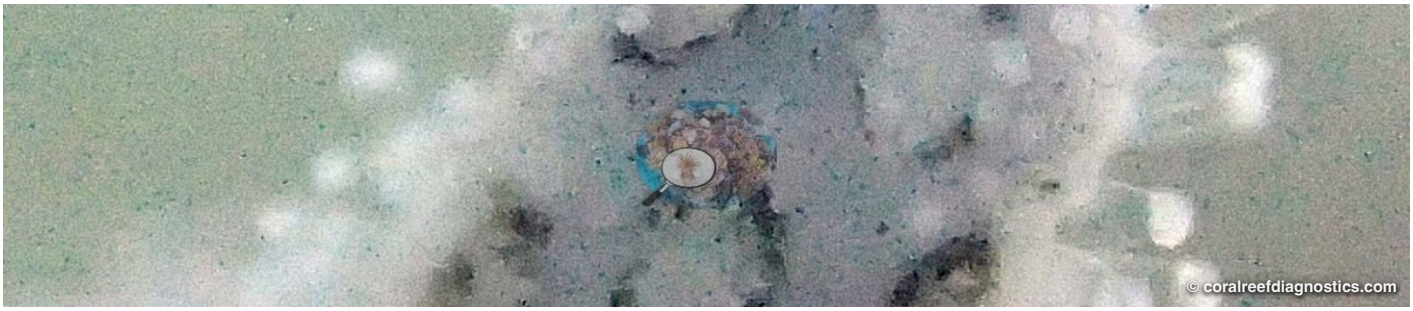
Tonga - Vava'u (TOVA40)

surveyed 2013-09-24



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: 2.20/5

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 drawn from the Global Reef Expedition's survey records and field reports; the page also shows the author's photographs of colonies sampled there and the author's dive notes.

HARD CORAL COVER
21%
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

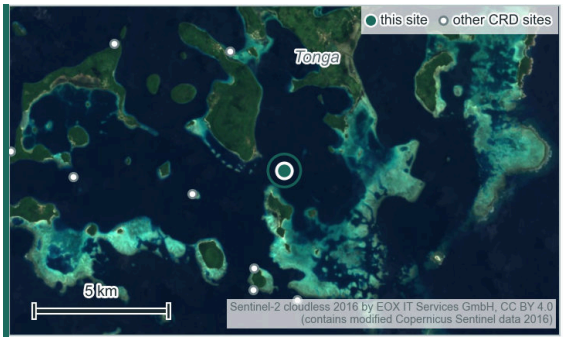
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
8.1°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
17.7 m
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
25.8°C
CTD-cast midpoint of 25.7–25.9°C
-1.3°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (27.1°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
41 in the gallery · 43 on file

POSITION
-18.7308, -174.0098
Coordinate from the supporting data of Mayfield et al. (2017, PLoS ONE).

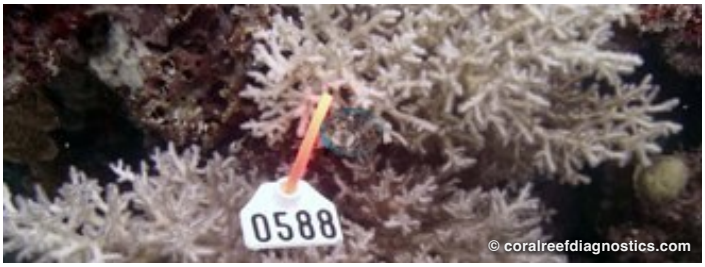




A soft-bottom lagoon reef in Vava'u built on a framework of massive *Porites* up to 2 m across, their exposed skeleton colonized by other corals, with spindly staghorn stands and a high diversity of other species. Two crown-of-thorns starfish were found, one having eaten a large table coral, and a gray encrusting sponge was overgrowing corals. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. Ko ha hakau ʻi he namo ʻi he takele molū (soft-bottom lagoon reef) ʻi Vavaʻu kuo langa ʻi ha fakavaʻe ʻo e *Porites* lalahi (massive) ʻoku aʻu ki he 2 m hono fālahi, ʻa ia kuo nofoʻi ʻe he ngaahi feo kehe honau ivi ʻoku hā mai, mo e ngaahi vao staghorn vaʻa manifi pea mo ha kehekehe lahi ʻo e ngaahi faʻahinga kehe. Naʻe ʻilo ha ʻalamea (crown-of-thorns starfish) ʻe ua, ko e taha naʻe kai ha feo fakatēpile (table coral) lahi, pea naʻe tupu ha sponge pipiki lanu efuefu (gray encrusting sponge) ʻi ʻolunga ʻi he ngaahi feo. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*





Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 41 in the gallery · 43 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-vava-u-tova40.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.