

Fiji - Fulaga

Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation

Island summary of 6 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 Fiji - Southern Lau (Kabara / Fulaga) regional summary.

0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

COUNTRY

Fiji

SITES

6

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER (ISLAND MEAN)

44% ± 7.6% (std. dev.)

n=6. range 35–55%

WATER TEMP. DURING SURVEYS (ISLAND MEAN)

26.4°C

n = 6 of 6 sites; surveyed Jun 2013; all are station CTD values, not dive readings

CORAL HEALTH INDEX (ISLAND MEAN)

not yet scored

n = 0 of 6 sites

MOST RECENT WATER TEMPERATURE RECORD

25.8°C

26 Oct 2026 · Fiji

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD

0.0°C-weeks

26 Oct 2026 · No heat stress

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

8.9°C-weeks

2021–2025 · Fiji

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

16.7°C-weeks 🔥

in 2026 (to date, 26 Oct) · Fiji

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

11

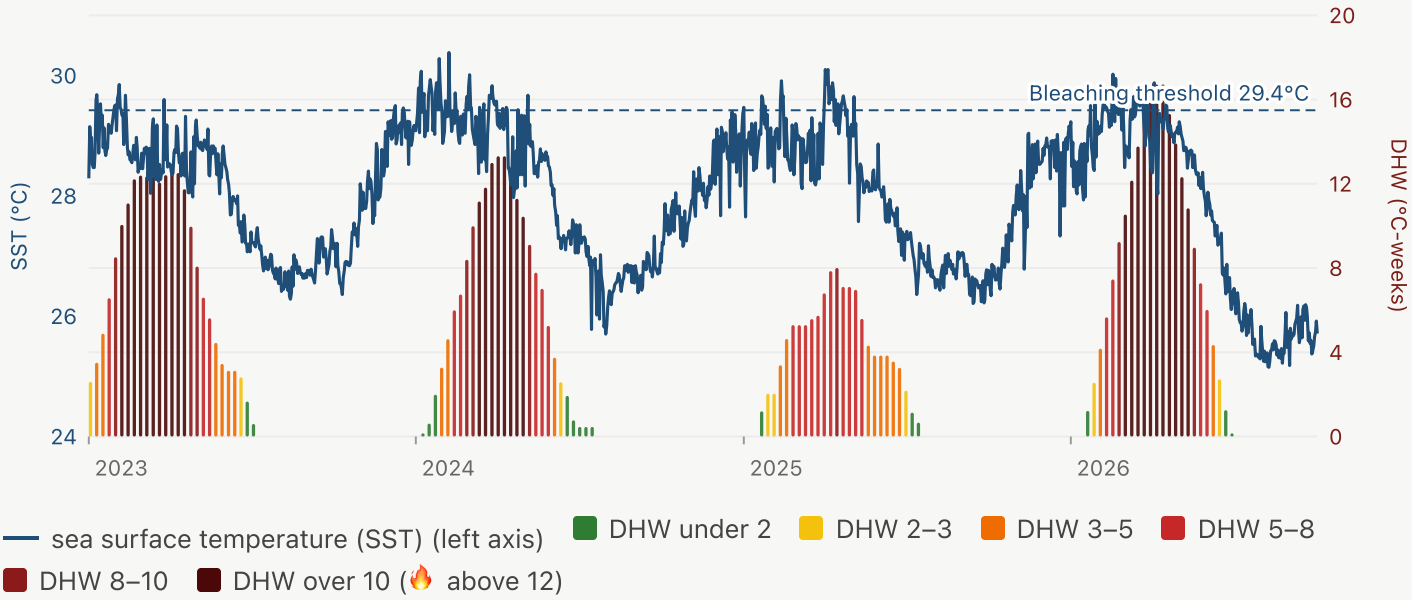
1985–2025 · 6 in the last 10 years

Heat-stress figures: NOAA Coral Reef Watch — Fiji 5-km virtual station. Each pill links its source record and carries the values behind it.

