

Maldives - Big Sand Bank

South Male · 2 visits, 2016-01-17 – 2017-05-18



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a computer-vision estimate over the site's own frames (40 frames) — DINOv3 16%, CoralSCOP 20%. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

18%

computer vision: DINOv3 16%, CoralSCOP 20%
(40 photos)

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

29.7°C

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · +0.1°C vs the annual mean (29.6 °C)
· [NOAA](#) Bleaching Watch

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

2.2°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks below 4 °C-weeks, the bleaching threshold

MAX. DEPTH

20.7 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

—

not logged

PHOTOGRAPHS

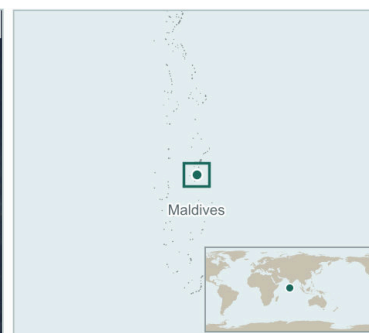
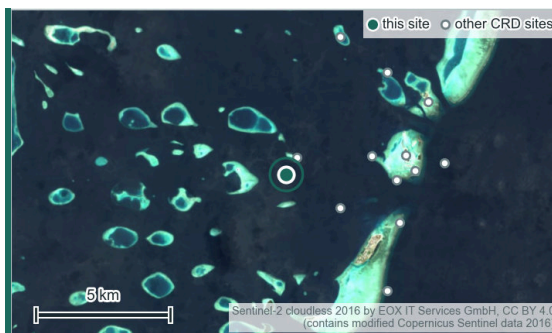
25

on file for this site

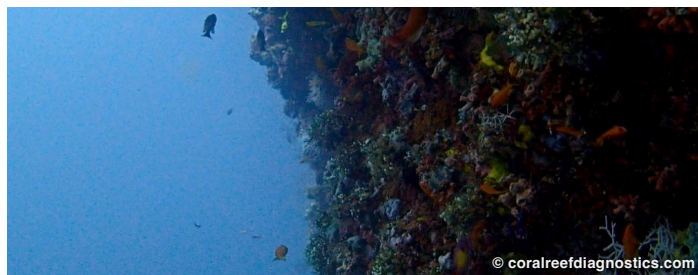
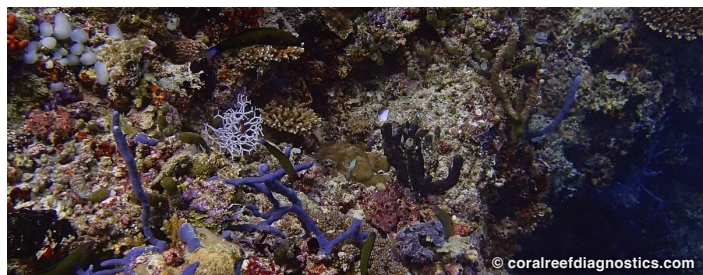
POSITION

3.9660, 73.4620

Placed in the Vaagali-area sandbank cluster beside the already-pinned 2016 "Small Sand Bank" (3.9718/73.4656); fits May 19 position between Kuda Giri and Kandooma Thila



Big Sand Bank hides a canyon maze of sponge- and soft-coral-draped swim-throughs beneath sunlit staghorn and tabletop terraces, photographed in January 2016 just months before the regional bleaching event. A May 2017 revisit found the site's tagged long-term monitoring colonies largely dead. Computer vision cover estimate is 15.8-19.6%, averaging 17.7%.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 15.8 · CoralSCOP 19.6 · **Mean (± SD) 17.7 ± 2.7** · Range 15.8–19.6 Mean ± SD and range are across the computer-vision methods shown.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 25 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/maldives-big-sand-bank.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 (Maldives) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.