NOAA - East Flower Garden Bank, Buoy 3

Gulf of Mexico - Texas · 2 visits, 2019-06-03 – 2019-06-04



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Method: photo-transect point count (NOAA FGBNMS), over 16 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

50%

NOAA FGBNMS long-term monitoring, random photo transects, July 2024 (n=16 transects) · median 52%

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

27.2°C **5.1°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · +0.8°C vs the past-365-day mean (26.4°C) · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 5.1°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

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

7.4°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

21.9 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

27.9–28.5°C

in situ, range of all logged dives

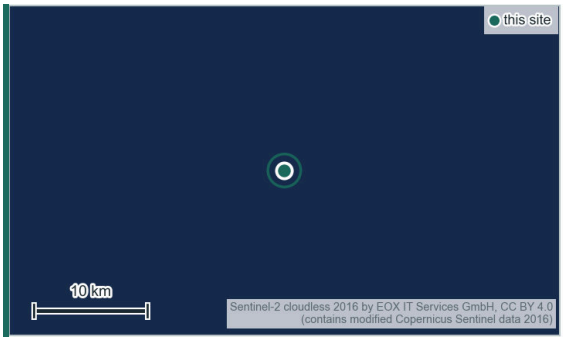
PHOTOGRAPHS

7 in the gallery · 201 on file

POSITION

27.9074, -93.5992

Recorded site position.





A coral-capped salt-dome bank 180 km off Galveston where mounding *Montastraea/Orbicella* heads and brain corals cover roughly half the bottom; in June 2019 Anderson photographed fresh tissue loss on several brain colonies, parrotfish bite scars, and a lionfish. NOAA's 2024 survey puts coral cover at 50%, compared with 59% on the NOAA NCRMP chain-intercept transects of June 2019.





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): NOAA FGBNMS transects, July 2024 (headline) 50.4 · Chain-intercept survey, June 2019 (earlier point) 58.8 · CoralSCOP edited 57.7 · Claude (edited photos) 50.9 The two computer-vision methods agree within 6.8 pp (50.9–57.7%) and read 0.5–7.3 pp above the in-water transect (50.4%); the headline is the in-water transect because a diver transect is independent of the photographs.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 7 in the gallery · 201 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/noaa-east-flower-garden-bank-buoy-3.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 (Flower Garden Banks, Texas) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.