Tonga - Vava'u (TOVA36)

surveyed 2013-09-23



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 and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

30%

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

32.3 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

26.1°C

CTD-cast midpoint of 26.0–26.1°C

-1.1°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (27.2°C)

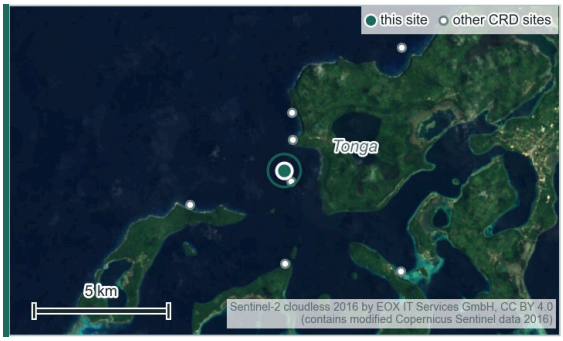
PHOTOGRAPHS

8 in the gallery · 8 on file

POSITION

-18.6574, -174.0700

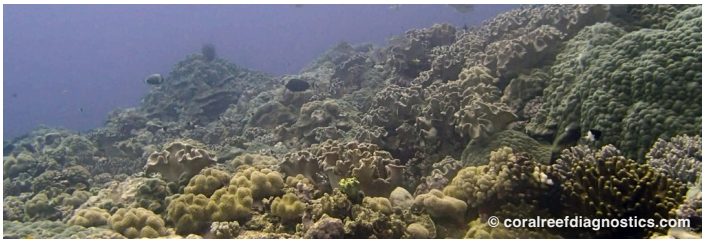
Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).





Split Rock, at a channel entrance in Vava'u, where wide spurs are dominated by big mounding *Porites lobata* colonies at 60-90% cover, some up to 4 m across. Damselfish algal lawns were widespread, including on many of the *Porites*, and *Turbinaria* stands at depth showed extensive recent mortality. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. Ko Split Rock, ʻi he hūʻanga ʻo ha hala vai (channel) ʻi Vavaʻu, ʻa ia ʻoku puleʻi ai ʻa e ngaahi spurs fālahi ʻe he ngaahi kulupu *Porites lobata* fakapuke lalahi ʻi he ʻufiʻufi ʻo e 60-90%, ko e niʻihi ʻoku aʻu ki he 4 m hono fālahi. Naʻe mafola ʻa e ngaahi ngoue limu ʻa e damselfish, kau ai ʻi he *Porites* lahi, pea naʻe hā ʻi he ngaahi vao *Turbinaria* ʻi he loloto ʻa e mate foʻou lahi. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 8 in the gallery · 8 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-vava-u-tova36.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.