



Chagos Archipelago - Salomon / Blenheim / Speakers Bank



Regional summary of 25 dive sites. Figures are averages across the sites that report them (n = sites with a value); each site's own page has its individual values. Part of the [Chagos Archipelago](#) overview.



Coral Health Index: TBD



Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — [Chagos Archipelago](#) - Blenheim (BIBL86)

COUNTRY

**Chagos
Archipelago**

SITES

25
each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

45% ± 14% (std.
dev.)
n=25. range 25–86%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL
MEAN)

30.0°C
n = 25 of 25 sites;
surveyed Apr 2015–May
2015



CORAL HEALTH INDEX (REGIONAL MEAN)

not yet scored

n = 0 of 25 sites

CORAL BLEACHED (REGIONAL MEAN)

11.0%

n = 22 of 25 sites
([Mayfield & Dempsey 2026](#))

MOST RECENT WATER TEMPERATURE RECORD

28.9°C

16 Sep 2026 · [Chagos](#)

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · below
alert level

MEAN ANNUAL MAX DEGREE HEATING WEEKS (DHW), LAST 5 YEARS

4.4°C-weeks

2021–2025 · Chagos

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

17.9°C-weeks 🔥

in 2016 · Chagos

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

3

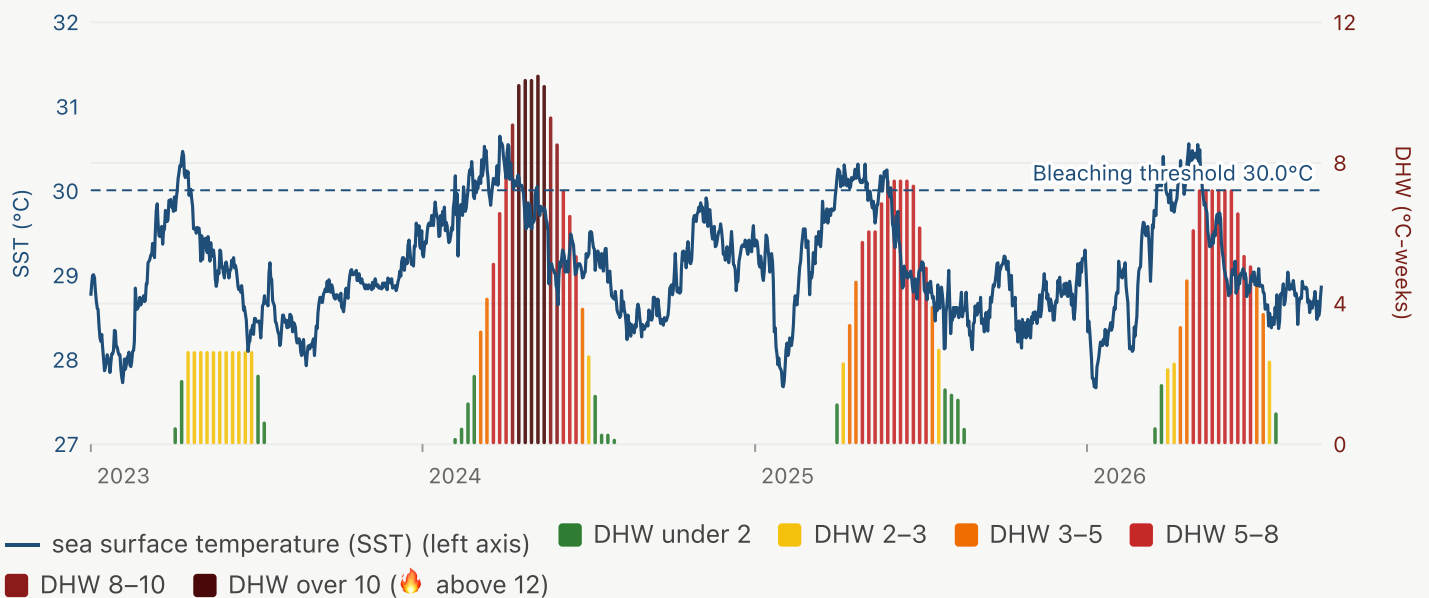
1985–2025 · 2 in the last
10 years

Heat-stress figures: [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) — [Chagos](#) 5-km virtual station. Each pill links its source record and carries the values behind it.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

