

Oman - Novice Bay (Muscat)

surveyed 2024-05-20



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سلطنة عمان
SULTANATE OF OMAN
هيئة البيئة
ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY



Reef Check



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 135 photographs. 6 further methods were run on the same frames and are reported on the site page.

HARD CORAL COVER

39%

manual point count (135 photos) · other methods on the site page

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

30.4°C

4.6°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · +1.9°C vs the annual mean (28.5 °C)
· NOAA Alert Level 1

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

11.0°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

—

not logged

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

—

not logged

PHOTOGRAPHS

20

on file for this site

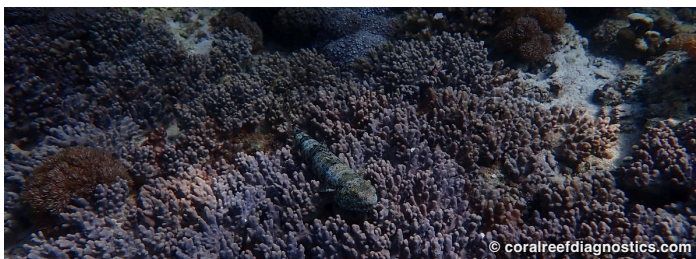
POSITION

23.5212, 58.7501



Novice Bay is a strongly zoned Muscat reef, its shallow flat of brain corals and *Pocillopora* thickets grading into leather-coral slopes and then deep coralline buttresses, with a resting green turtle, a banded sea snake, and a camouflaged scorpionfish among the highlights. Published hard coral cover is 47% (manual point counts), with soft coral at 29% - this was the only one of the seven 2024 Oman survey sites to show any trace of bleaching (0.2% of points), recorded weeks before the region's July 2024 bleaching event began in earnest.

العربية. خليج نوفيس شديدة التنوع قرب مسقط، يتدرج مسطحها الضحل المكون من مرجان الدماغ وأجمات *Pocillopora* إلى منحدرات من المرجان الجليدي ثم إلى دعائم مرجانية عميقة، ومن أبرز مشاهداتها سلحفاة خضراء مستريحة، وثعبان بحر مخطط، وسمكة عقرب متخفية. ترجمة هذا الملخص بالكاء الاصطناعي؛ النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 38.5 · In-house DINOv3 23.0 · CoralSCOP unedited 45.9 · CoralSCOP edited 47.3 · Claude 42.2

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 20 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/oman-novice-bay-muscat.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 (Gulf of Oman) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.