ISLAND SUMMARY

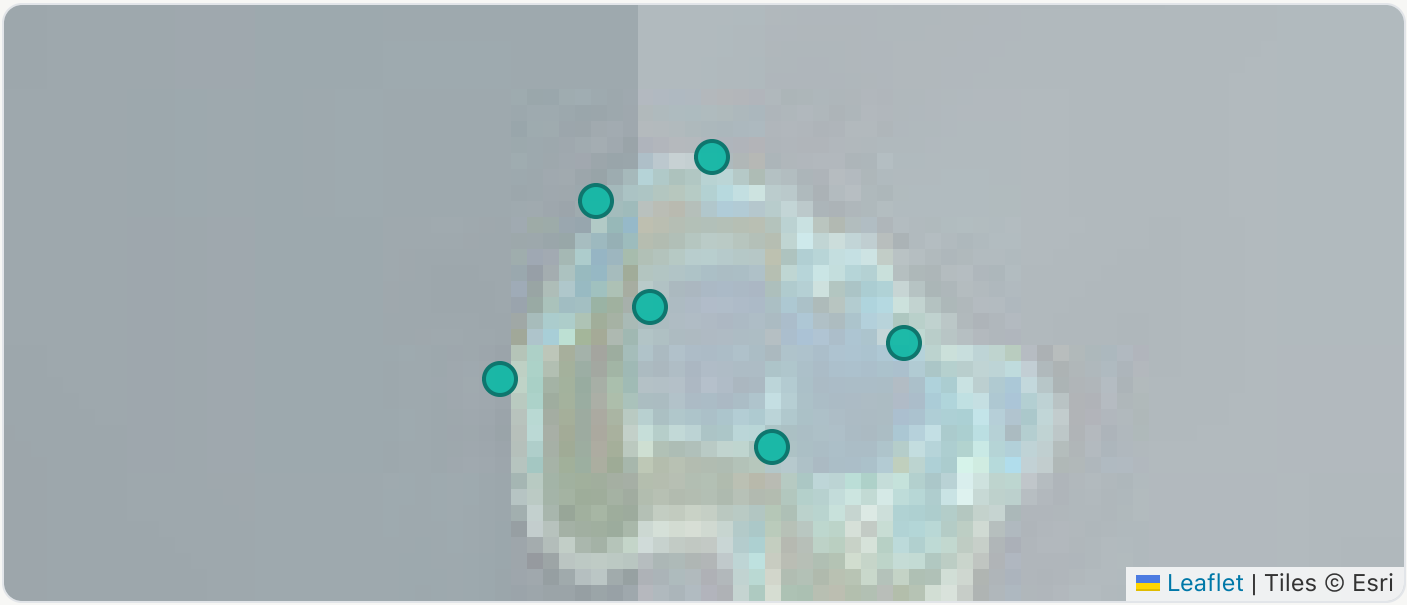
Fulaga's deep spur-and-groove fore reef, near-vertical wall, and lagoon pinnacles held 35-55% coral in June 2013, including 50% at a station dived to only 4 m.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Oct 2026, NOAA Coral Reef Watch 5-km Fiji virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean 28.4°C + 1°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 from 1985 through 2025 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at NOAA's Fiji station. Download the annual DHW data (CSV).



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

Overview

Six Global Reef Expedition stations were surveyed at Fulaga, in southern Lau, on 11 and 12 June 2013. Maximum depths dived ran from 4 m at FJFU29 (Anderson's own sampling dive) to 29 m at FJFU25. The majority are fore-reef stations, but the set also includes three stations inside Fulaga's enclosed lagoon: FJFU24, FJFU28, where large coral pinnacles rise from a sandy floor with tops dominated by *Pocillopora*, *Acropora*, and *Stylophora*, and FJFU29, where Anderson sampled three *Pocillopora acuta* colonies.

The survey notes describe the Fulaga fore reef as spur-and-groove, with single-species stands of plating and foliose corals on gentler slopes and encrusting, laminar growth where the slope nears vertical. FJFU25 is a near-vertical face with foliose corals under overhangs and table and branching *Acropora* packed along the reef edge. Coral cover ran from 35% at FJFU25 to 55% at FJFU26, with 43% at FJFU24, 50% at FJFU29, and 44% at FJFU28, the three lagoon stations.

Island-level physiological screening (Mayfield et al. 2017, PLoS ONE) flagged 1 of the 6 corals with an outlier score as an outlier. A single stark-white branching colony appears in one FJFU25 frame, and Anderson's sampling sheet records one colony sampled there as mostly bleached or very pale, with smaller pale or bleached patches on the three colonies sampled at FJFU29 (F55 partially bleached, 20%; the other two less than 10% and 10–15% pale) and some white branch tips on the one colony sampled at FJFU27 (F53). No crown-of-thorns or disease is recorded.

Highlights

- FJFU26: 55% cover
- 50% coral at FJFU29, in Fulaga's lagoon 
- Coral pinnacles inside Fulaga's enclosed lagoon (FJFU28)
- Near-vertical wall with overhangs at FJFU25 

Notable observations

- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU25): One small branching colony in the overhang frame is stark white - either freshly bleached or recently dead; a single colony in a single frame 

Sites in this region

- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU24) — 43% coral cover

- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU25) — 35% coral cover
- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU26) — 55% coral cover
- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU27) — 37% coral cover
- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU28) — 44% coral cover
- Fiji - Fulaga (FJFU29) — 50% coral cover

Data are from the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition and Coral Reef Diagnostics.


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References

- Global Reef Expedition: Lau Province, Fiji. Field Report (Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation), survey notes 2013
- Mayfield AB, Chen CS, Dempsey AC (2017). Identifying corals displaying aberrant behavior in Fiji's Lau Archipelago. PLOS ONE 12:e0177267. PDF