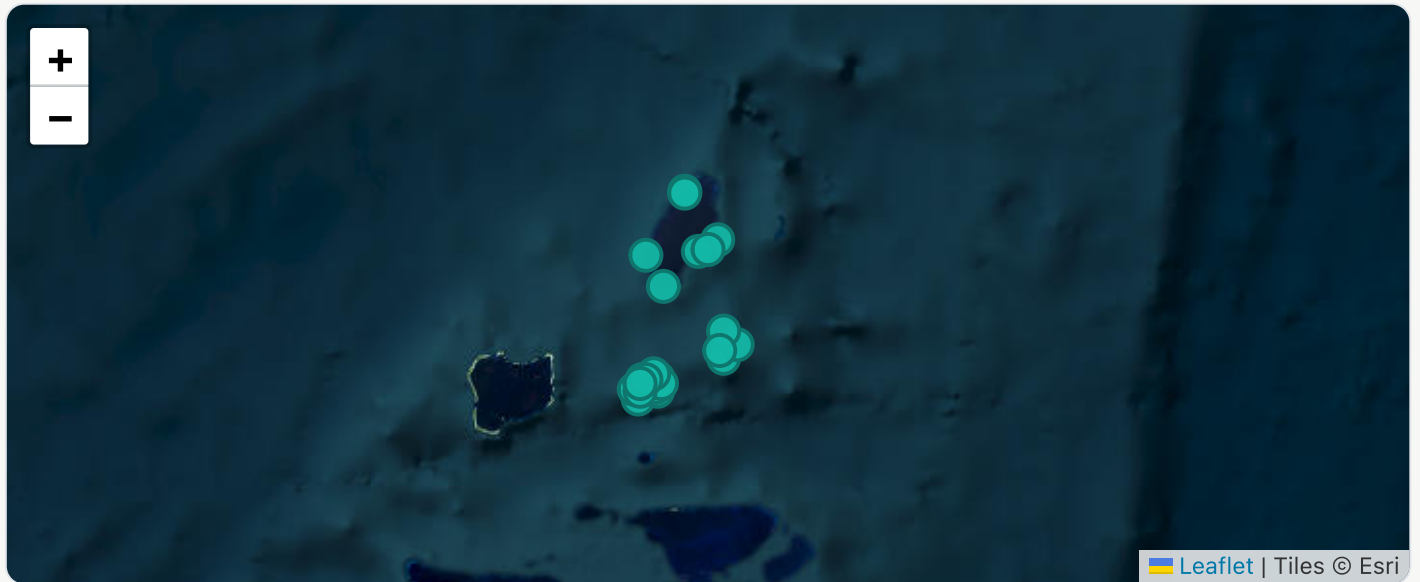
Northern Chagos lagoon, bank, and forereef sites at Salomon, Blenheim, and Speakers Bank, dived in 2015, include multi-layered canopies of [table corals](#) and the archipelago's most coral-diverse site, with 36 genera. Salomon's exposed forereefs were among the most heavily [bleached](#) in Chagos.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km Chagos virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean $29.0^{\circ}\text{C} + 1^{\circ}\text{C}$). $\text{DHW} \geq 4$: bleaching likely; ≥ 8 : severe bleaching and mortality likely. A bar is drawn only where DHW exceeds zero, so a stretch with no bar is accumulated heat stress of zero, not missing data — the SST line runs the full period.

Long-term record: 3 years since 1985 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at [NOAA's](#) Chagos station. [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



25 sites in this region — click a marker to open that site.

Regional setting

Salomon and [Blenheim Reef](#) are two of the five true atolls that [Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) recognize in the Chagos Archipelago, and Speakers Bank is one of its submerged banks. Salomon, like the other northern atolls, has only small islands scattered along its rim, and the atlas pictures a small coral cay sitting on its reef flat. It is also the atoll the authors single out for human impact. As of 2001 the outer islands had no residents, but visiting yachts were thought to be causing local [anchor damage](#) and sewage pollution in Salomon's enclosed lagoon. A 1996 photograph of shallow Salomon lagoon reefs is captioned as showing reefs later devastated by the 1998 bleaching. Across the archipelago, coral had typically covered 50–80% of seaward and lagoon slopes down to about 40 m before 1998, and seaward coral loss in that event averaged an estimated 80–85%. The Chagos reefs hold some 220 scleractinian species, among the richest coral faunas in the Indian Ocean, including *Ctenella chagius*, a coral that may occur only here apart from a single reported sighting at [Mauritius](#). [Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) estimate about 3,770 km² of reef across the whole archipelago, and [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#), using a newer map, give 2,731 km² for the Chagos ecoregion.

