USA - Southeast Florida

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.

0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD



Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Rabbit Ears (Pompano Beach)

COUNTRY

USA (Florida)

SITES

3

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER (REGIONAL MEAN; CLAUDE COMPUTER VISION)

3.6% ± 0.9% (std. dev.)

n=3. range 2.6–4.4%

WATER TEMP. DURING SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

24.9°C

n = 3 of 3 sites; surveyed Feb 2022–Apr 2022

CORAL HEALTH INDEX (REGIONAL MEAN)

not yet scored

n = 0 of 3 sites

MOST RECENT WATER TEMPERATURE RECORD

28.6°C

26 Oct 2026 · Southeast Florida

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD

9.6°C-weeks

26 Oct 2026 · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 9.6°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

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

9.4°C-weeks

2021–2025 · Southeast Florida

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

17.3°C-weeks 🔥

in 2023 · Southeast Florida

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

3

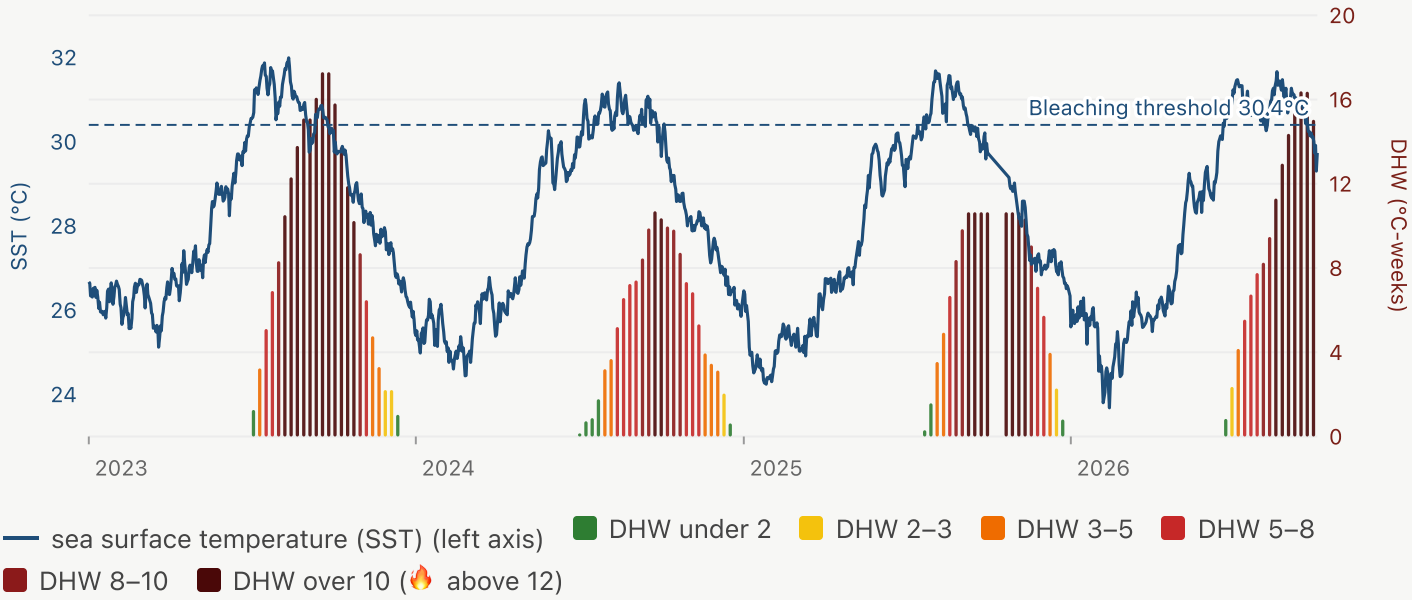
1985–2025 · 3 in the last 10 years

Heat-stress figures: NOAA Coral Reef Watch — Southeast Florida 5-km virtual station. Each pill links its source record and carries the values behind it.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

