Tonga - Vava'u (TOVA39)

surveyed 2013-09-24



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, the author's sampling sheet, and the expedition's survey records, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER
15%
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

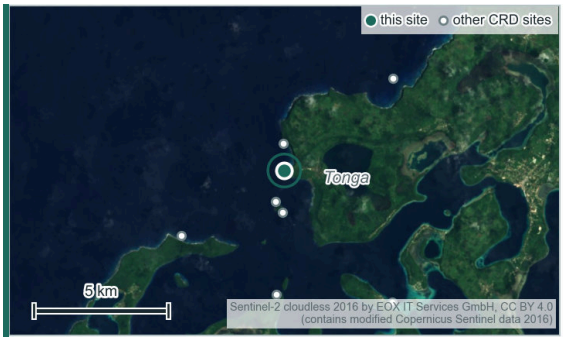
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
8.1°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
30.5 m
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
26.5°C
CTD-cast midpoint of 26.5–26.6°C
-0.8°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (27.3°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
11 in the gallery · 12 on file

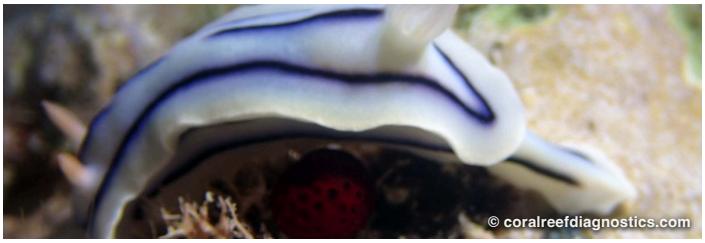
POSITION
-18.6470, -174.0670
Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).





Known as Fingers, this Vava'u reef drops from an uplifted coastal cliff to sand scattered with tumbled boulders, then out to terraces and spurs with very little live coral. Most of the rock is coralline crust and turf with damselfish lawns, with extensive patches of hydroids at 25-30 m. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. ‘Oku ‘iloa ko Fingers, ko e hakau ko ‘eni ‘i Vava‘u ‘oku tō hifo mei ha mato matātahi kuo hiki hake (uplifted coastal cliff) ki he ‘one‘one ‘oku mafola ai ‘a e ngaahi maka lalahi kuo tō, pea a‘u atu ki he ngaahi tu‘unga (terraces) mo e spurs ‘oku si‘isi‘i ‘aupito ai ‘a e feo mo‘ui. Ko e lahi taha ‘o e maka ko e limu feo pipiki (coralline crust) mo e limu nounou (turf) mo e ngaahi ngoue limu ‘a e damselfish, mo e ngaahi konga fālahi ‘o e hydroid ‘i he 25-30 m. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 11 in the gallery · 12 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-vava-u-tova39.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.