Reefs in the Chagos showed encouraging recovery in the years after 1998, according to [Wilkinson's \(2006\)](#) summary of the 2004 status report. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) trace coral cover in the Chagos subregion rising until about 2015 and falling again after the 2016 bleaching, an event that killed more than 42% of living hard coral across South Asia. Region-wide, smaller and more localized bleaching between 2017 and 2019 prolonged the decline, and algal cover crept up from about 10% before 2008 to 14% by 2018. Because the Chagos atolls combine restricted access with the region's largest marine protected area (MPA), [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) rank them among the South Asian reefs under least human pressure and name bleaching as the chief threat. Fishing was not

absent, though: as of 2001, Spalding et al. reported illegal fishing for [sharks](#) and [sea cucumbers](#), countered by a British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) fisheries protection vessel.

Overview

This unit pools 25 stations in three neighboring northern survey areas dived between 22 April and 3 May 2015: the Blenheim forereefs, the lagoon and outer forereefs of Salomon atoll, and the lagoon and bank reefs of Speakers Bank, the northernmost Chagos survey area. Logged maximum depths ran from 15.5 m at [BISA97](#) to 31.1 m on the Blenheim forereef at [BIBL82](#) ([BISA98](#) and [BISA106](#) have no logged depth). Speakers Bank reefs are dominated by *Acropora* tables. *Acropora* makes up 83% of the coral at [BISP101](#), and at [BISP96](#) overlapping tables form a multi-layered canopy. Salomon's lagoon reefs are often not *Acropora* reefs at all. *Porites*, *Lobophyllia* and *Goniopora* lead at [BISA105](#), and *Acropora* is almost absent at [BISA94](#). At [BISA91](#) the lead passes with depth from *Acropora* through *Goniopora* and *Porites* to a deep transect of 77% *Montipora*.

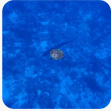
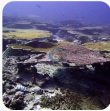
Cover ranged from 24.5% on the [BISA92](#) wall, where sponges, sea squirts, meter-wide sea fans, and black wire corals outweigh the coral, to 56.9% at [BISP95](#), with [BISA107](#) (24.6%) at the low end beside BISA92. [BISP96](#) recorded 86% and [BISA98](#) 71%, the latter from a single transect, and both are best read as best-patch values rather than site means. Coral diversity is high: [BIBL87](#) carries 36 genera, the highest count stated on any Chagos station, and [BISA93](#) carries 34. The Chagos-endemic *Ctenella* was recorded at BISA93 and [BISP90](#). At Blenheim, [BIBL86](#) is heavily turf-dominated, with fire coral (*Millepora*) rather than *Acropora* as its leading taxon. BISP96 also has the lowest algal cover of any Chagos station, 10.3%.

Condition split by area. The exposed Salomon forereefs carried some of the highest bleaching in Chagos: 34.0% at [BISA84](#) and 31.5% at [BISA104](#), second and third only to BIPB112 at [Peros Banhos](#) among all 112 Chagos stations, then 24.1% at [BISA103](#) and 19.2% at [BISA102](#), with stark-white colonies beside pigmented neighbors. Speakers Bank values were lower, from 2.1% at [BISP90](#) to 9.2% at [BISP89](#). [BISP115](#) has no published figure, but its photos show unmistakable bleaching. At [BISA107](#) an abandoned fishing net was photographed draped across live coral inside the no-take marine protected area. No crown-of-thorns or disease was reported at the sites that recorded their absence. Wildlife included a hawksbill turtle resting at [BIBL83](#), a silvertip-type shark and two giant morays at BISA102, and three sharks and a spiny lobster at BISA107.

Highlights

- [BIBL87](#) carries 36 coral genera, the highest count stated on any Chagos station

