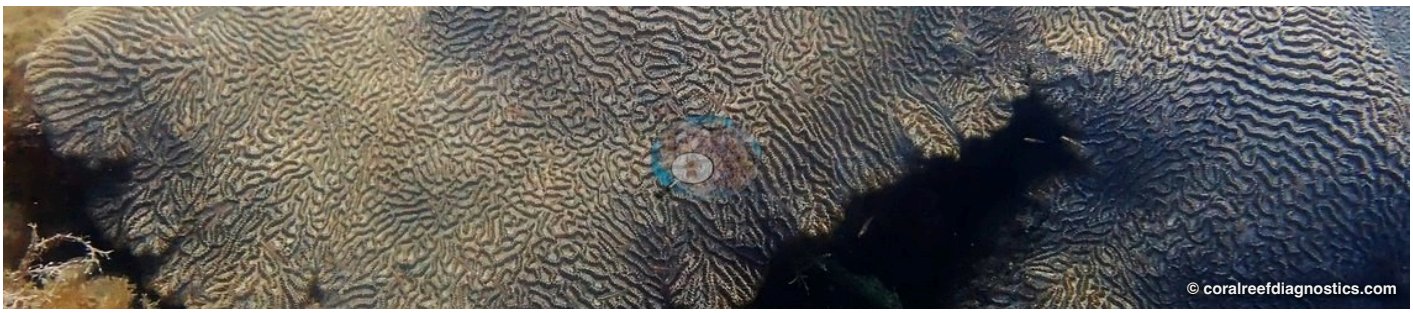
NOAA - Texas Reef, Dry Tortugas

Florida reef tract · surveyed 2021-06-28



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Method: point-count survey (FWC-FWRI CREMP). For comparison only: CoralSCOP run on the author's own photographs (26 frames) gives 39%. That figure is a mask-area index, not a point count, and is not this site's cover. 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

6.8%

Point-count survey (FWC-FWRI CREMP)

↘ 54%, 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

17.1 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 (1.2 km away), which is used here instead.

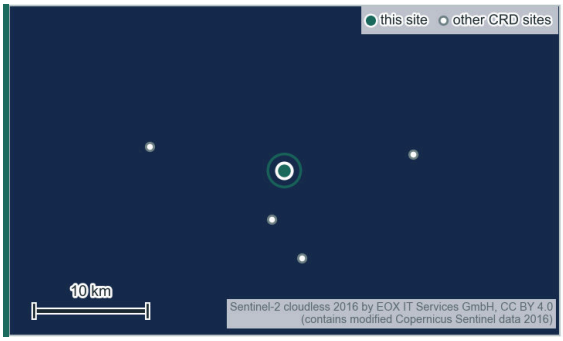
PHOTOGRAPHS

25 in the gallery · 58 on file

POSITION

24.6805, -82.8853

Site coordinate from the monitoring program's records.





A Florida CREMP monitoring site in the Dry Tortugas: rocky hard-bottom threaded with small swim-throughs, with scattered coral domes, tube sponges, and a staghorn patch, where Anderson logged 'way too much macroalgae'. Published cover was 6.8% in 2021 and 3.1% in 2024 (Florida CREMP).





CV model comparison (hard coral cover, %): Transect (published) 6.8 · CoralSCOP edited 39.2 · Claude (edited photos) 20.5 The two computer-vision methods disagree by 18.7 pp (20.5–39.2%) and read 13.7–32.4 pp above the in-water transect (6.8%); 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; 25 in the gallery · 58 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/noaa-texas-reef-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.