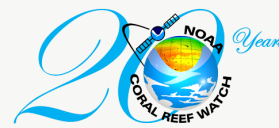




Indonesia - Ambon



Regional summary of 3 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 [Indonesia - Maluku](#) overview.



Coral Health Index: TBD

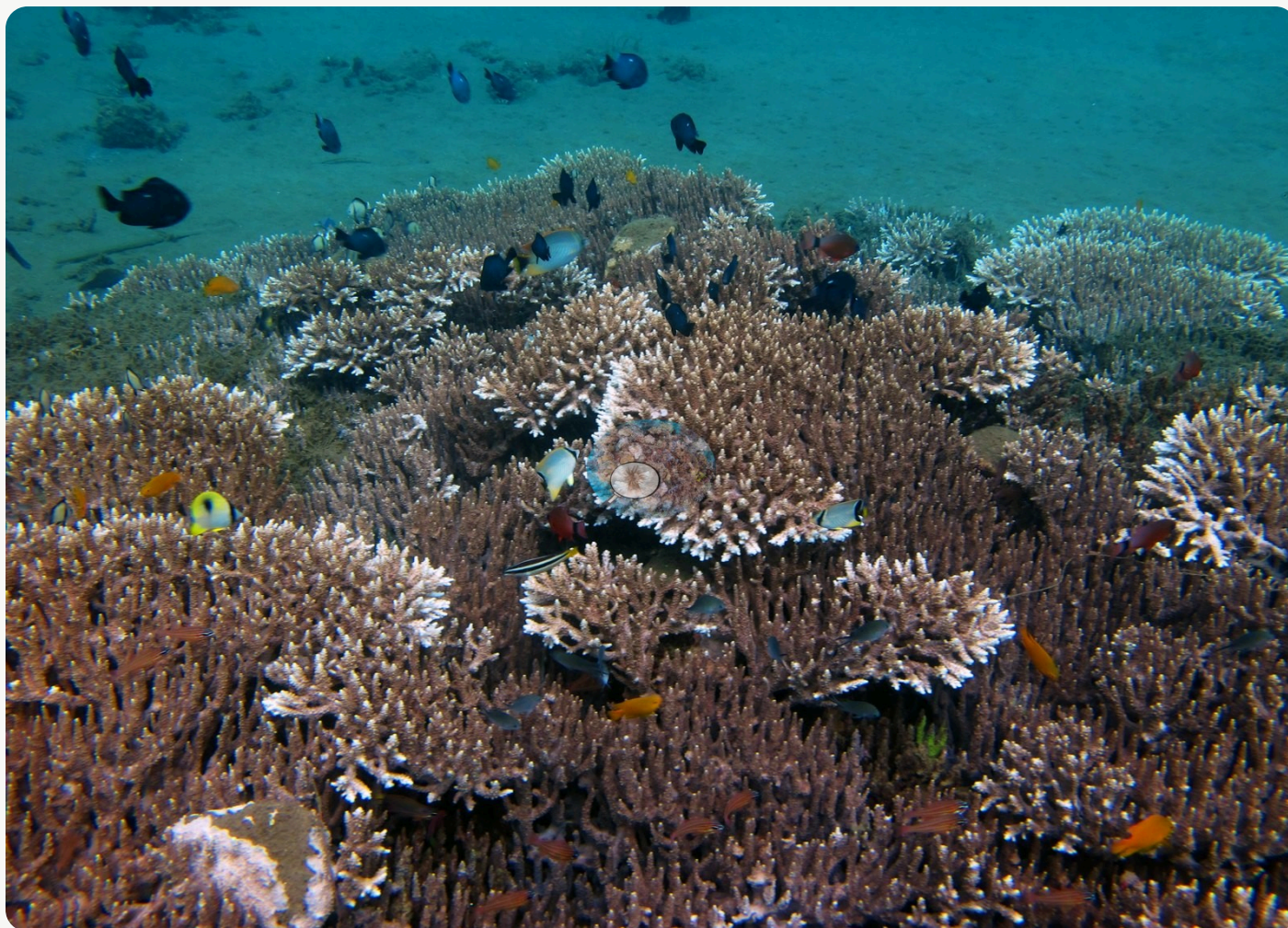


Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — [Indonesia](#) - Ambon: Air Manis (Laha)

COUNTRY

Indonesia

SITES

3

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

29% ± 4.0% (std. dev.)