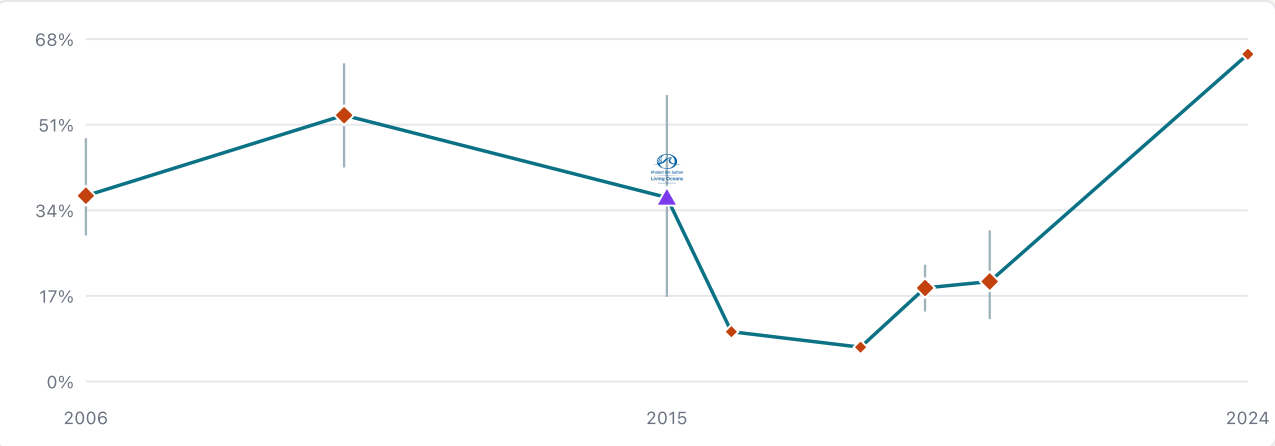


- [BISP96](#): overlapping *Acropora* tables in a multi-layered canopy, with the lowest algal cover of any Chagos station, 10.3% (86% cover, a best-patch value)
 
- Salomon's exposed forereefs were among the most bleached in Chagos (34.0% at [BISA84](#), 31.5% at [BISA104](#))
 
- Abandoned fishing net draped across live coral at [BISA107](#), inside the no-take marine protected area
 
- Logged depths from 15.5 m ([BISA97](#)) to 31.1 m ([BIBL82](#) Blenheim forereef)
 
- [BISP95](#) pairs *Acropora* tables with a broad meadow of strap-leaved, seagrass-type plants
 

► Notable observations (17)

Coral cover over time (pooled)

One point per year: the mean of every hard coral cover value available for this region that year — Anderson’s own dives and every independent survey station within 5 km of them. The vertical bar is the full range behind that mean. Different programs use different methods at different stations, so this is a regional summary, not a single comparable series. Two values above 70% were excluded as best-patch figures rather than site means. Years resting on fewer than three values are drawn as smaller points (2016, 2018, 2024). Non-CRD/LOF points are from [XL Catlin Seaview Survey \(University of Queensland\)](#). Marker shape: ● his own dives, ◆ other organizations’ surveys, ▲ a mix of both, that year, 🌐 the year includes his [Global Reef Expedition](#) dives with the [Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation](#) (CRD+LOF data).



► Sites in this region (25)

% coral cover by method

Pooled across 104 dive sites

Method	Mean % coral cover	Std. dev. between dive sites	n dive sites	Note
Manual point count (author)	34.0%	±13	28	frame-weighted 40.1% over 613 frames
CoralNet automated point classifier	32.8%	±11	89	frame-weighted 34.0% over 1,895 frames
CoralSCOP (SAM-based mask-sum), edited photos	32.2%	±8.3	104	frame-weighted 33.9% over 2,498 frames
Claude (Anthropic), blind point count	26.5%	±11	104	frame-weighted 29.0% over 2,495 frames
In-house DINOv3 point classifier	30.5%	±11	104	frame-weighted 31.2% over 2,500 frames
In-water diver transect (line/point intercept)	37.7%	±16	101	—

The mean is an UNWEIGHTED mean of the dive site values — each dive site counts once, whatever its photo count — which is the convention of the published tables and of every other figure on this page. The frame-weighted alternative is given per method in the Note column; where the two differ, the difference is a photo-count imbalance, not a coral-cover finding.

Closest to the reference

Over the dive sites where an independent reference exists, Manual point count (author) sits closest to it — a mean absolute deviation of 9.5 pp across 27 dive sites, then [CoralNet](#) automated point classifier 10.5 pp (n=86), Claude (Anthropic), blind point count 13.2 pp (n=101). A mean absolute deviation is not an accuracy score: a model with a consistent offset is correctable, while one with the same deviation scattered in both directions is not.

By dive site

Dive site	Manual point count	CoralNet	CoralSCOP (edited)	Claude	DINOv3	Diver transect	coralscapes_v1	coralscapes
BIBL82	17.5% n=4	27.6% n=18	35.8% n=22	28.3% n=22	26.1% n=22	37.9%	42.0% n=22	50.2% n=22
BIBL83	20.8% n=9	25.6% n=6	40.7% n=15	23.8% n=15	24.7% n=15	33.1%	42.2% n=15	45.2% n=15
BIBL86	—	31.9% n=27	25.1% n=27	34.4% n=27	36.0% n=27	47.2%	50.5% n=27	49.4% n=27
BIBL87	—	27.9% n=35	29.5% n=35	30.3% n=35	34.0% n=35	40.6%	41.5% n=35	48.0% n=35
BICC35	—	17.0% n=15	20.5% n=15	6.7% n=15	13.1% n=15	13.8%	21.0% n=15	23.9% n=15

