Maldives - Little Sandy Bank

South Male · 2 visits, 2016-01-14 – 2016-01-19; April 2016 (transect survey); July 2016 (transect survey)



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Method: point-intercept transect, over 10 transects. 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

31%

Diver transect survey, July 2016 (Anderson's HARP / Coral Reef CPR long-term monitoring PIT transects; n=10 transects) · median 28%
↘ 50%, 2016-04 → 2016-07

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

30.1°C **0.0°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · +0.5°C vs the past-365-day mean (29.6°C) · NOAA Bleaching Watch

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

2.2°C-weeks

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

MAX. DEPTH

10.8 m

sample-sheet maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

28.5°C

-0.8°C vs the 2016 mean sea temperature (29.3°C)

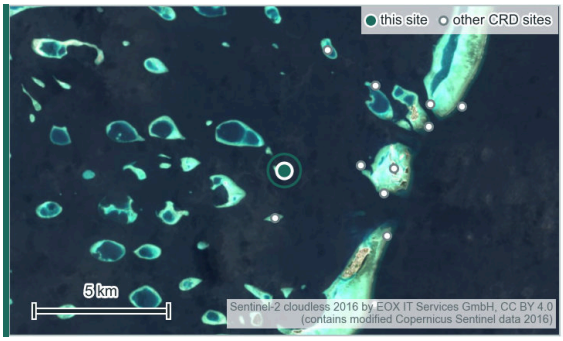
PHOTOGRAPHS

37 in the gallery · 356 on file

POSITION

3.9718, 73.4655

Position recorded by the author for this site.





Little Sandy Bank (the CPR coordinate file's Small Sand Bank) is a leeward lagoonal patch reef whose coralline-crusted reef top drops steeply into blue water, the first quadrat site of a January 2016 research baseline, where Anderson recorded 14 of the 15 colonies sampled as healthy and one as 5-10% sickly or pale. On the 14 January dive Anderson also noted one crown-of-thorns starfish and 5-10 *Culcita* cushion stars with extensive feeding damage in places, and by the April 2016 resurvey, at the height of El Niño, four out of five colonies here were bleached.

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