Fiji - Kabara

Island summary of 5 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
5
each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER (ISLAND MEAN)
33% ± 17% (std. dev.)
n=5. range 19–62%

WATER TEMP. DURING SURVEYS (ISLAND MEAN)
26.5°C
n = 5 of 5 sites; surveyed Jun 2013; all are station CTD-cast midpoints, not dive readings

CORAL HEALTH INDEX (ISLAND MEAN)
not yet scored
n = 0 of 5 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

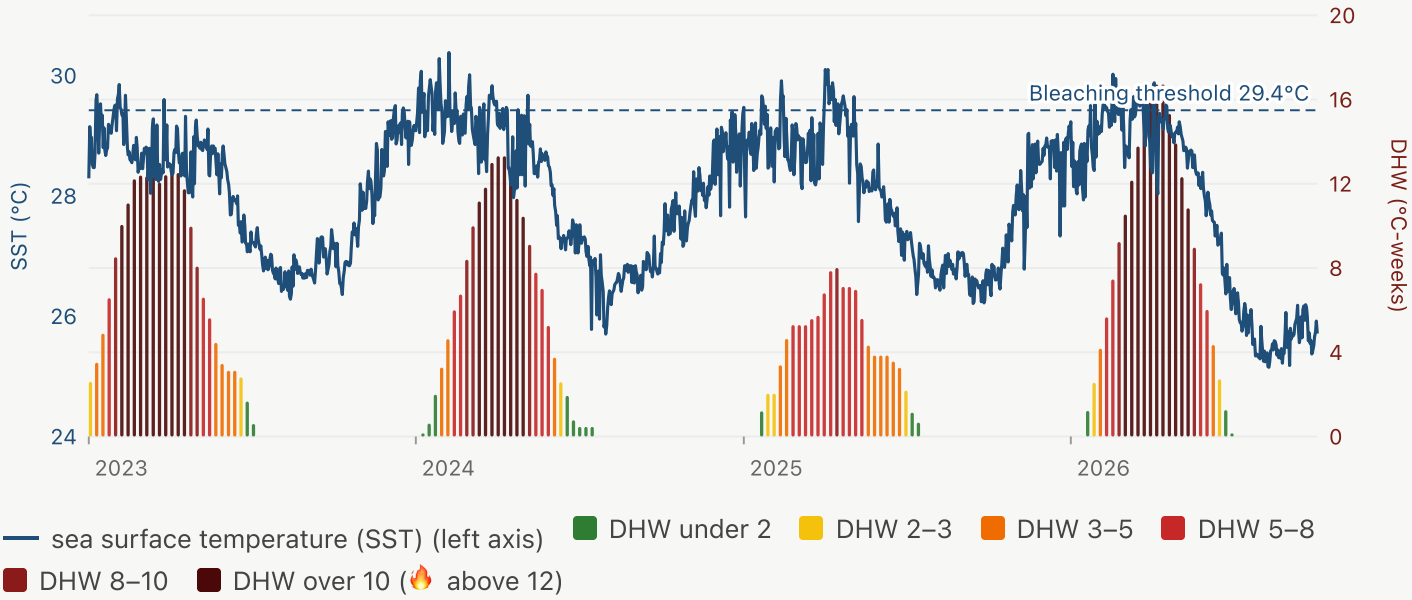
SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS
11
1985–2025 · 6 in the last 10 years