BICC36	—	19.4% n=15	24.7% n=15	6.4% n=15	18.2% n=15	5.8%	21.0% n=15	26.5% n=15
BICC50	—	29.4% n=11	28.8% n=11	15.7% n=11	30.0% n=11	12.1%	36.9% n=11	48.0% n=11
BICC51	—	21.9% n=17	27.5% n=17	20.7% n=17	24.1% n=17	15.4%	26.9% n=17	28.4% n=17
BIDI08	—	36.4% n=35	38.9% n=35	35.2% n=35	29.1% n=35	59.0%	50.2% n=35	53.1% n=35
BIDI09	—	38.0% n=30	32.2% n=30	33.6% n=30	23.6% n=30	37.7%	56.2% n=30	61.0% n=30
BIDI10	—	27.1% n=13	32.9% n=13	22.5% n=13	16.2% n=13	23.0%	44.2% n=13	49.4% n=13
BIDI12	—	10.4% n=14	17.9% n=14	2.9% n=14	11.0% n=14	4.2%	8.2% n=14	10.0% n=14
BIDI13	—	20.5% n=11	24.9% n=11	17.8% n=11	18.2% n=11	7.8%	22.0% n=11	23.5% n=11
BIDI14	—	23.5% n=9	30.3% n=9	19.2% n=9	21.9% n=9	15.2%	26.7% n=9	26.2% n=9
BIDI15	—	24.6% n=9	20.6% n=9	36.4% n=9	37.0% n=9	20.1%	45.3% n=9	48.3% n=9
BIDI16	—	25.6% n=13	30.9% n=13	24.4% n=13	22.3% n=13	30.4%	32.2% n=13	35.6% n=13
BIEA18	—	22.3% n=35	28.1% n=35	17.7% n=35	14.6% n=35	20.7%	32.9% n=35	32.4% n=34
BIEA19	—	27.2% n=14	39.2% n=14	30.8% n=14	25.5% n=14	27.5%	41.9% n=14	44.8% n=14
BIEA20	—	24.6% n=19	27.1% n=19	22.2% n=19	16.0% n=19	10.8%	30.8% n=19	35.4% n=19
BIEA22	—	49.2% n=23	50.0% n=23	30.8% n=23	44.8% n=23	21.6%	44.0% n=23	46.1% n=23
BIEA23	—	35.7% n=24	39.5% n=24	28.5% n=24	28.8% n=24	24.6%	43.8% n=24	49.2% n=24
BIEA24	—	40.6% n=11	39.2% n=11	37.4% n=11	41.2% n=11	12.7%	48.5% n=11	49.3% n=11
BIEA25	—	29.5% n=19	29.8% n=19	16.4% n=19	25.6% n=19	15.7%	31.1% n=19	32.8% n=19
BIEA26	—	21.0% n=30	27.2% n=30	14.5% n=30	14.1% n=30	21.0%	23.3% n=30	28.4% n=30
BIEA52	—	38.1% n=22	39.1% n=22	34.5% n=22	21.8% n=22	34.1%	49.6% n=22	50.0% n=22
BIEG02	25.5% n=21	—	23.7% n=21	18.2% n=21	23.7% n=21	31.8%	31.1% n=21	34.5% n=21
BIEG03	23.9% n=36	—	25.7% n=36	16.6% n=36	18.4% n=36	37.3%	31.5% n=36	34.0% n=36

