NOAA - Black Coral Rock, Dry Tortugas

Florida reef tract · surveyed 2021-06-28



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: 0.75/5

What was done. Method: point-count survey (FWC-FWRI CREMP). 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

12%

Point-count survey (FWC-FWRI CREMP)
↘ 62%, 2021–2024

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

25.6 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

28.3°C

+1.8°C vs the 2021 mean sea temperature (26.5°C)
Note: NOAA's regional station series averages 1.1°C warmer than the satellite pixel nearest this site (3.6 km away), which is used here instead.

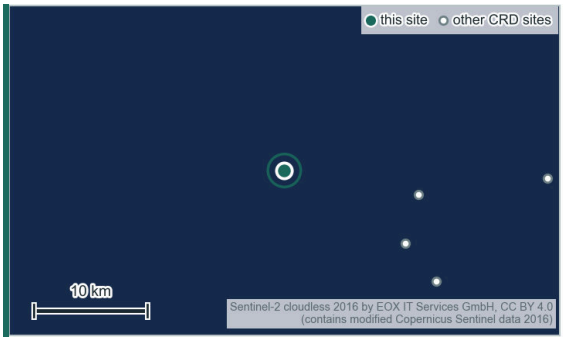
PHOTOGRAPHS

25 in the gallery · 41 on file

POSITION

24.6993, -83.0022

Site coordinate from the monitoring program's records.





A NOAA Dry Tortugas monitoring station on an open-ocean pinnacle (Anderson's log: 'a beautiful pinnacle in the middle of the open ocean'), with rubble-and-turf hard-bottom dotted with brain corals and mounding heads, and one colony showing a tissue-loss front consistent with SCTLD. Coral cover is 12%, the mean of four FWC-FWRI CREMP 2021 point-count stations at this monitoring site (range 9.5–17%), not a count of Anderson's own images.





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): Transect (published) 12.4 · CoralSCOP unedited 34.6* · Claude (edited photos) 17.6 The two computer-vision methods disagree by 17.0 pp (17.6–34.6%) and read 5.2–22.2 pp above the in-water transect (12.4%); the headline is the in-water transect because a diver transect is independent of the photographs. *Based on only 15 reef-habitat photos; this estimate is less certain.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 25 in the gallery · 41 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/noaa-black-coral-rock-dry-tortugas.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.