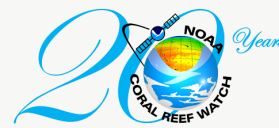




Indonesia - Triton Bay



Regional 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.



Coral Health Index: TBD

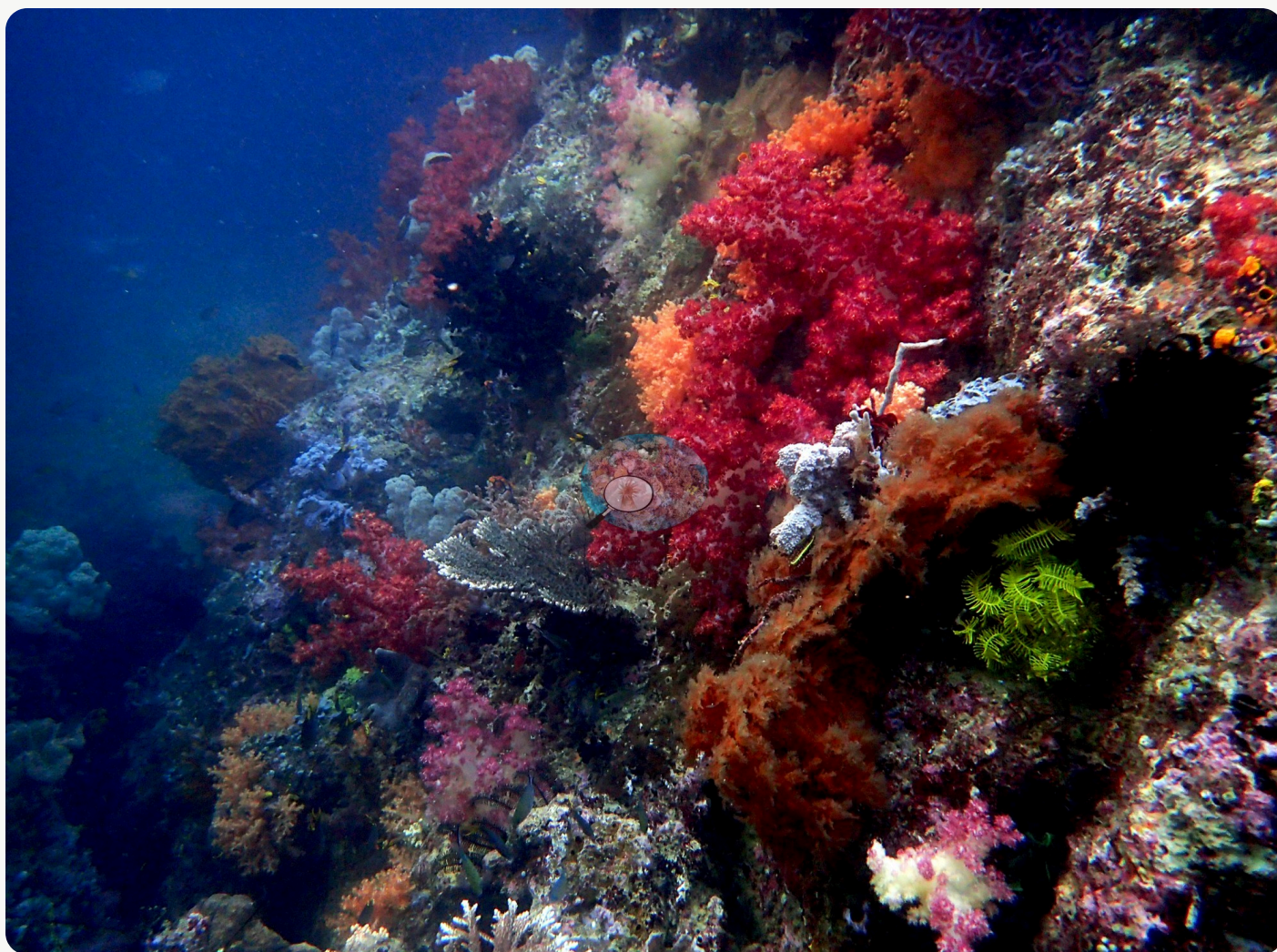


Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Triton Bay - Little Komodo

COUNTRY

[Indonesia](#)

SITES

5

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER
(REGIONAL MEAN)

10% ± 2.0% (std. dev.)