BIEG04	33.9% n=19	—	28.2% n=19	25.9% n=19	35.1% n=19	29.2%	36.4% n=19	38.7% n=19
BIEG05	40.7% n=35	57.8% n=24	41.4% n=59	39.1% n=59	40.2% n=59	46.7%	61.2% n=59	63.6% n=59
BIEG06	—	44.2% n=30	22.6% n=30	31.6% n=30	34.0% n=30	43.5%	46.0% n=30	46.5% n=30
BIEG07	40.6% n=8	—	26.8% n=8	28.5% n=8	56.7% n=8	47.5%	30.9% n=8	33.5% n=8
BINI77	—	29.8% n=11	33.5% n=11	25.7% n=11	26.1% n=11	43.0%	38.2% n=11	41.1% n=11
BINI78	—	24.4% n=16	28.4% n=16	24.8% n=16	29.0% n=16	19.1%	26.9% n=16	28.6% n=16
BINI79	—	19.4% n=15	21.2% n=15	17.9% n=15	21.6% n=15	31.5%	27.2% n=15	25.0% n=15
BINI80	37.6% n=10	26.8% n=14	34.9% n=24	29.4% n=24	36.9% n=24	42.8%	42.4% n=24	45.9% n=24
BIPB110	—	36.6% n=45	36.7% n=44	29.5% n=45	36.6% n=45	39.3%	44.3% n=43	49.6% n=43
BIPB112	43.6% n=14	—	37.7% n=14	28.7% n=14	44.3% n=14	45.0%	50.6% n=14	55.0% n=14
BIPB114	29.0% n=22	34.4% n=7	35.2% n=29	20.0% n=29	31.7% n=29	39.6%	37.0% n=29	38.5% n=29
BIPB60	38.8% n=38	—	41.9% n=38	29.5% n=38	33.4% n=38	42.2%	55.5% n=38	57.2% n=38
BIPB61	17.9% n=14	—	32.5% n=14	17.0% n=14	22.1% n=14	20.0%	41.0% n=14	43.0% n=14
BIPB62	48.0% n=19	—	31.6% n=19	33.6% n=19	35.3% n=19	59.6%	57.6% n=18	57.5% n=18
BIPB63	46.9% n=29	—	38.4% n=29	35.0% n=29	33.3% n=29	56.0%	66.2% n=29	66.7% n=29
BIPB64	22.7% n=21	—	33.3% n=21	22.8% n=21	26.2% n=21	31.2%	34.3% n=21	41.4% n=21
BIPB65	32.9% n=19	—	27.5% n=19	30.3% n=19	32.3% n=19	41.4%	52.3% n=19	54.9% n=19
BIPB66	12.5% n=6	—	28.8% n=6	2.3% n=6	26.1% n=6	7.0%	41.9% n=6	40.9% n=6
BIPB67	36.4% n=41	—	29.5% n=41	26.1% n=41	33.8% n=41	41.9%	49.3% n=41	52.2% n=41
BIPB68	44.9% n=43	—	39.2% n=43	36.8% n=43	38.5% n=43	55.0%	71.9% n=43	73.8% n=43
BIPB69	54.2% n=110	56.1% n=6	42.6% n=116	39.1% n=116	47.4% n=116	64.7%	74.4% n=116	75.4% n=116
BIPB70	45.4% n=28	45.1% n=27	35.7% n=55	34.9% n=55	40.2% n=55	60.3%	56.6% n=55	59.5% n=55

BIPB72	50.5% n=41	56.1% n=34	39.9% n=75	44.3% n=75	49.2% n=75	72.4%	64.4% n=75	69.0% n=75
BIPB73	—	45.2% n=45	46.9% n=45	37.6% n=45	45.3% n=45	50.1%	48.0% n=45	50.6% n=45
BIPB74	39.3% n=8	56.0% n=13	47.1% n=21	51.1% n=21	48.9% n=21	62.4%	64.5% n=21	65.9% n=21
BIPB75	—	39.2% n=9	43.7% n=9	32.4% n=9	42.2% n=9	43.9%	51.0% n=9	56.5% n=9
BIPB76	—	29.9% n=20	29.0% n=20	20.9% n=20	31.5% n=20	35.9%	34.7% n=20	39.8% n=20
BISA102	—	31.1% n=27	34.4% n=27	21.5% n=27	30.1% n=27	30.9%	33.2% n=27	34.7% n=27
BISA103	—	28.4% n=19	36.1% n=19	30.1% n=19	37.2% n=19	32.5%	40.5% n=19	44.5% n=19
BISA104	—	44.2% n=16	41.0% n=16	35.7% n=16	45.6% n=16	36.2%	46.0% n=16	50.6% n=16
BISA105	—	23.8% n=19	23.4% n=19	27.8% n=19	36.0% n=19	50.3%	41.8% n=19	47.0% n=19
BISA107	—	18.0% n=12	21.7% n=12	18.5% n=12	20.6% n=12	24.6%	32.1% n=12	41.2% n=12
BISA84	25.8% n=2	16.7% n=5	40.1% n=7	17.5% n=7	28.6% n=7	48.8%	35.3% n=7	34.3% n=7
BISA88	—	45.8% n=13	43.4% n=13	42.7% n=13	54.1% n=13	56.7%	55.3% n=13	59.9% n=13
BISA91	—	46.7% n=13	44.0% n=13	40.3% n=13	55.6% n=13	52.4%	58.0% n=13	64.8% n=13
BISA92	—	29.4% n=39	29.0% n=39	18.8% n=39	25.6% n=39	24.5%	33.1% n=39	34.3% n=39
BISA93	—	38.7% n=27	26.4% n=28	33.0% n=27	26.4% n=28	39.1%	58.3% n=26	61.0% n=27
BISA94	—	47.4% n=2	21.4% n=2	23.1% n=2	56.7% n=2	40.3%	43.5% n=2	63.2% n=2
BISA97	—	51.1% n=12	29.4% n=12	51.1% n=12	49.7% n=12	54.4%	67.8% n=12	69.3% n=12
BISP100	—	21.7% n=7	27.0% n=7	31.9% n=7	34.8% n=7	53.9%	42.2% n=7	43.2% n=7
BISP101	—	39.1% n=13	32.6% n=13	23.0% n=13	32.1% n=13	50.0%	42.2% n=13	43.5% n=13
BISP89	—	17.2% n=13	27.6% n=13	19.9% n=13	21.5% n=13	33.2%	28.6% n=13	29.9% n=13
BISP90	—	27.6% n=8	37.9% n=8	24.7% n=8	30.8% n=8	39.8%	41.6% n=8	43.2% n=8
BISP95	—	21.9% n=26	23.1% n=25	17.8% n=26	20.4% n=26	56.9%	28.0% n=26	27.6% n=26

