The Rocks (FKNMS)

Florida Keys / South Florida · 4 visits, 2019-07-10 – 2019-12-04



0 — 5

Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Method: photo-transect point count (NOAA NCRMP/AOML), over 40 frames. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs and of the author's dive notes, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

9.3%

Photo-transect point count (NOAA NCRMP/AOML)

MOST RECENT HEAT LOAD RECORD

28.5°C **13.7°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · +0.4°C vs the past-365-day mean (28.1°C) · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 13.7°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

12.5°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16°C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

4.3 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

24.5–31.6°C

in situ, range of all logged dives

PHOTOGRAPHS

5 in the gallery · 55 on file

POSITION

24.9537, -80.5481

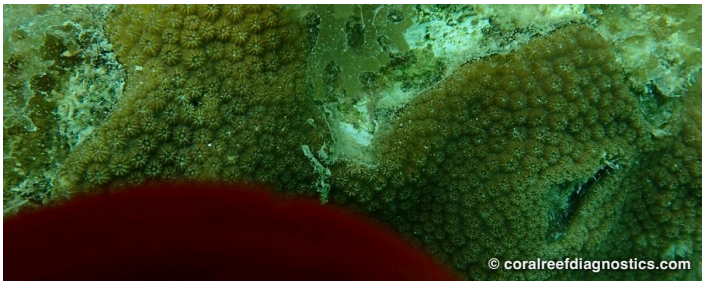
Recorded site position.





An Upper Keys inshore patch reef and one of Anderson's four NOAA study sites, with colonies tagged by the NOAA AOML team in July 2017 and resampled by Anderson in 2019. Its massive corals show tissue loss: a large *Siderastrea siderea* dome with a fresh tissue-loss margin beside a turf- and sediment-covered dead patch, and a tagged colony so overgrown by turf and macroalgae that living tissue survives only on its crest.





Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 on this card; 5 in the gallery · 55 on file; watermarked · Full site record: https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/the-rocks-fknms.html · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Florida Keys) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.