Fiji - Matuku

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 - Moala Group (Moala / Totoya / Matuku) regional summary.

0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

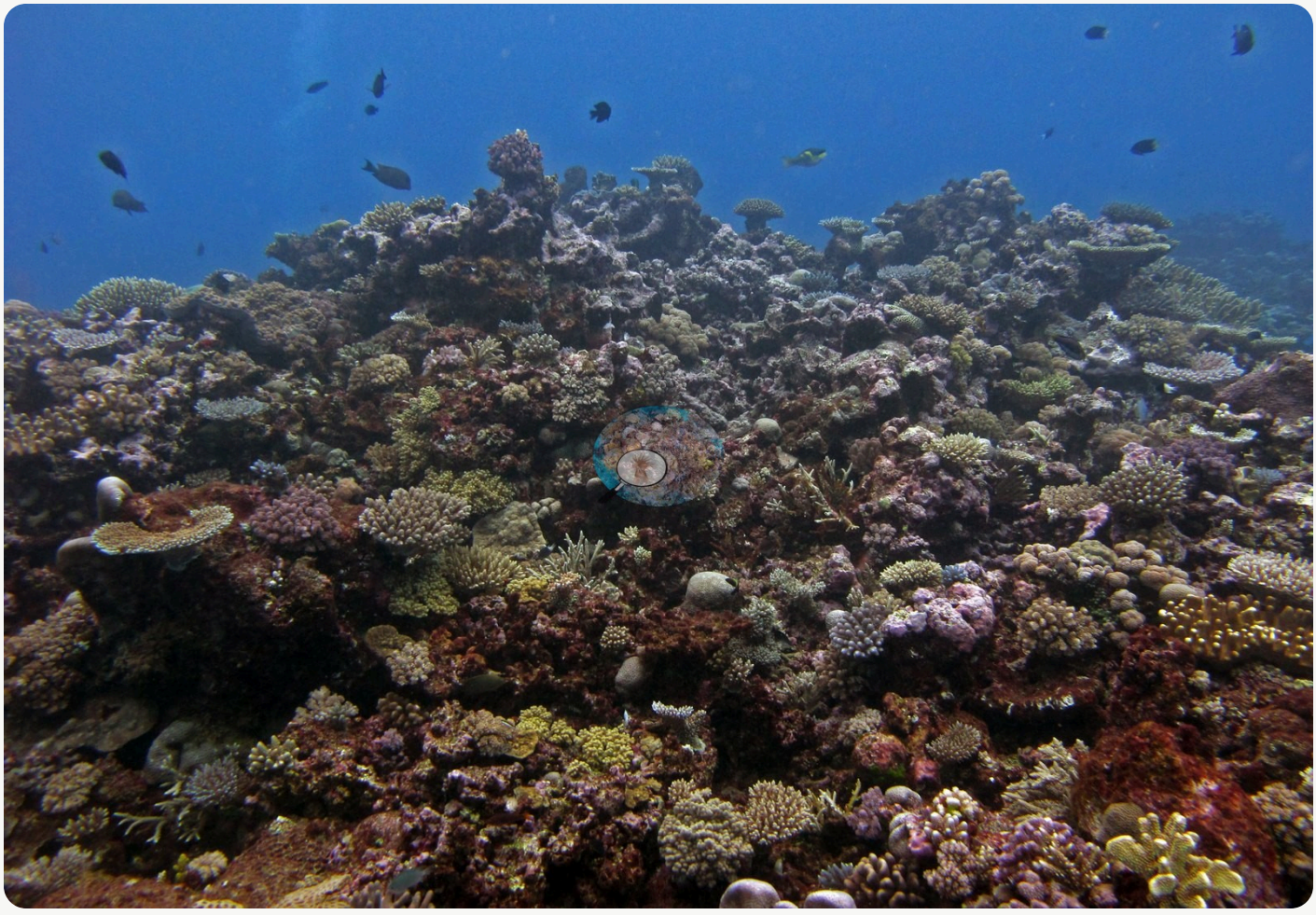


Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Fiji - Matuku (FJMT13)

COUNTRY	SITES	HARD CORAL COVER (ISLAND MEAN)
Fiji	5	30% ± 5.0% (std. dev.)
	each linked below	n=5. range 26–38%

WATER TEMP. DURING SURVEYS (ISLAND MEAN)