BISP96	—	55.6% n=18	48.2% n=18	51.5% n=18	49.3% n=18	86.0%	69.0% n=18	72.7% n=18
BITB27	—	34.5% n=16	37.5% n=16	23.8% n=16	24.4% n=16	36.6%	45.9% n=16	47.8% n=16
BITB28	—	26.9% n=43	29.0% n=43	18.5% n=43	20.2% n=43	28.5%	33.5% n=43	37.5% n=43
BITB29	—	29.6% n=49	25.9% n=49	18.5% n=49	23.7% n=49	30.2%	39.5% n=49	42.1% n=49
BITB30	—	29.9% n=12	30.3% n=12	14.0% n=12	18.3% n=12	42.5%	33.9% n=12	38.2% n=12
BITB32	—	16.7% n=19	19.9% n=19	11.7% n=19	11.8% n=19	30.3%	17.9% n=19	19.8% n=19
BITB33	—	20.3% n=27	22.3% n=27	7.9% n=27	11.5% n=27	18.5%	18.4% n=26	17.5% n=26
BITB34	—	41.4% n=11	46.6% n=11	37.0% n=11	34.5% n=11	61.1%	56.5% n=11	66.7% n=10
BITB37	—	37.3% n=56	42.4% n=57	29.0% n=56	29.6% n=57	38.8%	51.2% n=55	54.5% n=55
BITB38	—	33.7% n=44	31.5% n=44	26.3% n=44	28.1% n=44	56.0%	54.1% n=44	56.3% n=44
BITB39	—	40.1% n=60	44.4% n=61	36.7% n=60	31.7% n=61	50.3%	53.3% n=59	57.5% n=59
BITB40	—	28.5% n=5	30.8% n=5	23.6% n=5	22.7% n=5	44.9%	39.7% n=5	45.7% n=5
BITB41	—	31.8% n=13	39.5% n=13	24.9% n=13	31.8% n=13	41.9%	40.3% n=13	42.0% n=13
BITB42	—	31.1% n=49	35.4% n=51	22.6% n=49	24.4% n=51	36.2%	39.5% n=50	42.8% n=51
BITB43	—	35.9% n=12	36.6% n=12	22.3% n=12	14.7% n=12	28.7%	46.7% n=12	50.3% n=12
BITB44	—	33.2% n=36	38.7% n=36	26.9% n=36	29.4% n=36	40.5%	44.2% n=36	47.0% n=36
BITB45	—	44.5% n=13	36.1% n=13	33.3% n=13	39.2% n=13	45.6%	50.5% n=13	51.9% n=13
BITB46	—	27.5% n=11	31.3% n=11	18.4% n=11	15.2% n=11	25.8%	34.5% n=10	37.7% n=10
BITB47	—	43.0% n=2	33.2% n=2	25.5% n=2	35.0% n=2	53.7%	46.0% n=2	45.2% n=2
BITB53	—	35.2% n=22	27.4% n=22	23.4% n=22	30.8% n=22	36.7%	40.7% n=22	42.0% n=22
BITB54	—	34.3% n=99	30.9% n=99	29.8% n=99	20.8% n=99	49.5%	50.0% n=97	53.9% n=97
BITB55	—	43.3% n=14	38.3% n=14	33.2% n=14	33.8% n=14	47.6%	47.1% n=14	51.0% n=14

