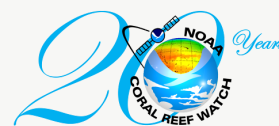




Indonesia - Raja Ampat



Regional summary of 24 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.

0

5

Coral Health Index: 4.71/5



Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Raja Ampat - Melissa's Garden (Fam/Penemu)

COUNTRY

Indonesia

SITES

24

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

26% ± 11% (std. dev.)

n = 12 of 24 sites. range 7.2–44%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

CORAL HEALTH INDEX
(REGIONAL MEAN)

MOST RECENT WATER
TEMPERATURE RECORD

27.3°C

n = 15 of 24 sites; surveyed Oct 2018

4.71 / 5

n = 6 of 24 sites; 2.5 = average (above average)

29.9°C

16 Sep 2026 · [West Papua](#)

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD



1.4°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · below alert level

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

10.0°C-weeks

2021–2025 · regional mean of 24 sites, 2 stations

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

14.0°C-weeks 🔥

in 2024 · West Papua

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

11

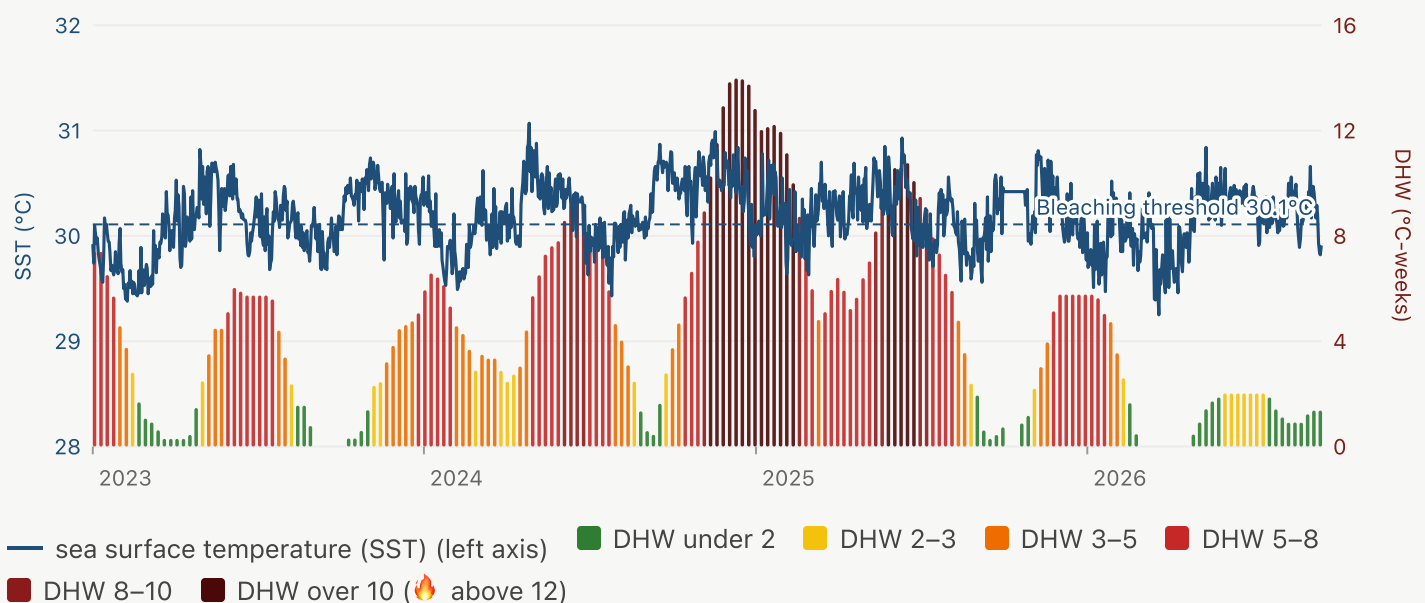
1985–2025 · 9 in the last 10 years

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

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Raja Ampat's pinnacles, seamounts, and limestone walls, dived in October 2018, are rich in [soft corals](#), sea fans, and black coral, with hard coral concentrated on reef tops and in the shallows. Fish life was very high, including gray reef [sharks](#), wobbegongs, and pygmy seahorses.