n=3. range 24–33%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

29.4°C

n = 3 of 3 sites; surveyed Apr
2018

CORAL HEALTH INDEX
(REGIONAL MEAN)

not yet scored

n = 0 of 3 sites

MOST RECENT WATER
TEMPERATURE RECORD

27.1°C

16 Sep 2026 · [Maluku](#)

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

8.9°C-weeks

2021–2025 · Maluku

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT
STRESS

9.7°C-weeks

in 2022 · Maluku

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

9

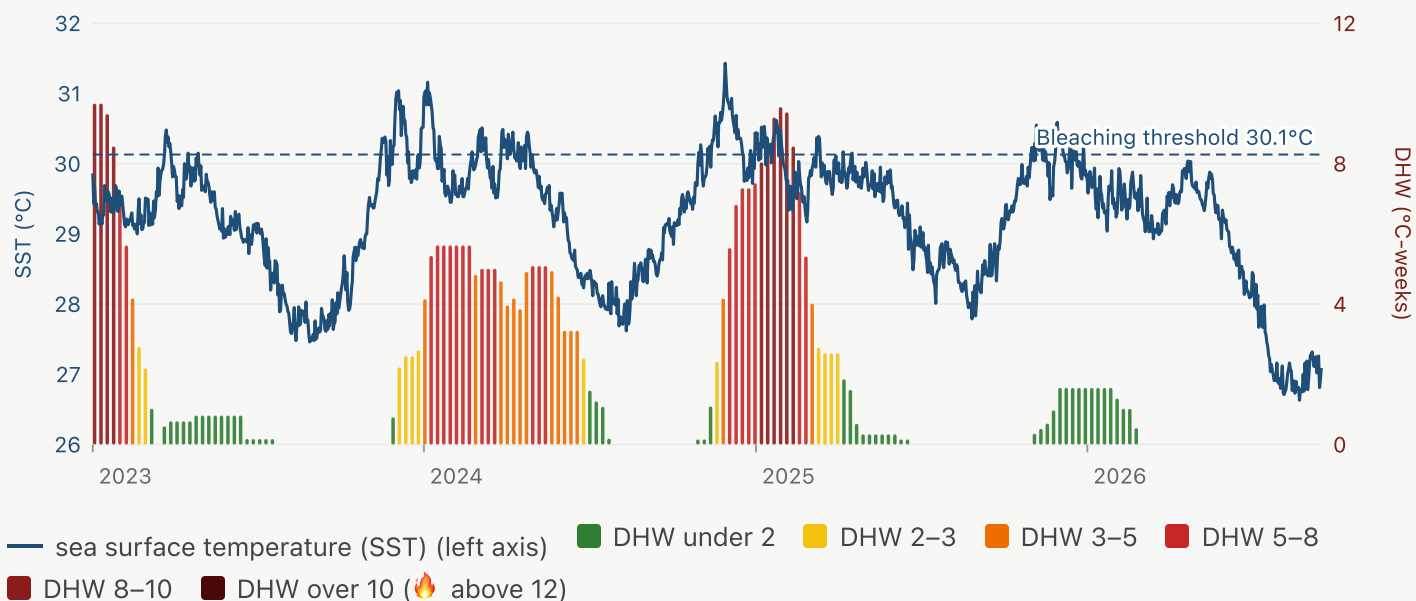
1985–2025 · 8 in the last 10 years

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

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Ambon's pins are mostly muck dives on sand, silt, and rubble near Laha, dived in April 2018, where coral grows in patches, such as the near-continuous carpets on bommie tops at Air Manis. The macro life stands out, including a Rhinopias, [frogfish](#), seahorses, and harlequin shrimp.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km Maluku virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean $29.1^{\circ}\text{C} + 1^{\circ}\text{C}$). 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: 9 years since 1985 reached 8 or more $^{\circ}\text{C}$ -weeks at [NOAA's](#) Maluku station. [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



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

Read this summary in:

English

Bahasa Indonesia

Regional setting

Ambon lies in the Moluccas, which [Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) group with Irian Jaya as the last of Indonesia's sub-regions. They describe an area of complex bathymetry and very deep water, where islands only tens of kilometers apart may be separated by more than 1,000 m and the sea is mostly clear and oceanic. Winds shift with the monsoons, blowing from the northwest across most of the sub-region in the Northeast Monsoon and from the southeast toward the southern Moluccas in the Southeast Monsoon, and surface currents are mixed. The authors give no account of Ambon's shores. For Indonesia as a whole, they estimate about 51,020 km² of coral reef, 18% of the world total, and describe the country as spanning the region with the highest reef biodiversity on Earth.

