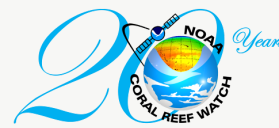




Indonesia - Halmahera



Regional summary of 30 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.

0



Coral Health Index: 5.00/5

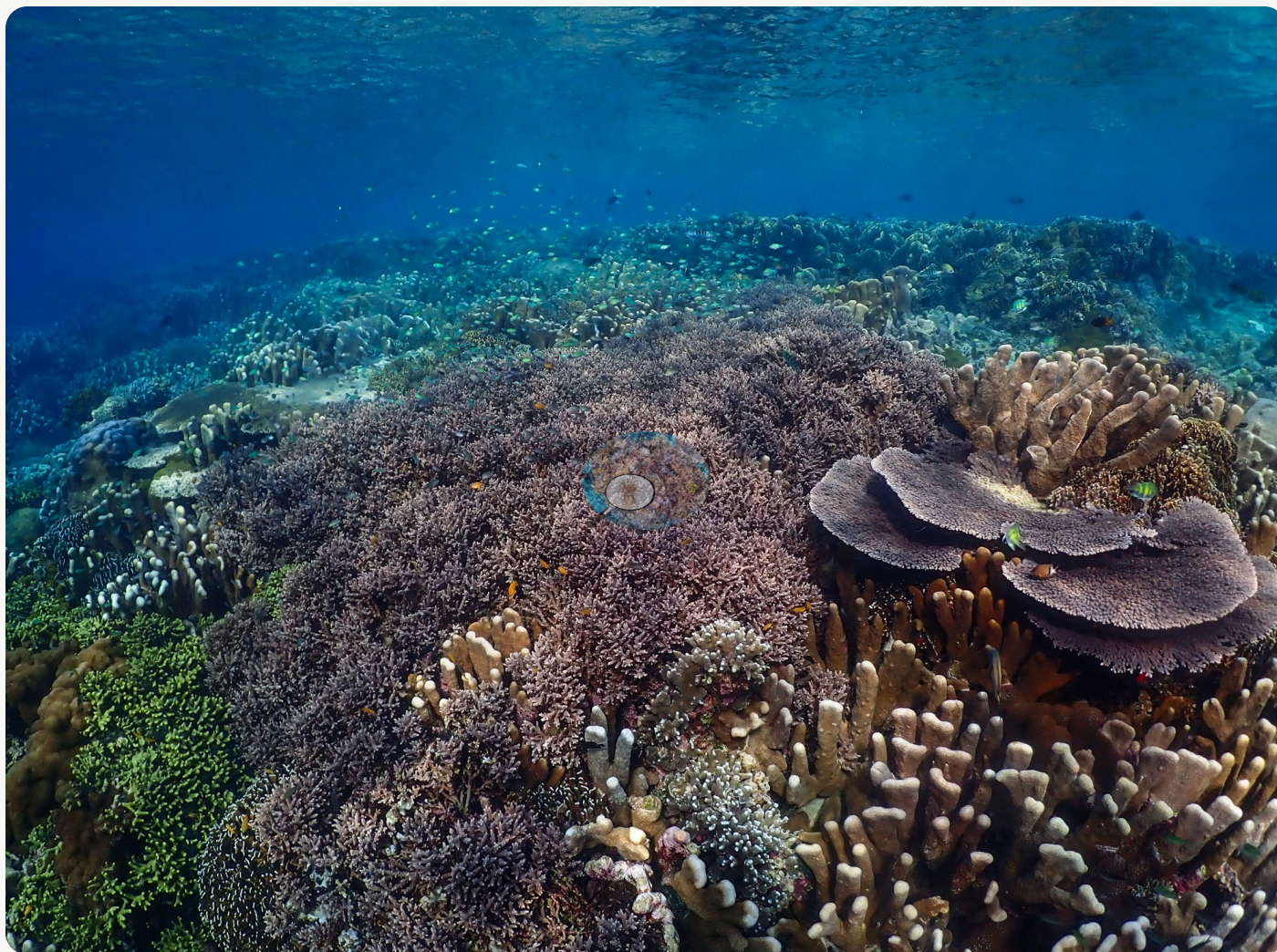


Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — [Indonesia](#) - Halmahera: Kusu Drift (round 2)

COUNTRY

Indonesia

SITES

30

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

32% ± 11% (std. dev.)