BITB56	—	19.9% n=13	18.0% n=13	19.4% n=13	20.3% n=13	21.3%	25.0% n=13	26.2% n=13
BITB57	—	44.0% n=111	36.4% n=111	43.4% n=111	33.2% n=111	40.1%	65.6% n=111	67.8% n=111
BITB58	—	31.0% n=1	29.9% n=1	31.0% n=1	40.0% n=1	67.0%	28.1% n=1	32.6% n=1
BIVB108	40.0% n=1	25.1% n=10	28.2% n=11	11.7% n=11	23.9% n=11	45.7%	23.2% n=10	18.1% n=11
BIVB109	36.7% n=1	35.0% n=32	24.9% n=33	35.0% n=33	39.0% n=33	34.7%	67.3% n=33	66.1% n=33
BIVB81	—	37.8% n=5	49.2% n=5	56.7% n=5	44.7% n=5	51.7%	60.9% n=5	63.4% n=5
BIVB99	—	20.8% n=11	18.5% n=11	35.4% n=11	24.5% n=11	55.6%	64.2% n=11	62.9% n=11
BICA01	0.0% n=1	—	0.3% n=1	0.0% n=1	3.3% n=1	4.6%	1.3% n=1	0.4% n=1
BIDI16.5	45.6% n=13	38.7% n=11	29.7% n=11	26.3% n=11	41.8% n=11	—	37.2% n=11	39.4% n=11
BIEA24.5	—	19.6% n=5	21.2% n=5	15.2% n=5	20.7% n=5	—	20.3% n=5	22.0% n=5
BITB34.5	—	47.2% n=3	33.4% n=3	21.9% n=3	53.3% n=3	—	29.2% n=3	28.6% n=3

n under each value is the number of photographs that method scored at that dive site. △ marks a cell that is not an independent check.

Reference: IN-WATER DIVER TRANSECT, independent of the imagery ([Mayfield & Dempsey 2026](#), Oceans 7:1).

Denominator: line/point intercept along the transect; not a photo-point denominator. Source: published ([Mayfield & Dempsey 2026](#), Oceans 7:1, suppl. S1); formal 38.7% cover / 30.5% bleaching, tourist-diver 35.1% / 31.8% △ The reference here is NOT the same instrument as at Mauritius, [Oman](#), [Kenya](#) or the Red Sea. Those are point counts on the photographs; this is a diver swimming a transect. The models and the reference never saw the same thing. △ SITE-LEVEL ONLY. The 2,500 frames were not associated with any transect taken within 200 m of them, so transect-vs-image comparisons are site means, never frames. The transect value is already in the pin `cover` field (109 of 112 pins, sourced to the paper's suppl. S1) and is read from there, never re-imported.

Nearby external survey stations

29 independent survey records within 5 km of a site in this region (deduplicated across sites).

► [Show all 29 records](#)

All images from [Coral Reef Diagnostics](#). Data are from Coral Reef Diagnostics and [XL Catlin Seaview Survey \(University of Queensland\)](#).



© Coral Reef Diagnostics.

References

- Souter D, et al. (eds) (2021) *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020*. International Coral Reef Initiative / [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network](#). [\[PDF\]](#)
- Spalding MD, et al. (2001) *World Atlas of Coral Reefs*. University of California Press, Berkeley. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Wilkinson C (2006) Status of coral reefs of the world: summary of threats and remedial action. In: Côté IM, Reynolds JD (eds) *Coral Reef Conservation*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Mayfield AB, Dempsey AC (2026). Using tourist diver images to estimate coral cover and bleaching prevalence in a remote Indian Ocean coral reef system. *Oceans* 7(1):1. [PDF](#)
- Lange ID, Benkwitt CE, McDevitt-Irwin JM, Tietjen KL, Taylor B, Chinkin M, et al. (2021). Wave exposure shapes reef community composition and recovery trajectories at a remote coral atoll. *Coral Reefs* 40:1819-1829. [PDF](#)
- Sheppard C, Harris A, Sheppard A (2008). Archipelago-wide coral recovery patterns since 1998 in the Chagos Archipelago, central Indian Ocean. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 362:109-117. [PDF](#)
- Spalding M, Bourasseau M, et al. (2025). Coral bleaching and mortality in the Chagos Archipelago, 2024. British Indian Ocean Territory Administration report (gray literature). [PDF](#)