At the regional scale, [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) identify overfishing, the growth of coastal aquaculture, and siltation and eutrophication driven by land-use change as the main pressures on East Asian Seas reefs, alongside marine plastic litter, and attribute the region's coral losses after 2010 and

2016 to [mass bleaching](#). [Wilkinson \(2006\)](#) reported that, as of 2004, Indonesian reefs showed some signs of recovery even as reef condition elsewhere in Southeast Asia continued to decline.

Overview

Three of the four Ambon pins are muck dives near Laha on Ambon's south coast, all made on 22 April 2018: Air Manis, Rhino City, and Laha-2. They reached maximum depths of 18.3 m, 24.7 m, and 26.2 m. The bottom at all three is sand, silt, and rubble, and visibility ran moderate to good over the coral and hazier and greener over the muck. The fourth pin, Ambon / Seram, has no photographs or survey of its own.

Coral occurs in patches within the muck, and the three dives differ sharply. At Air Manis, raised bommies and low ridges carry near-100% [Acropora](#) and [Porites](#) carpets on their tops, against bare sand between them. The coral there includes table and staghorn [Acropora](#), [Montipora](#), [Euphyllia](#), [Seriatopora caliendrum](#), [Pocillopora meandrina](#), [brain corals](#), and fire coral. Rhino City splits into sandy muck with isolated soft-coral trees and [gorgonian](#) fans, and a dense, healthy reef-flat section of staghorn and table [Acropora](#) thickets with a large [Diploastrea heliophora](#). Laha-2 is overwhelmingly sand-silt and dead shell middens, with almost no coherent reef structure and only two frames showing coral at all. Photo-derived cover was 30.6% at Air Manis and 33.3% at Rhino City. The Laha-2 figure was rejected because its frames are mostly non-coral subjects.

Human impacts were photographed at two sites. A fine monofilament gillnet with small fish trapped in it was draped across bommies at Air Manis, and glass bottles, fishing line, and PVC debris were woven into the rubble at Laha-2. No [crown-of-thorns](#) or disease was seen at any of the three. The macro life is the standout: a Rhinopias, a likely ornate ghost pipefish, and a ribbon eel at Rhino City, and harlequin shrimp, a shell-carrying [octopus](#), four frogfish, and two seahorses at Laha-2. For Ambon / Seram, the nearest [Reef Check](#) stations, about 31-34 km away, recorded 34-57% hard coral in 1997. That is a regional baseline, not a measure of the pin.

Highlights

- Air Manis: bommie tops with near-100% [Acropora](#) and [Porites](#) carpets against bare sand

photo: Indonesia - Ambon: Air Manis (Laha)



- Rhino City: a dense, healthy staghorn and table [Acropora](#) reef-flat section beside sandy muck

photo: Indonesia - Ambon: Rhino City (Laha)



- Rhino City: a Rhinopias, a likely ornate ghost pipefish, and a ribbon eel in threat display

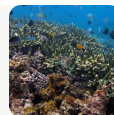


photo:

Indonesia - Ambon: Rhino City (Laha)

- Laha-2: harlequin shrimp, a shell-armored octopus, four frogfish, and two seahorses on sand and shell rubble



photo: Indonesia - Ambon: Laha-2

- Gillnet and debris photographed at Air Manis and Laha-2



photo: Indonesia - Ambon: Air Manis (Laha)

Notable observations

- [Indonesia - Ambon: Air Manis \(Laha\)](#): Fishing gear and localized bleaching: at least five frames show a fine monofilament gillnet draped across coral bommies and the water column, with small fish visibly trapped in it (active or recently set gear smothering part of the site). Separately, one leather coral colony has a single lobe sharply bleached bright white against otherwise healthy tissue, a single-colony event, not site-wide. No crown-of-thorns starfish or disease seen.



- [Indonesia - Ambon: Laha-2](#): A glass bottle and jar embedded in the shell rubble, tangled monofilament fishing line through several frames, a PVC pipe fragment, and a fabric scrap: debris woven into the substrate used as habitat. No bleaching, disease, or crown-of-thorns starfish seen, though with almost no live coral present that check has limited scope.



- [Indonesia - Ambon: Rhino City \(Laha\)](#): Unusual coloration: one colony with a sharp two-tone red/cream pattern and fully extended, healthy-looking polyps; the pin reads it as natural pigmentation rather than bleaching but marks it worth a second look. No crown-of-thorns starfish or disease observed.



Sites in this region

- [Indonesia - Ambon: Air Manis \(Laha\)](#) — 31% coral cover
- [Indonesia - Ambon: Laha-2](#) — 24% coral cover
- [Indonesia - Ambon: Rhino City \(Laha\)](#) — 33% coral cover

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



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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. [\[PDF\]](#)