n = 23 of 30 sites. range 12–57%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

—

n = 0 of 30 sites

CORAL HEALTH INDEX
(REGIONAL MEAN)

5.00 / 5

n = 1 of 30 sites; 2.5 = average
(above average)

MOST RECENT WATER
TEMPERATURE RECORD

28.7°C

16 Sep 2026 · [North 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

5.1°C-weeks

2021–2025 · North Maluku

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT
STRESS

10.7°C-weeks

in 2010 · North Maluku

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

2

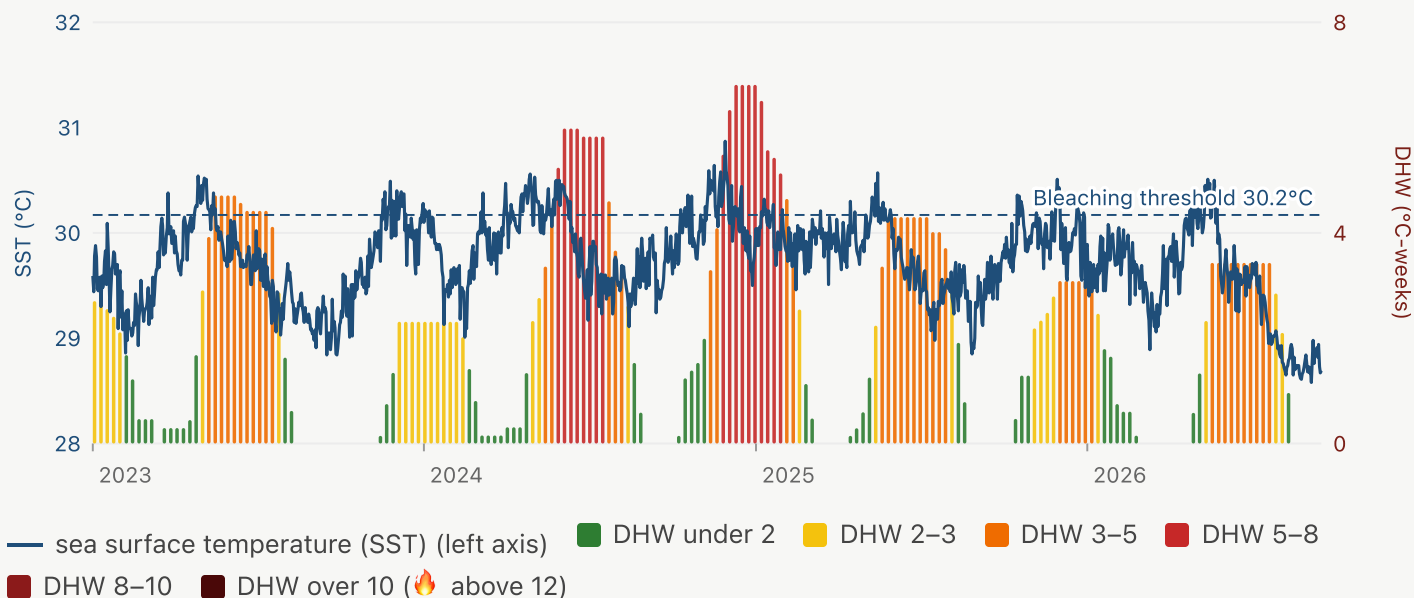
1985–2025 · 0 in the last 10 years

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

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Halmahera's August 2026 liveaboard dives, from Ternate-Tidore strait reefs to current-swept points and offshore seamounts, typically rise from sponge-crusts walls to shallow crests of near-continuous staghorn and table corals. Most dives showed no bleaching, and one produced the largest devil ray school Anderson has seen.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km North Maluku virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean $29.2^{\circ}\text{C} + 1^{\circ}\text{C}$). 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: 2 years since 1985 reached 8 or more $^{\circ}\text{C}$ -weeks at [NOAA's](#) North Maluku station. [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



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

Read this summary in:

English

Bahasa Indonesia

Regional setting

[Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) treat Halmahera as part of the Moluccas, the island groups west of Irian Jaya, which they place in a deep-water sub-region of complex bathymetry where even close neighbors can be separated by more than 1,000 m of water. They say little about Halmahera itself beyond its currents and outlying reefs. During the Northeast Monsoon, a current runs north through the passage between Irian Jaya and Halmahera, reversing in the Southeast Monsoon, and several small atolls lie offshore to the east of the island. Nationally, they estimate Indonesia's reef area at about 51,020 km², around 18% of the world total, with 443 coral species recorded and a higher estimate of 581–602 for the wider biogeographic region. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) group the Halmahera ecoregion with the Papua, Banda Sea, Northeast Sulawesi, Gulf of Papua, and Arafura Sea ecoregions in one East Asian Seas subregion of 20,568 km², 26% of the region's reef. The region as a whole holds 78,272 km² of reef and nearly 600 reef-building coral species.

