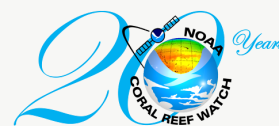




Egypt



Regional summary of 11 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 [Red Sea](#) overview.

0



5

Coral Health Index: 2.00/5



Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — [Egypt](#) Red Sea - Abu Galawa-small (Wadi Lahami)

COUNTRY

Egypt

SITES

11

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

22% ± 4.2% (std. dev.)

n=11. range 13–28%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

31.2°C

n = 11 of 11 sites; surveyed Sep
2024

CORAL HEALTH INDEX
(REGIONAL MEAN)

2.00 / 5

n = 2 of 11 sites; 2.5 = average
(slightly below average)

MOST RECENT WATER
TEMPERATURE RECORD

30.6°C

16 Sep 2026 · [Egypt](#)

MOST RECENT HEAT
STRESS RECORD



13.2°C-weeks 🔥

16 Sep 2026 · Alert Level 2+

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

15.6°C-weeks 🔥

2021–2025 · Egypt

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT
STRESS

26.2°C-weeks 🔥

in 2024 · Egypt

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

11

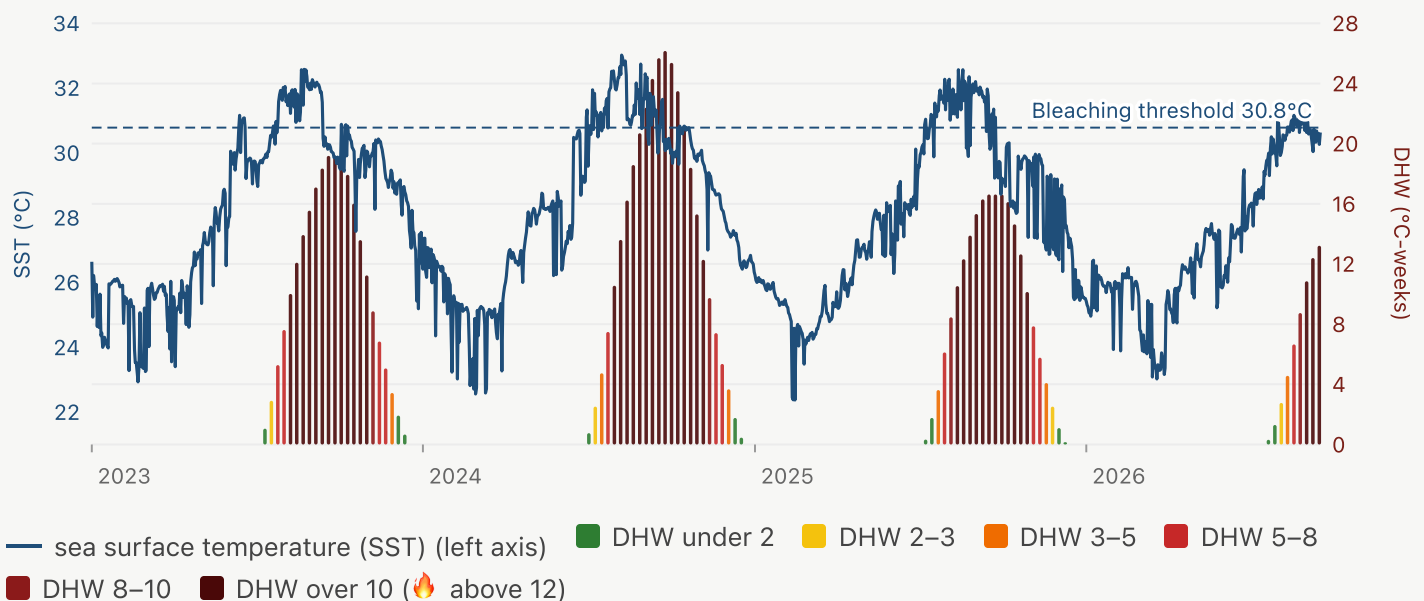
1985–2025 · 7 in the last 10 years

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

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Eleven Red Sea reef slopes, pinnacles, and a coral-covered shipwreck at Marsa Nakari and Wadi Lahami were dived in September 2024, in the middle of a severe [bleaching event](#). Nearly all corals showed some bleaching, with bleached tissue ranging from 45.5% to 73.8% across sites.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km Egypt virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean $29.8^{\circ}\text{C} + 1^{\circ}\text{C}$). DHW ≥ 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: 11 years since 1985 reached 8 or more $^{\circ}\text{C}$ -weeks at [NOAA's](#) Egypt station. [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



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

Read this summary in:

English

العربية

Regional setting

The Red Sea is geologically a young ocean, a basaltic spreading rift that has been pulling Africa and Arabia apart for some 70 million years. Its shallow link to the Indian Ocean has closed many times, most recently during the Pleistocene, and many of today's reefs are thin modern veneers over older Pleistocene reefs ([Spalding et al. 2001](#)). Together with the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea may be the most biologically diverse reef area outside Southeast Asia, with many endemic species. South of the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba, both shores of the northern Red Sea are lined with fringing reefs that run unbroken for tens of kilometers, usually with narrow reef flats. Live coral cover reached 60–80% on many northern reef slopes, and no bleached reefs were seen in this part of the Red Sea in 1998. Egypt's coast has been reshaped by tourism since the 1980s; poorly planned resort growth around Hurghada and Safaga degraded or destroyed many nearshore fringing reefs, and as of 2001 new developments were spreading farther south. Protection extends to all of Egypt's reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba and to the fringing reefs of 22 Red Sea islands, among them the remote Brothers, Daedalus, Zabargad, and Rocky. [Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) estimate about 3,800 km² of coral reef for Egypt; [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) give 13,605 km² for the Red Sea–Gulf of Aden region, 7,800 km² of it in the northern and central Red Sea.

Summarizing the 2004 status report, [Wilkinson \(2006\)](#) described Red Sea reefs as still in fairly good health, with little runoff or fishing pressure apart from [shark](#) removal, and with most 1998 bleaching damage reversed; shipping, poorly controlled tourism growth, bleaching, and [crown-of-thorns starfish](#) were the threats ahead. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) name tourism and coastal development as the main local causes of coral loss in the northern Red Sea. In their analysis, coral cover in the northern and central Red Sea dipped from 35.2% (1997) to 29.7% (2002) and then climbed slowly to 39.1% by 2019, while algal cover rose from 5.2% in 2010 to 11.5%. The region's only sampling units with more than 15 years of data lie on the Egyptian coast, where more frequent disturbances have produced a stepwise decline: half of those that lost at least a fifth of their coral had not regained 90% of it.

Overview

The Egypt unit covers eleven Red Sea dives in two areas surveyed on 20-23 September 2024: Marsa Nakari (Nakari House Reef-South, Marsa Nakari-North, Habili El Ghadeer, and Om Halhala) and Wadi Lahami (Shabrour-north, Shabrour-south, Gazella Reef, Salah, Abu Galawa-small, Habili Daisy, and Habili Gazella). The settings range from low-relief house-reef slopes of coralline pavement, rubble and sand at Marsa Nakari, to submerged pinnacles (Habili El Ghadeer, Habili Daisy, Habili Gazella), a sand plain studded with bommies at Shabrour-north, a coral ridge with canyon-like gaps at Gazella Reef, dense [Porites](#)-and-[Acropora](#) slopes at Om Halhala and Salah, and a heavily coral-colonized steel shipwreck at Abu Galawa-small. Recorded depths ran from 15.8 m at Gazella Reef to 30.8 m on the Habili El Ghadeer pinnacle; Nakari House Reef-South and Habili Gazella have no depth.

Published cover from photographic point counts ranged from 13.2% on the bioeroded, coralline-crusted plateau of Habili El Ghadeer to 28.1% at Salah, and algal cover was low everywhere (3.4% at Om Halhala to 7.9% at Habili El Ghadeer). The coral communities combine massive *Porites*, corymbose and staghorn *Acropora*, [pocilloporids](#), [Seriatopora hystrix](#), faviids, and *Millepora*-type fire coral, with electric-blue *Acropora* at Gazella Reef and Shabrour-south. At Marsa Nakari, [Reef Check](#) stations 0.1-0.25 km from the two house-reef pins recorded 37.2% and 39.4% in 2024, a different method on what may be the same reef.

Every site was surveyed during a severe bleaching event at about 21.8-21.9 degree-heating-weeks, and Anderson's dive computer read 31°C at Marsa Nakari-North. Bleached tissue ranged from 45.5% at Habili Gazella to 73.8% at Shabrour-north, and nearly all corals showed some degree of bleaching. Branching, massive and fire corals were all affected: at Om Halhala the *Porites* framework was bleached en masse while nearby *Acropora* thickets held color, and the corals on the Abu Galawa-small wreck were almost entirely white. Captioned frames also record completed mortality at several sites, including dead *Acropora*, *Seriatopora*, *Pocillopora*, and fire coral. Shabrour-south, dived on consecutive days, returned nearly identical bleaching figures

(62.7% and 63.7%). No [crown-of-thorns starfish](#) or disease lesions were resolved at any site. Habili Gazella carries the unit's only Coral Health Index, 2.00, below the 2.5 average. Sightings include an electric ray at Nakari House Reef-South, lionfish, a stingray and a gray shark at Shabrour-north, trevally over Habili Gazella, and dense anthias and chromis on the pinnacles.

