9 pp below the in-water transect (44.0%); the headline is the in-water transect because a diver transect is independent of the photographs.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 38 in the gallery · 38 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-ha-apai-toha14.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.