n = 4 of 5 sites. range 7.8–13%

WATER TEMP. DURING
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

24.3°C

n = 3 of 5 sites; surveyed Oct
2018

CORAL HEALTH INDEX
(REGIONAL MEAN)

not yet scored

n = 0 of 5 sites

MOST RECENT WATER
TEMPERATURE RECORD

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

10.1°C-weeks

2021–2025 · West Papua

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT
STRESS

14.0°C-weeks 🔥

in 2024 · West Papua

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

5

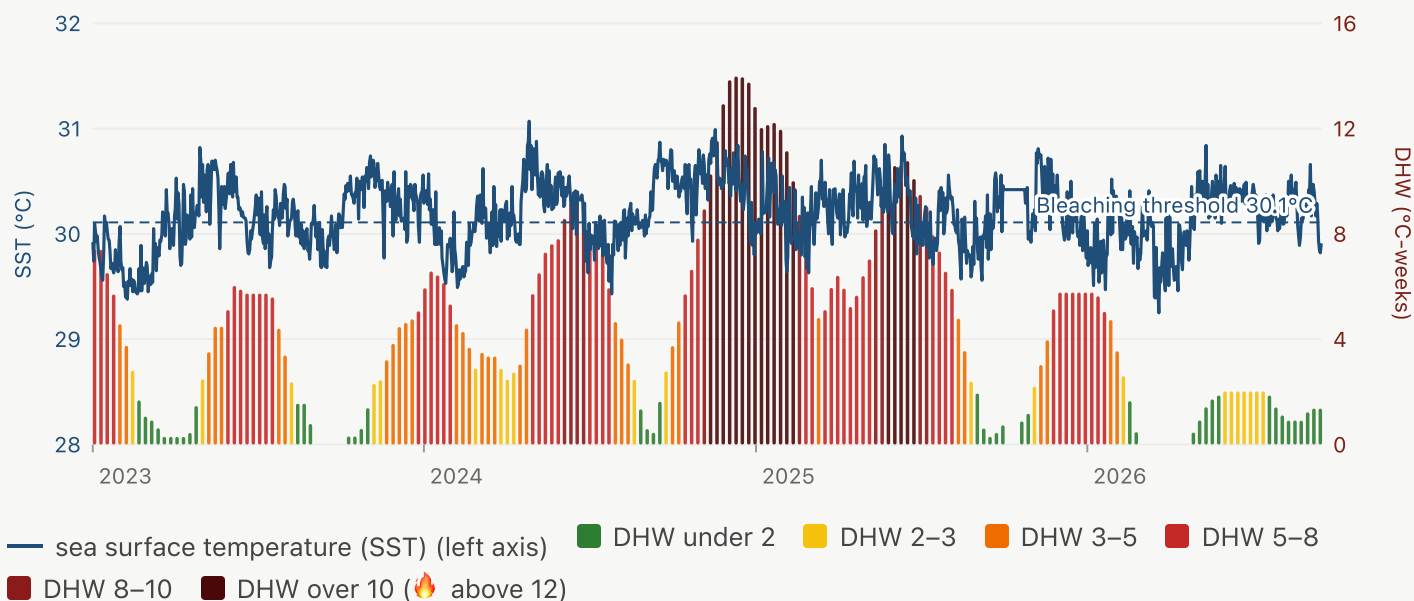
1985–2025 · 4 in the last 10 years

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

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Triton Bay's five sites, dived in October 2018 in turbid, nutrient-rich, high-flow water, are dominated by [soft corals](#), including a naturally white soft-coral forest at Little Komodo. Hard coral clusters in the top few meters, and no [bleaching](#) was recorded on any dive.

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 $29.1^{\circ}\text{C} + 1^{\circ}\text{C}$). 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: 5 years since 1985 reached 8 or more $^{\circ}\text{C}$ -weeks at [NOAA's](#) West Papua station. [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



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

Read this summary in:

English

Bahasa Indonesia

Regional setting

[Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) do not mention Triton Bay, and they call the coastline of Irian Jaya, on which it lies, very poorly described. Much of that coast is low-lying and takes in heavy river discharge, above all in the south. Along the southeast, reefs give way to mangroves the authors count among the largest in the world, with the forests of Bintuni Bay and the central coast possibly rivaling the Sundarbans in area, while farther west, where the land rises, fringing reefs are reported to be widespread. South of Irian Jaya lies the Arafura Sea, a broad shelf mostly shallower than 100 m whose turbid water contrasts with the clear oceanic conditions elsewhere in eastern Indonesia, and in the Southeast Monsoon winds blow up toward the island's southern shore. Nationally, the authors estimate about 51,020 km² of coral reef in Indonesia, some 18% of the global total, with 443 coral species recorded and 581-602 estimated for its biogeographic region.

[Reef Check](#) surveys in 2002-2003 put the Coral Triangle, the area spanning Indonesia, the [Philippines](#), and Papua New Guinea, among the three regions of the world with the least damaged reefs ([Wilkinson 2006](#)). The same review singled out Indonesia as a country where

clear-felling of tropical forest for timber and oil palm was clearly adding to the sediment reaching reefs. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) list siltation and eutrophication from changing land use, overfishing, and the spread of coastal aquaculture among the main pressures across the East Asian Seas, and estimate that the region lost almost 11% of its hard coral, in relative terms, between 2005-2009 and 2015-2019, most of it after the 2010 bleaching event.