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

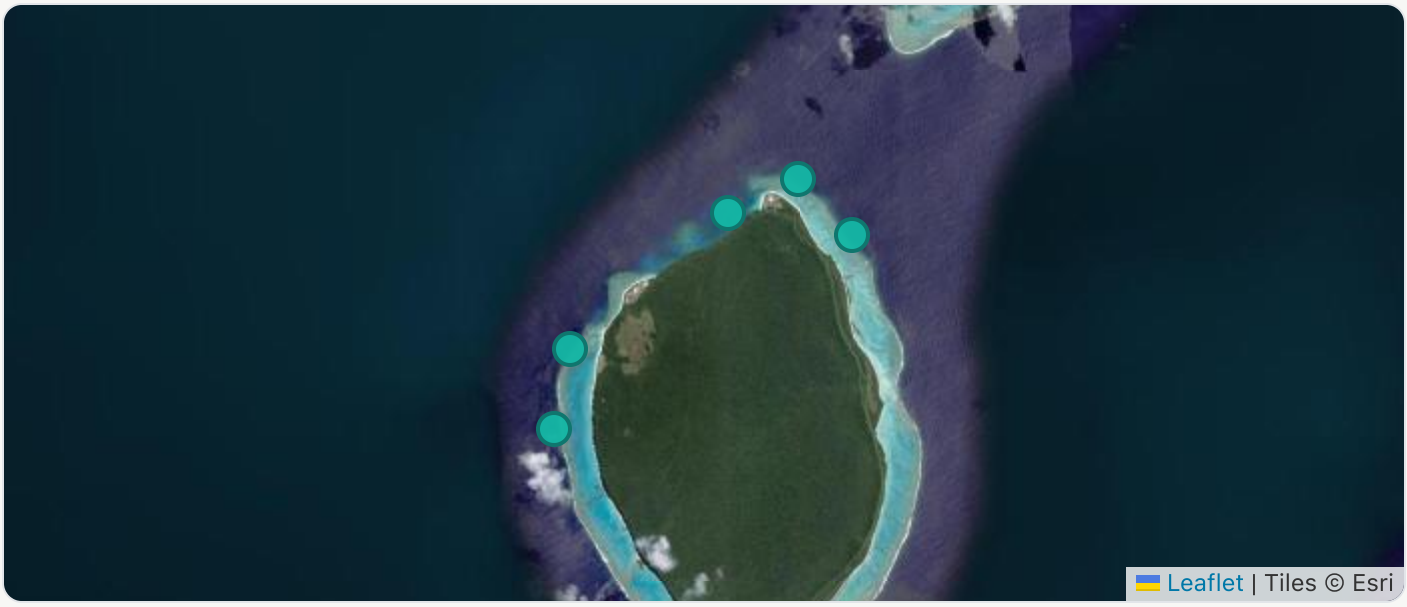
In June 2013, FJKA32 held 62% coral, while FJKA30, FJKA33, and FJKA34 held 19-25%, and algae outweighed coral at those three.

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).



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

Overview

Kabara is a raised limestone island in southern Lau, in eastern Fiji. Five Global Reef Expedition stations were surveyed on its fore reef on 13 June 2013 (FJKA30 to FJKA32) and 14 June 2013 (FJKA33 and FJKA34; Anderson returned to FJKA31 on the afternoon of 14 June to sample six more colonies), at maximum dive depths from 11.9 m at FJKA34 to 30.2 m at FJKA33.

Survey notes describe a terrace at 5-12 m of spur-and-groove reef with sediment collecting between the spurs, turning at about 15 m into a very steep slope of small to medium *Acropora* and *Pocillopora* with high coralline algae cover and little macroalgae. Coral cover was 25% at FJKA30, 36% at FJKA31, 62% at FJKA32, 24% at FJKA33, and 19% at FJKA34; algae covered 57% to 72% of the benthos at FJKA30, FJKA33, and FJKA34 (nearly four times the coral at FJKA34). FJKA31 is a structurally complex crest packed with branching and table *Acropora*, *Pocillopora*, and massive corals under schools of anthias and chromis, broken by darker rubble ground, and both FJKA31 and FJKA34 have exceptionally large *Porites* heads.

Island-level physiological screening (Mayfield et al. 2017, PLoS ONE) flagged 1 of the 4 FJKA31 corals with an outlier score (island-level score 3.75 out of 5); no colonies were sampled at FJKA30. All ten *Pocillopora* colonies Anderson sampled at FJKA31 were partly to fully bleached (20-100% of each colony). No crown-of-thorns or disease is recorded, and the FJKA34 photographs show no bleaching, lesions, or crown-of-thorns scarring, though Anderson's sampling sheet records one of the three colonies sampled there as 20% bleached.

Highlights

- 62% coral on the Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition (LOF-GRE) *in situ* benthic transect at FJKA32. 
- Cover of 19% to 25% at FJKA34, FJKA33, and FJKA30, where algae covered 57% to 72% of the benthos. 
- A structurally complex crest packed with branching and table *Acropora* under schools of anthias and chromis, beside a huge *Porites* dome (FJKA31). 
- Spur-and-groove terrain with a dense veneer of small corals over pink coralline pavement and one exceptionally large *Porites* head (FJKA34). 

Notable observations

- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA31): Bleaching: Anderson's sampling sheet records all ten Pocillopora colonies sampled here, on both dives, as partly to fully bleached (20-100% of each colony). No bleaching, disease lesion, or predation scar resolves with confidence in the wide reef frames. 

Sites in this region

- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA30) — 25% coral cover
- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA31) — 36% coral cover
- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA32) — 62% coral cover
- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA33) — 24% coral cover
- Fiji - Kabara (FJKA34) — 19% 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