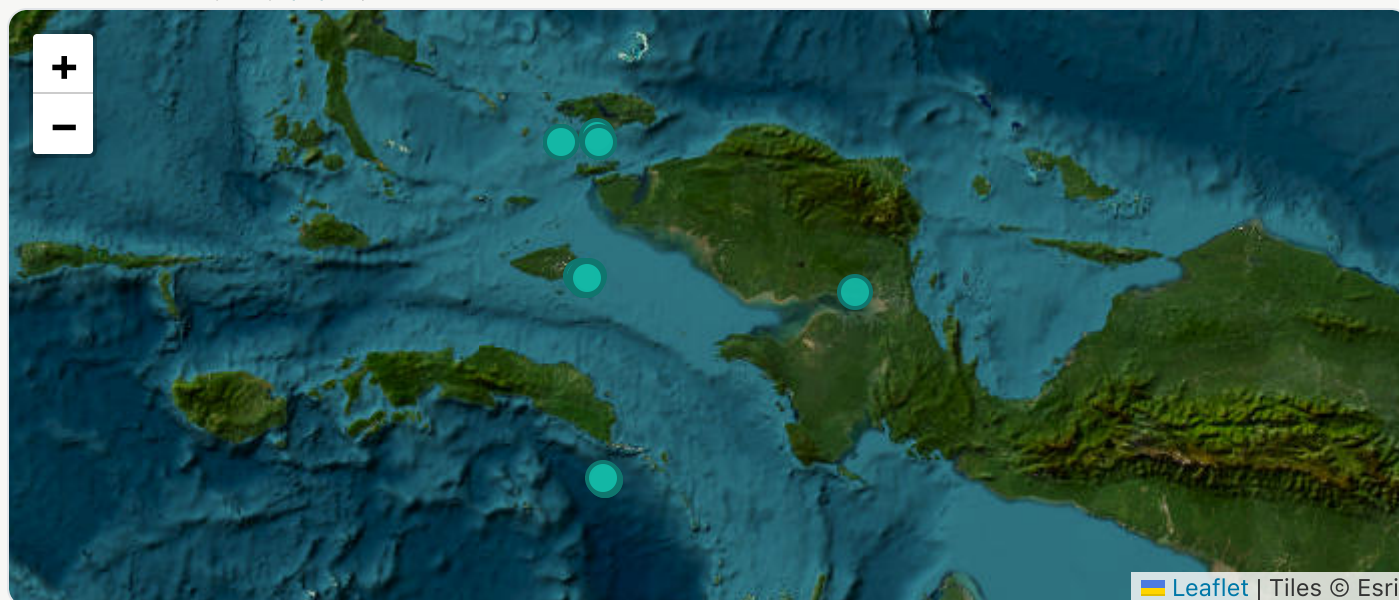
Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km West Papua virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean 29.1°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 since 1985 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at [NOAA's](#) Maluku, West Papua stations. Download the annual DHW data (CSV): [papua](#), [banda-sea](#).



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

Read this summary in:

English

Bahasa Indonesia

Regional setting

[Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) never name Raja Ampat. The nearest landmark in their Indonesia chapter is the Bird's Head (Doberai) Peninsula, which falls in the last of the sub-regions in their account, the Moluccas and Irian Jaya. They characterize that sub-region as bathymetrically complex, with clear oceanic water so deep that islands only tens of kilometers apart can lie on either side of channels more than 1,000 m deep. One of its only two true continental-shelf areas is a shallow platform west of the Bird's Head, yet the authors had little or no information on the reef communities around the peninsula, and they describe Indonesia as holding a huge range of reefs, many poorly known or not described at all. For the country as a whole, they estimate about 51,020 km² of coral reef, roughly 18% of the global total and more than any other nation, and list 443 recorded coral species against an estimate of 581-602 for its wider biogeographic region. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) include Indonesia in the East Asian Seas region, which overlaps the Coral Triangle and holds 78,272 km² of reef (just over 30% of the world's total) and nearly 600 reef-building coral species.

[Wilkinson \(2006\)](#), summarizing the 2004 Southeast Asia assessment, reported that reef condition across the region had kept declining, though Indonesia showed some signs of coral recovery; the main direct pressures were overfishing and destructive fishing, land-based

pollution, and sediment from coastal development and deforestation. For the East Asian Seas as a whole, [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) estimate that hard coral cover climbed from 32.9% in 1999 to 40.8% in 2009, fell to 35% by 2012 after the 2010 [mass bleaching](#), dipped to 33.9% in 2017 after the 2016 event, and stood near 36.8% in 2019. They caution that even the earliest records probably describe reefs already altered by people, and that monitoring has favored accessible, well-known sites, while many reefs in the large archipelagic nations remain hard for researchers to reach.

Overview

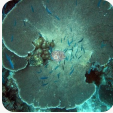
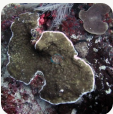
This unit gathers 24 pins from a liveaboard trip dived between 16 and 23 October 2018. Most lie in two parts of Raja Ampat: the Dampier Strait and Fam/Penemu group in the north (Cape Kri, Blue Magic, Mioskon, My Reef, Melissa's Garden) and the Misool area in the south (Shadow Reef, Barracuda Rock, Four Kings, Nudi Rock, Little Juliet, Anchovy, Two Tree Island). It also carries three dives at Pulau Koon, which the pins place off eastern Seram in the Banda Sea, and Karang Paradise, whose region is not established. Settings range from pinnacles and seamounts (Blue Magic, Four Kings, My Reef) to sheer walls below undercut limestone islets (Nudi Rock, Two Tree Island), a very sheltered fringing reef at Barracuda Rock, and a sand muck site beside a Dampier Strait town pier. Logged maximum depths ran from 15.4 m at Nudi Rock to 35.3 m at Cape Kri.

[Soft corals](#) are prominent almost everywhere: *Sinularia* and *Sarcophyton* recur on most dives, soft-coral cover exceeded hard at Shadow Reef and Little Juliet, and deeper walls carry sea fans, black coral, and green *Tubastraea*. Hard coral concentrates on reef tops and shallows. Melissa's Garden logged [Acropora](#) tables 5 m across and branching acroporids at 100% cover through most of the shallows; Barracuda Rock logged at least 60-70 hard coral species.

