

Turks and Caicos - Spanish Anchor

surveyed 2022-08-04



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Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 88 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page.

HARD CORAL COVER

8.1%

Claude computer vision (88 edited photos) · median 5.4%

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

30.2°C

12.1°C-weeks

3 Oct 2026 · +1.8°C vs the annual mean (28.4 °C) · NOAA Alert Level 2

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

11.0°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

32.3 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

28.3°C

+0.5°C vs the 2022 mean sea temperature (27.8°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

88

52 on the site page

POSITION

21.6650, -72.4700



Spanish Anchor, in West Caicos Marine National Park, is a wall named for a coral-encrusted 1600s ship's anchor at its edge, with sand chutes cutting between spurs and a face dropping past 150 feet. Sponges dominate much of the reef top, and many plating and brain corals show fresh white tissue-loss margins or are dead under turf, in a region within the documented range of stony coral tissue loss disease by 2022.



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CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): CoralSCOP edited 20.1 · Claude (edited photos) 8.1

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 88 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/turks-and-caicos-spanish-anchor.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 (Turks and Caicos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.