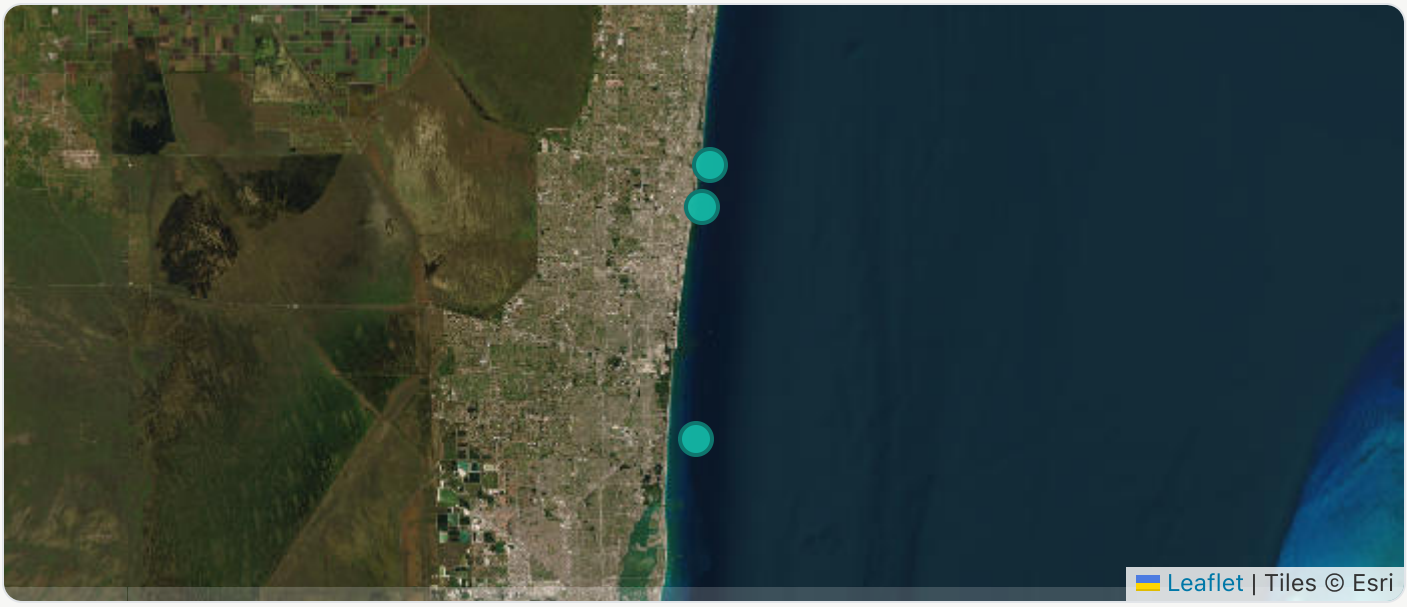
Three sites off Broward and Palm Beach counties, dived in 2022: a sponge-dominated ledge off Pompano Beach, a freighter wreck off Boca Raton, and sunken oil-platform sections. Photo-derived cover is 4.4% on the ledge, 3.8% on the wreck, and 2.6% on the platform sections.

Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Oct 2026, NOAA Coral Reef Watch 5-km Southeast Florida virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean 29.4°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: 3 years from 1985 through 2025 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at NOAA's Southeast Florida station. Download the annual DHW data (CSV).



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

Overview

The three Southeast Florida sites lie off Broward and Palm Beach counties on the northern Florida reef tract, between Hallandale and Boca Raton. Anderson dived Tenneco Towers on 26 February 2022, and Rabbit Ears off Pompano Beach and the *United Caribbean* wreck, off the Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach line (a Fort Lauderdale-area dive), on 8 April 2022, a two-dive day.

Rabbit Ears is a low natural ledge ruled by giant barrel sponges, set among sea rods, sea plumes, and red and orange encrusting sponges, with only a few small stony coral colonies (meandroid corals and a large-polyp massive coral) on algae-covered rock. The other two sites are artificial. The *United Caribbean* is a 43 m (140 ft) freighter sunk in 2000 in about 21 m (70 ft) of water (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission deployment PB0050), its girders and hull plating overgrown with sponges, coralline algae, and hydroids. Tenneco Towers is a set of decommissioned oil and gas platform sections whose steel legs carry sponges, octocorals, and a few stony corals, including a well-grown brain coral, wrapped in dense schools of baitfish and grunts.