[Seriatopora hystrix](#) and *S. caliendrum* are common at many sites, and plating [Pachyseris](#) and [Montipora](#) dominate at depth. Hard coral cover (Claude CV) across 12 sites ran from 7.2% at Two Tree Island to 44.4% at Karang Paradise, with Melissa's Garden at 40.9%; Anderson's in-water impressions were sometimes higher, more than 40-50% in places at Nudi Rock.

Most dives logged no bleaching, but photographs from Mioskon and Blue Magic show a minority of chalk-white colonies beside pigmented neighbors, and a Pulau Koon close-up series shows stark-white *Acropora* branches; all are flagged rather than diagnosed. Some *Seriatopora hystrix* looked white or sickly at My Reef and The Lagoon. Fish biomass was very high, with giant trevally, tuna, barracuda, batfish, Napoleon wrasse, and gray reef sharks at several sites, three wobbegongs at My Reef, epaulette sharks on the Misool night dive, a hammerhead at Karang Paradise, and pygmy seahorses at Anchovy and Little Juliet. Strong current shaped the dives at My Reef and Two Tree Island.

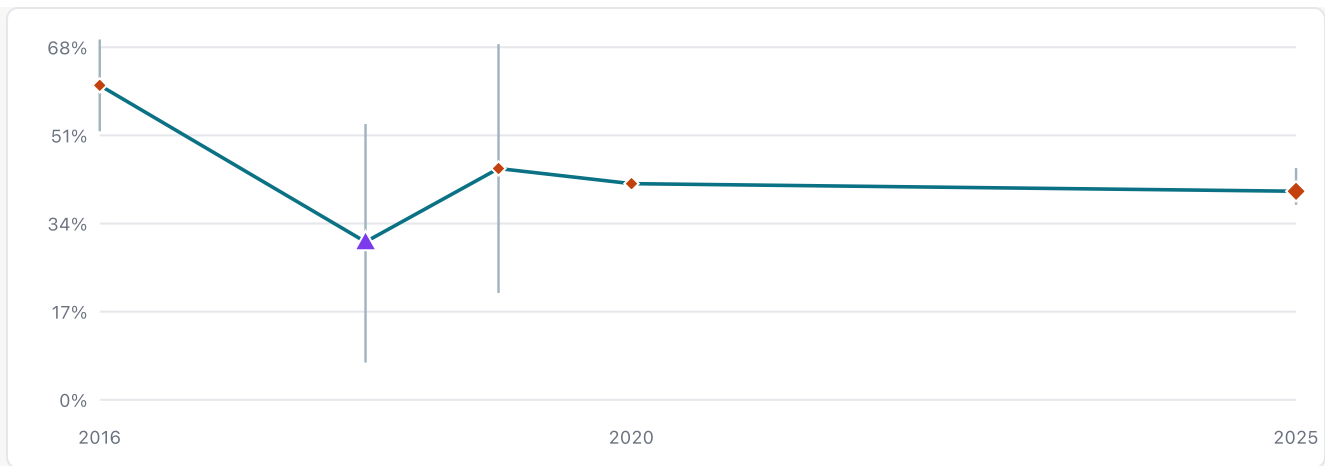
Highlights

- Melissa's Garden (Fam/Penemu): Acropora tables up to 5 m across and branching acroporids at 100% cover through most of the shallows, per Anderson's log  photo: Raja Ampat - Melissa's Garden
(Fam/Penemu)
- Barracuda Rock (Misool): at least 60–70 hard coral species logged on a very sheltered fringing reef, including a thick-branched Seriatopora noted as possibly new  photo: Raja Ampat - Barracuda Rock
- Hard coral cover (Claude CV) from 7.2% (Two Tree Island) to 44.4% (Karang Paradise) across 12 sites  photo: Raja Ampat - Karang Paradise
- Walls and seamounts are dominated by soft corals, sea fans, black coral, and green *Tubastraea*, with hard coral concentrated at roughly 5–15 m
- Corals logged to about 35 m on the My Reef seamount, with cover at 30 m still 20–30% by Anderson's estimate  photo: Raja Ampat - My Reef
- Sharks on many dives: gray reef sharks, three wobbegongs at My Reef, epaulette sharks at night off Misool, and a hammerhead at Karang Paradise  photo: Raja Ampat - My Reef

► Notable observations (11)

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. One value above 70% was excluded as best-patch figures rather than site means. Years resting on fewer than three values are drawn as smaller points (2016, 2019, 2020). Marker shape: ● his own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys, ▲ a mix of both, that year.



► Sites in this region (24)

Nearby external survey stations

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

► Show all 17 records

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](#). [\[PDF\]](#)
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- Yuanike, Yulianda F, Bengen DG, Dahuri R, Souhoka J (2019). A biodiversity assessment of hard corals in dive spots within Dampier Straits Marine Protected Area in Raja Ampat, West Papua, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity* 20:1198-1207. [DOI](#)