Tonga - Vava'u (TOVA46)

surveyed 2013-09-26



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

HARD CORAL COVER

19%

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

26.5 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

26.4°C

CTD-cast midpoint of 26.3–26.5°C

-0.8°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (27.2°C)

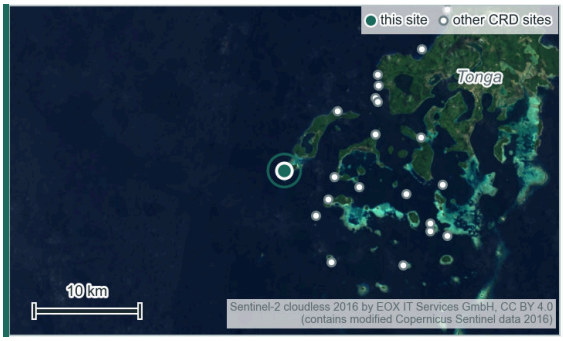
PHOTOGRAPHS

8 in the gallery · 8 on file

POSITION

-18.7192, -174.1512

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

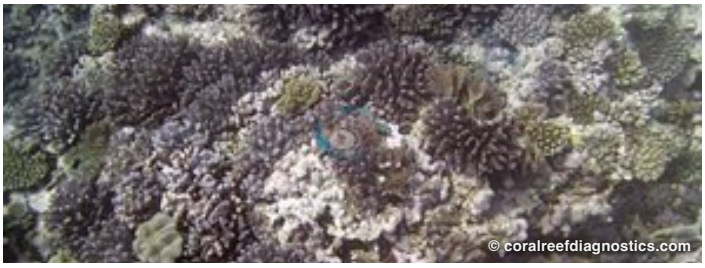




A gently sloping leeward barrier reef in Vava'u of wide spurs and clean sand channels, with a flat middle band dominated by soft corals. Deeper spurs carry large staghorn patches, most partly dead under turf and damselfish lawns, along with big table corals and a 3 m *Porites* at the sand edge. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. Ko ha hakau fakaā (barrier reef) ‘oku hifo māmālie ‘i he tafa‘aki malu‘i mei he matangi (leeward) ‘i Vava‘u ‘o e ngaahi spurs fālahi mo e ngaahi hala vai ‘one‘one ma‘a, mo ha konga lafalafa ‘i he lotomālie ‘oku pule‘i ‘e he feo molū (soft corals). ‘Oku ‘i he ngaahi spurs loloto ange ‘a e ngaahi konga staghorn lalahi, ko e lahi taha kuo mate ha konga ‘i lalo ‘i he limu nounou (turf) mo e ngaahi ngoue limu ‘a e damselfish, fakataha mo e ngaahi feo fakatēpile (table corals) lalahi mo ha *Porites* ‘o e 3 m ‘i he tafa‘aki ‘o e ‘one‘one. *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-tova46.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.