Overview

The five Triton Bay pins were dived on 14-15 October 2018. Seruanus and Little Komodo lie on opposite sides of Little Komodo Island, and Anderson found them very different from each other. Last Frontier fringes a steep karst islet with an undercut base and a swim-through. Bo Rainbow is a broad, gently sloping terrace, and Larry Dive Heaven is a depth-zoned slope that levels out at 5 m. The water is turbid and productive, with 2-10 m visibility, cold water intruding to 24 C at Seruanus, and thermoclines at Last Frontier and Larry Dive Heaven. The pins link the soft-coral abundance to high flow and nutrient-rich water.

[Soft corals](#) dominate every site. Seruanus has tree-form soft corals packed across its slope faces, and Little Komodo a virtually uninterrupted white soft-coral forest at 15-20 m (naturally white, not bleached). Last Frontier carries *Sinularia* carpets and abundant *Sarcophyton*, and Bo Rainbow has patches of 100% soft-coral cover. *Tubastraea* is common at Little Komodo, Last Frontier, and Larry Dive Heaven. Hard coral is concentrated in the top few meters. *Acropora* grows at 5-7 m around Little Komodo Island, and Last Frontier has a diverse *Acropora* assemblage at 5-8 m with one table 3-4 m across. Larry Dive Heaven has [brain corals](#) at 8-9 m, with *Porites* bommies and *Pocillopora verrucosa* above 6 m. Hard coral cover (Claude CV) ranged from 7.8% at Last Frontier to 12.7% at Bo Rainbow across four sites.

No bleaching was recorded on any dive. The condition signals are local: long-dead, coralline-encrusted coral below 20 m at Larry Dive Heaven, an algae-encrusted field at Bo Rainbow, and evidence of overfishing at Seruanus. Fish life was still notable. Little Komodo had staggering biomass at 5-7 m, an enormous bumphead parrotfish, and a wobbegong. Larry Dive Heaven had two [octopus](#) and the trip's first sea snake, and Last Frontier had bait balls and the trip's first turtle.

Highlights

- Soft-coral dominated at all five sites, from the white soft-coral forest at 15-20 m at Little Komodo to

100% soft-coral patches at Bo Rainbow

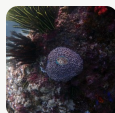
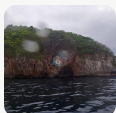
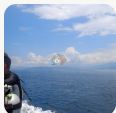
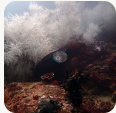
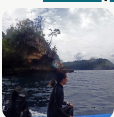
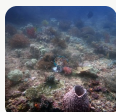
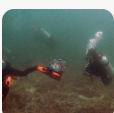


photo: Triton Bay - Little Komodo

- Hard coral concentrated in the shallows: a 3-4 m [Acropora](#) table and high *Acropora* diversity at 5-8 m at Last Frontier  photo: Triton Bay - Last Frontier
- Turbid, high-flow, nutrient-rich water with 2-10 m visibility, cold-water intrusion to 24 C at Seruanus, and multiple thermoclines  photo: Triton Bay - Seruanus
- Little Komodo: staggering fish biomass at 5-7 m, an enormous bumphead parrotfish, and Anderson's first wobbegong  photo: Triton Bay - Little Komodo
- Larry Dive Heaven: two [octopus](#), ribbon eels, and the trip's first sea snake; Last Frontier: bait balls and the trip's first turtle  photo: Triton Bay - Larry Dive Heaven

Notable observations

- [Triton Bay - Seruanus](#): Evidence of overfishing, though occasionally some large snapper and angelfish 
- [Triton Bay - Bo Rainbow](#): Possible minor bleaching/paling, low confidence: at least two small colonies read chalk-white against pigmented neighbors; each could equally be a naturally pale colony or an old mortality scar. The dive record itself notes no bleaching recorded 
- [Triton Bay - Bo Rainbow](#): A large algae-encrusted field with almost no living coral, soft or hard, the one clearly degraded patch of the site 
- [Triton Bay - Larry Dive Heaven](#): Large areas of long-dead coral covered by [coralline algae](#) at 20 m and a relatively barren stretch at 15 m; old mortality since consolidated, not fresh damage 

Sites in this region

- [Triton Bay - Bo Rainbow](#) — 13% coral cover
- [Triton Bay - Larry Dive Heaven](#)
- [Triton Bay - Last Frontier](#) — 7.8% coral cover
- [Triton Bay - Little Komodo](#) — 12% coral cover
- [Triton Bay - Seruanus](#) — 9.1% 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. [\[PDF\]](#)