26.9°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

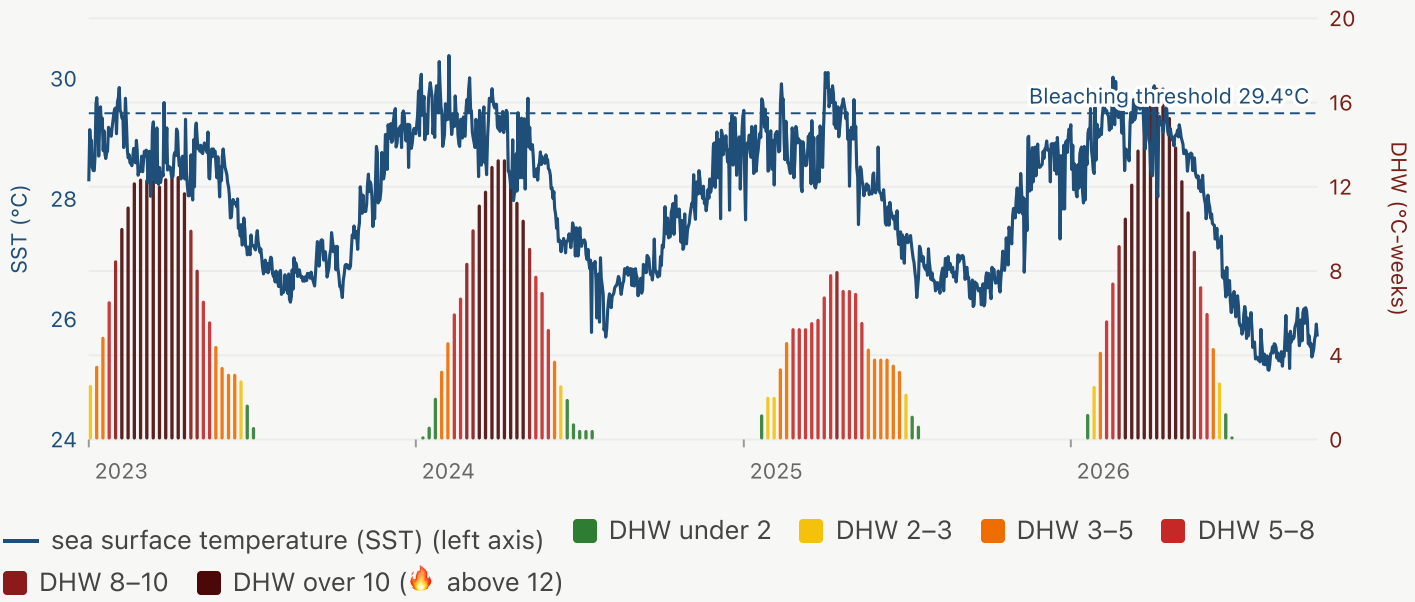
1985–2025 · 6 in the last 10 years

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

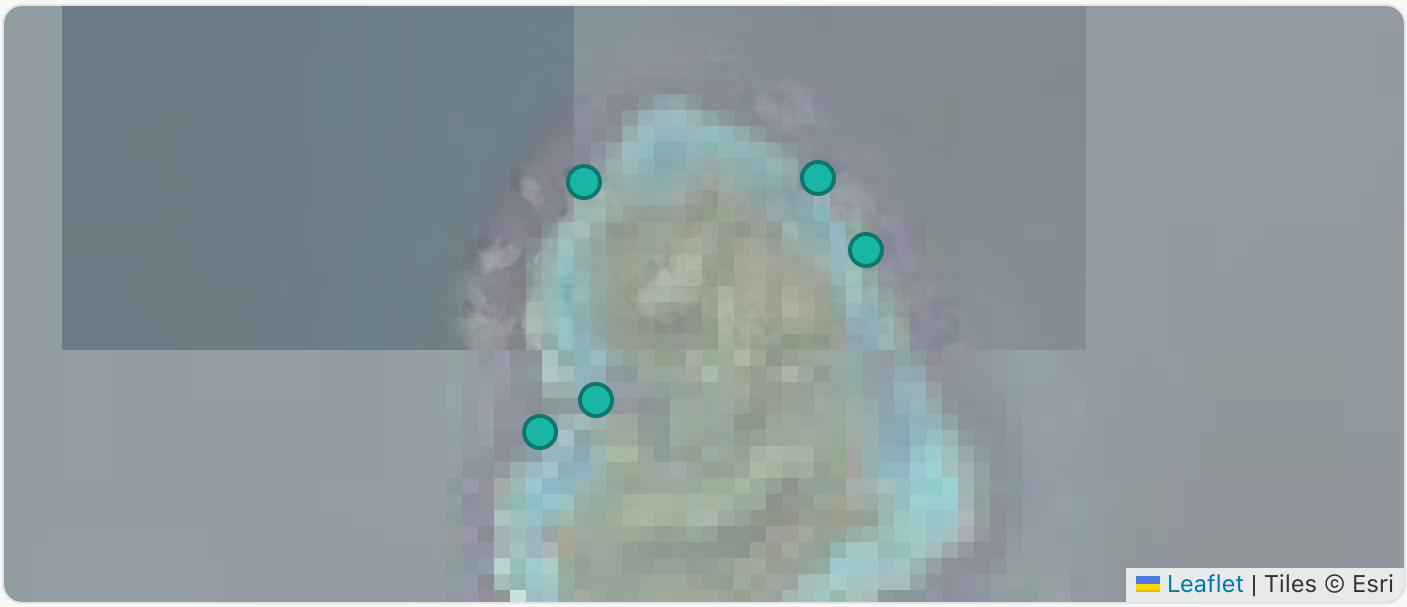
Matuku's silty fore reefs, surveyed in June 2013, held 26-38% coral, including single-species stands of Pavona clavus and Porites rus in a channel and a small seamount top heavily crusted with coralline algae.

