

Maldives - Small Sand Bank

South Male · 2 visits, 2016-01-14 – 2016-01-19



What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a computer-vision estimate over the site's own frames (16 frames) — DINOv3 23%, CoralSCOP 17%. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER 20% computer vision: DINOv3 23%, CoralSCOP 17% (16 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 10.8 m dive-log maximum	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) — not logged	PHOTOGRAPHS 25 on file for this site
POSITION 3.9718, 73.4655		

Small Sand Bank is a coralline-crusted bank reef dropping into blue water, the first quadrat site of a January 2016 research baseline, where tagged coral colonies were healthy and feeding and crown-of-thorns starfish prowled the pavement. By the April 2016 resurvey, at the height of El Nino, four out of five colonies here were bleached.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 23.1 · CoralSCOP 17.1 · **Mean (± SD) 20.1 ± 4.2** · Range 17.1–23.1 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-small-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.