In that subregion, [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) found that modeled hard coral cover fluctuated considerably over the record while algal cover stayed roughly constant, but the estimate rests

on 503 sites, only six of them monitored for more than 15 years. Across the East Asian Seas, the 2010 and 2016 bleaching events cut coral cover, and of 55 long-monitored sampling units that lost at least a fifth of their coral, 25 had not regained 90% of their earlier cover by the 2020 assessment. Earlier, [Wilkinson \(2006\)](#) had described Southeast Asian reefs as still declining in 2004, with some recovery in Indonesia, and judged that only 10-20% of the region's more than 630 marine protected areas were effectively managed.

Overview

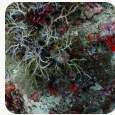
The Halmahera sites were dived on an August 2026 liveaboard crossing and fall into three groups. The northern group, in the Ternate-Tidore strait, includes Maitara North, Failonga, AM Point 2, and night dives off the Ternate waterfront. A southern group holds current-swept points and drifts such as Pulau Sebatang, Kusu Drift, Tower Corner, Proco, and Jerot. A western group is made up of offshore seamounts and boulder fields, among them Batu Mandi, Batu Balong, Siko Pinnacle, and Reene's Rock. Most day dives share one profile. Sand, rubble, or sponge-crusted walls sit at 25-35 m, the mid-slope carries shingled foliose plates ([Montipora](#), [Echinopora](#), [Pachyseris](#)-type), and the shallow crest is near-continuous staghorn and tabulate [Acropora](#).

The shallows hold the best coral. Anderson ranked Pulau Sebatang among the best coral dives he has done, Tower Corner peaked at 2-7 m, and at Proco no frame came close to bare substrate. Other sites are defined by different communities. Maitara North has a shingled tower of plate coral, while Batu Mangga and Reene's Rock are dominated by [sponges](#), [ascidians](#), and [soft corals](#). Batu Mandi's summit is blanketed in arborescent soft coral. Hard coral cover (Claude CV) across 23 daytime sites ranged from 11.6% at Siko Pinnacle to 56.5% in the Batu Balong shallows near the anchorage. Jerot also logged 22-25°C and thermoclines, several degrees colder than the rest of the crossing.

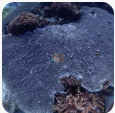
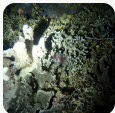
Most dives recorded no bleaching, disease, or [crown-of-thorns](#). Old, coralline-bound mortality is common: standing dead staghorn at Failonga and Siko Tanjung, and rubble aprons at Tanjung Naraka and AM Point 2. Recent stress is patchy. Crown-of-thorns were photographed at Merida Cavern, beside fresh feeding scars, and at Mugia. Lelay Utara showed active partial bleaching on part of its shallow plateau. Single white or pale colonies turned up at Kusu Drift, Kusu Ridge, Tanjung Dehebra, and Batu Mandi, and Siko Tanjung had a handful of chalk-white massives.

Notable sightings include walking sharks ([Hemiscyllium](#)) at Pantai Falajawa, ornate ghost pipefish at Cimitero, and the largest devil ray school Anderson has seen, logged at Tanjung Naraka.

Highlights

- Near-continuous shallow *Acropora* at Pulau Sebatang, Tower Corner (2-7 m), Proco, and the Batu Balong plateau  photo: Indonesia - Halmahera: Pulau Sebatang
- Shingled foliose plate fields define Maitara North and the Kusu Ridge mid-slope  photo: Indonesia - Halmahera: Maitara North
- Jerot logged 22-25°C and thermoclines, the coldest water of the crossing  photo: Indonesia - Halmahera: Jerot
- Merida Cavern pairs a limestone swim-through with a reef of meter-wide tabulate *Acropora*  photo: Indonesia - Halmahera: Merida Cavern
- Night dives: walking sharks at Pantai Falajawa, ornate ghost pipefish at Cimitero  photo: Indonesia - Halmahera: Pantai Falajawa