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

Five Global Reef Expedition stations were surveyed off Matuku, a volcanic island in the Moala Group of Lau Province, on 6 June 2013 (FJMT10 to FJMT12) and 7 June 2013 (FJMT13 and FJMT14). Maximum depths dived ran from 15.8 m at FJMT13 to 29 m at FJMT10.

Coral cover was moderate and even, from 26% at FJMT12 to 38% at FJMT10, in poor, silty visibility, and algae covered 35% (FJMT11) to 51% (FJMT14) of the benthos. Survey notes describe fore-reef sand flats at the base of a steep slope with plating *Pachyseris* and *Echinopora* and large branching *Acropora* (FJMT10 and FJMT11), and a channel reef off the west side where single-species stands of *Pavona clavus* and *Porites rus* cover almost 20 m of bottom beside several leather corals (FJMT12). FJMT13 is a broad ridge crowded with small table *Acropora* and *Pocillopora* that drops away as a near-vertical wall, and FJMT14 is the top of a small seamount where pink coralline algae covers more of the surface than live coral in places, with soft corals a real part of the community and a school of small blue-black fish streaming over the crest.

The survey team found coral-eating *Drupella* snails on several colonies, which may account for recent mortality scars on acroporids. At FJMT14 a small *Pocillopora damicornis* colony is pale cream at its branch tips with intact tissue, which the photographs cannot separate from natural pigmentation. Island-level physiological screening (Mayfield et al. 2017, PLoS ONE) flagged 1 of

the 9 corals with an outlier score (at FJMT13). No station carries a Coral Health Index, and no crown-of-thorns is recorded for Matuku; Anderson's sampling sheet records two of the six colonies sampled at FJMT13 as about 20% and 80% bleached, and one of the diver's FJMT13 frames shows a young, untagged branching colony that is pale and partly bleached.

Highlights

- A broad ridge crowded with small table *Acropora* and *Pocillopora*, dropping away as a near-vertical wall (FJMT13). 
- A small seamount top where pink coralline algae covers more surface than live coral in places, and a school of small blue-black fish streams over the crest (FJMT14). 
- Cover stayed between 26% (FJMT12) and 38% (FJMT10) at all five stations, with 29% on the seamount top (FJMT14). 
- Single-species stands of *Pavona clavus* and *Porites rus* covering almost 20 m of bottom in a west-side channel (FJMT12).

Notable observations

- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT11): Corallivores and recent mortality: Drupella snails were found on several colonies, which could account for some recent mortality scars on the acroporids (same survey note on FJMT10, FJMT13, and FJMT14). 
- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT14): Possible paling: two frames show a small cream-and-tan Pocillopora damicornis colony, darker at the branch bases and pale at the tips. Tissue is intact with no exposed skeleton, and natural pale pigmentation cannot be ruled out; no bleaching is claimed. 

Sites in this region

- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT10) — 38% coral cover
- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT11) — 30% coral cover
- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT12) — 26% coral cover
- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT13) — 26% coral cover
- Fiji - Matuku (FJMT14) — 29% coral cover

Nearby external survey stations

4 independent survey records within 5 km of a site in this region (each record counted once; 3 lines, and a line that pools several records says how many).

- Reef Check — Dabu Passage (1999): 51% hard coral cover, 4.23 km from Fiji - Matuku (FJMT11)
- Reef Check — Maccadame Reef (1999): 56% hard coral cover, mean of 2 surveys (2 m and 10 m), 0.53 km from Fiji - Matuku (FJMT11) (2 records)
- Reef Check — North of Arua (1999): 39% hard coral cover, 0.88 km from Fiji - Matuku (FJMT11)

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

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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