A blind Claude computer-vision point count of Anderson's own photographs puts coral cover at 4.4% at Rabbit Ears (17 photos), 3.8% on the *United Caribbean* wreck (14 photos), and 2.6% on Tenneco Towers (45 photos). On the *United Caribbean*, one small colony carries white blotches of unclear cause (partial bleaching or tissue loss).

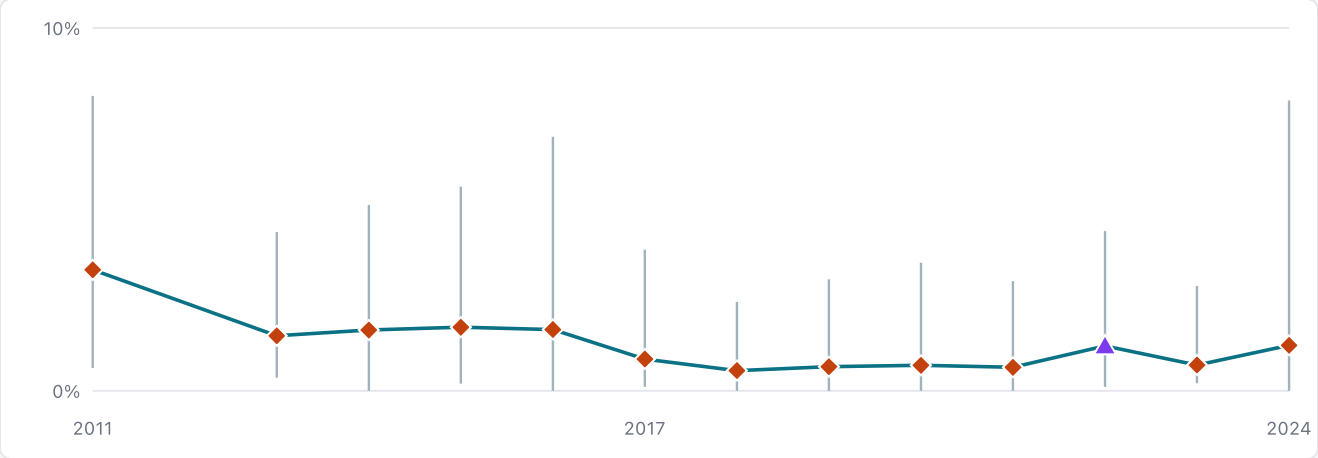
Highlights

- Rabbit Ears (Pompano Beach): a low ledge of giant barrel sponges, some big enough to shelter a small fish  photo: Rabbit Ears (Pompano Beach)
- *United Caribbean*: a 43 m (140 ft) freighter sunk in 2000 off the Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach line (a Fort Lauderdale-area dive), overgrown with sponges and hydroids  photo: *United Caribbean* (wreck, Fort Lauderdale)
- Tenneco Towers: sunken oil and gas platform sections wrapped in baitfish and grunt schools 

  photo: Tenneco Towers

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. Non-CRD points are from Reef Check Foundation, FWC-FWRI CREMP (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), and NOAA National Coral Reef Monitoring Program. Marker shape: ● Anderson's own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys, ▲ a mix of both, that year.



Sites in this region

- Rabbit Ears (Pompano Beach) — 4.4%* coral cover
- Tenneco Towers — 2.6%† coral cover
- *United Caribbean* (wreck, Fort Lauderdale) — 3.8%* coral cover

* Based on only 10–19 reef-habitat photos; this estimate is less certain.

† Includes unedited photographs: edited versions of most of this dive's photos do not exist.

Nearby external survey stations

247 independent survey records within 5 km of a site in this region (each record counted once).

▶ Show all 247 records

All images from Coral Reef Diagnostics. Data are from Coral Reef Diagnostics, Reef Check Foundation, FWC-FWRI CREMP (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), and NOAA National Coral Reef Monitoring Program.

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