Notable observations

- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Merida Cavern](#): crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS): a crown-of-thorns starfish under an overhang with a stark-white, freshly grazed massive coral above it, plus further clean white feeding scars on neighboring colonies 
- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Mugia](#): COTS: a large Acanthaster-type crown-of-thorns starfish in two frames (possibly one animal), amid turf-covered dead branching rubble; no feeding scar caught on living coral 
- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Lelay Utara \(north\)](#): Bleaching: real, hedged partial bleaching on the shallow plateau; one discrete colony bone-white beside pigmented neighbors and widespread paling across that section; read as active, recent, and partial 
- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Kusu Drift](#): Bleaching: one large meandroid colony with a sharply bounded bleached-but-living sector covering about a third of its surface; single-colony, not site-wide 
- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Siko Tanjung](#): Bleaching (photographic call): a handful of massive colonies stark chalk-white while neighbors hold normal color; bleached-alive cannot be separated from very

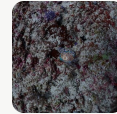
recently dead. A Culcita cushion star sat beside two small snow-white branching colonies (not COTS)



- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Kusu Ridge](#): Bleaching or recent mortality: one plating colony about 1.5 m across stark white over its entire surface, neighbors normally pigmented; isolated single-colony event



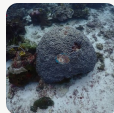
- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Tanjung Dehebra](#): Possible bleaching or recent partial mortality on one small isolated white branching colony; not repeated elsewhere on the dive



- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Kusu Drift \(round 2\)](#): One pale-white cauliflower-form colony, hedged as possible partial bleaching or a natural pale morph



- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Batu Mandi](#): Two to three tabulate Acropora on the rim uniformly chalk-gray to white (bleached-alive vs recently dead unresolved); four massive Porites read pale, logged as possible partial paling, not confirmed bleaching

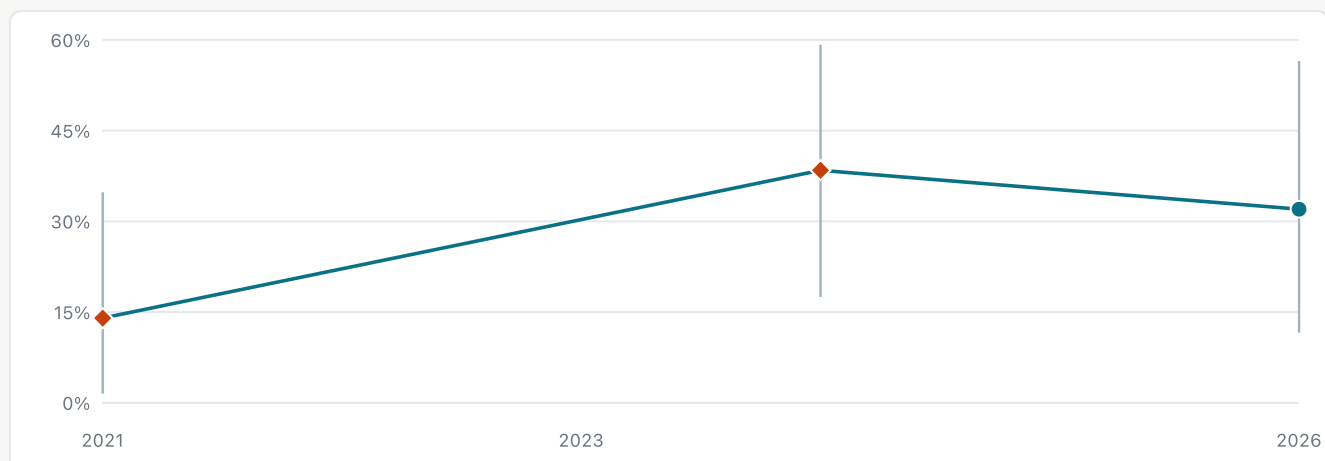


- [Indonesia - Halmahera: Batu Mangga](#): One large tabulate Acropora distinctly whiter than neighbors; logged as unresolved rather than bleaching



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. Marker shape: ● his own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys.



► Sites in this region (30)

Nearby external survey stations

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

► [Show all 20 records](#)

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



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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. [\[PDF\]](#)