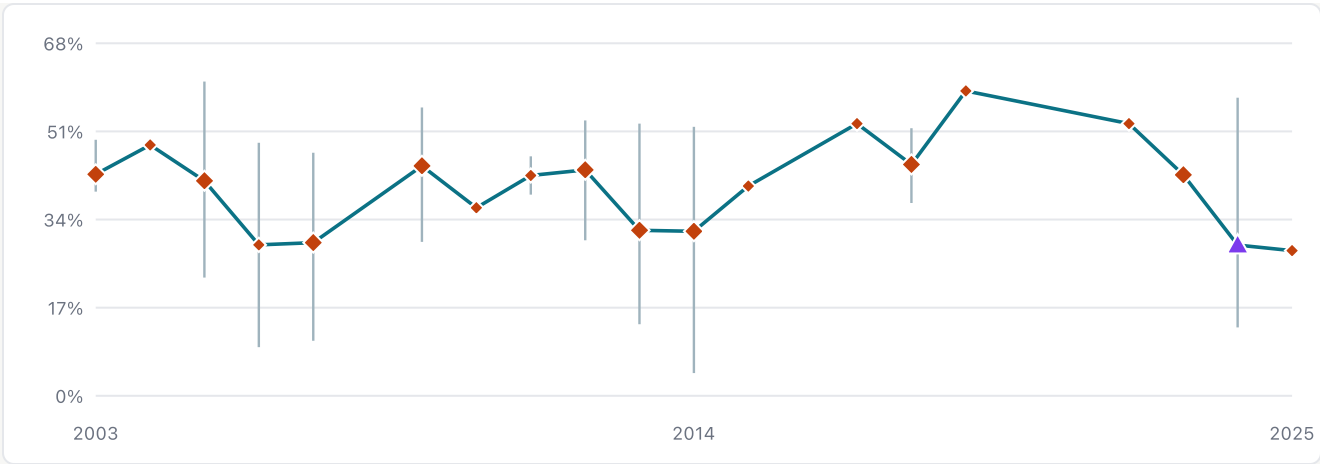
Highlights

- Nakari House Reef: captioned frames run from 'survivors' through 'dying [Acropora](#)' to 'dead corals' on a single dive at Nakari House Reef-South  photo: Egypt Red Sea - Nakari House Reef-South (Marsa Nakari)
- Gazella Reef: two touching [Pocillopora](#) colonies, one bleached cream-white and one fully pigmented, beside electric-blue [Acropora](#)  photo: Egypt Red Sea - Gazella Reef (Wadi Lahami)
- Bleached tissue from 45.5% (Habili Gazella) to 73.8% (Shabrour-north), all eleven sites surveyed mid-bleaching on 20-23 September 2024  photo: Egypt Red Sea - Shabrour-north (Wadi Lahami)
- Published cover from 13.2% (Habili El Ghadeer) to 28.1% (Salah), with algal cover 3.4% to 7.9%  photo: Egypt Red Sea - Habili El Ghadeer (Marsa Nakari)
- Corals on the steel shipwreck at Abu Galawa-small almost entirely bleached white against the rusted hull  photo: Egypt Red Sea - Abu Galawa-small (Wadi Lahami)

► Notable observations (11)

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. Years resting on fewer than three values are drawn as smaller points. Non-CRD points are from [Reef Check Foundation](#). Marker shape: ● his own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys, ▲ a mix of both, that year.



► Sites in this region (11)

% coral cover by method

Pooled across 2 published areas

Method	Mean % coral cover	Std. dev. between published areas	n published areas	Note
Manual point count (author)	21.8%	±0.5	2	frame-weighted 21.8% over 1,854 frames
Claude (Anthropic), blind point count	27.9%	±0.2	2	frame-weighted 27.9% over 159 frames
In-house DINOv3 point classifier	41.2%	±0.8	2	frame-weighted 40.8% over 159 frames

The mean is an UNWEIGHTED mean of the published area values — each published area 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 published areas where an independent reference exists, Claude (Anthropic), blind point count sits closest to it — a mean absolute deviation of 6.1 pp across 2 published areas, then In-house DINOv3 point classifier 19.4 pp (n=2). 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 published area

Published area	Manual point count	Claude	DINOv3
Wadi Lahami	22.1%	28.0%	40.6%

	n=1,180	n=129	n=129
Marsa Nakari	21.4% n=674	27.7% n=30	41.8% n=30

n under each value is the number of photographs that method scored at that published area. ⚠ marks a cell that is not an independent check.

Reference: point-count on the photographs (a human scoring the same pixels the models see). Denominator: coral points / (30 – WATER – FISH); `Unk` is IN the denominator (Mayfield 2025 convention); divers (`DVR`) are excluded as well, per the Red Sea paper. Source: published verbatim ([Mayfield 2025, Environments 12:248](#), Table 4) ⚠ These rows are REGIONS, not dive sites — the published paper reports cover by region only. ⚠ The manual column and the computer vision (CV) columns are on DIFFERENT FRAME SETS: the published cover spans 674–1,180 frames, the CV arms ran on the 30- and 129-frame hand-scored reference subsets. [CoralNet](#) is n/a by design: the reference set IS the hand-scored set. DINOv3 is restricted to frames it never saw.

Nearby external survey stations

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

► [Show all 62 records](#)

All images from [Coral Reef Diagnostics](#). Data are from Coral Reef Diagnostics and [Reef Check Foundation](#).



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