Tonga - Vava'u (TOVA51)

surveyed 2013-09-27



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: 3.10/5

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 4 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

35%

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

24.4 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

26.4°C

CTD-cast midpoint of 26.1–26.7°C

-0.7°C vs the 2013 mean sea temperature (27.1°C)

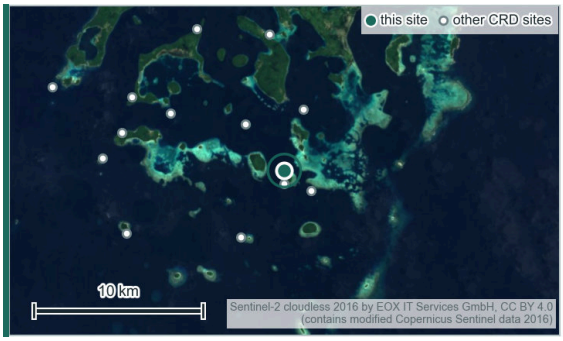
PHOTOGRAPHS

3 in the gallery · 45 on file

POSITION

-18.7634, -174.0206

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





On a dive to 24.4 m off Vava'u, a staghorn *Acropora* thicket so extensive it dwarfs a passing diver, its branches pale gray-white along most of their length: bleached, but still alive. Several crown-of-thorns starfish were massed together on the reef, and Anderson's sampling sheet records two of the eight *Pocillopora* colonies sampled here as 50% and 80% bleached. Surveyed on the Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition.

lea faka-Tonga. ʻI ha uku ki he 24.4 m ʻi Vavaʻu, ko ha vao *Acropora* staghorn ʻoku fuʻu lahi ʻo siʻisiʻi ai ha tokotaha uku ʻoku ʻalu atu, ʻoku vaivai hono lanu efuefu-hinehina ʻi he lahi taha ʻo hono loloa ʻo hono ngaahi vaʻa: kuo hinehina (bleached), ka ʻoku kei moʻui. Naʻe fakatahataha ha ʻalamea (crown-of-thorns starfish) ʻe niʻihi ʻi he hakau, pea ʻoku lēkooti ʻe he pepa sampling ʻa Anderson ko e kulupu ʻe ua ʻi he kulupu *Pocillopora* ʻe valu naʻe toʻo sīpinga mei ai heni naʻe hinehina ʻaki ʻa e 50% mo e 80%. *AI translation of this summary; the English is authoritative. (low confidence)*



Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 2 on this card; 3 in the gallery · 45 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-tonga-vava-u-tova51.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.