Looe Key

Florida Keys / South Florida · surveyed 2021-12-09 (2 dives)



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 108 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page. 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

20%

Claude computer vision (108 edited photos) · median 15%

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

28.5°C **13.7°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · +0.4°C vs the past-365-day mean (28.1°C) · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 13.7°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

12.5°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

9.8 m

deepest of 2 logged dives

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

26.2°C

-0.9°C vs the 2021 mean sea temperature (27.1°C)

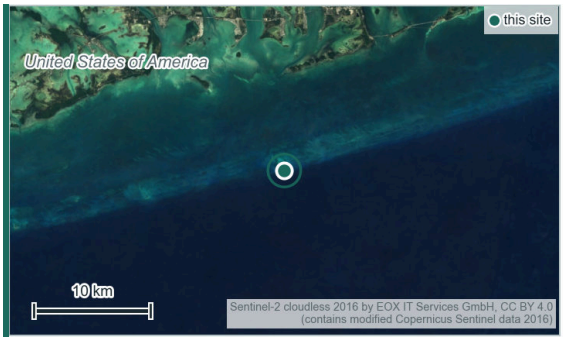
PHOTOGRAPHS

26 in the gallery · 179 on file

POSITION

24.5456, -81.4039

Position of the Aqualink monitoring site at Looe Key Reef, 70 m from the NOAA survey station PSU 8195-1; no GPS fix was logged on these dives.





Looe Key is the classic Lower Keys spur-and-groove reef, with its coral spurs and white sand grooves still intact but the living coral thin; sea plumes, sea rods, and sea fans do most of the growing on eroded, algae-fuzzed crests. Fish life is good, with sergeant majors, blue tang, yellowtail snapper, and a great barracuda on both dives.





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): CoralSCOP edited 25.5 · **Claude (edited photos) 19.8** CoralSCOP (edited photos) reads 25.5%, within 5.7 pp of Claude's blind point count (19.8%).

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 26 in the gallery · 179 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/looe-key.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 (Florida Keys) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.