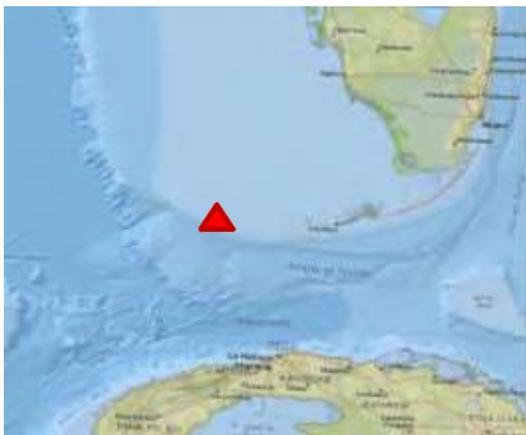


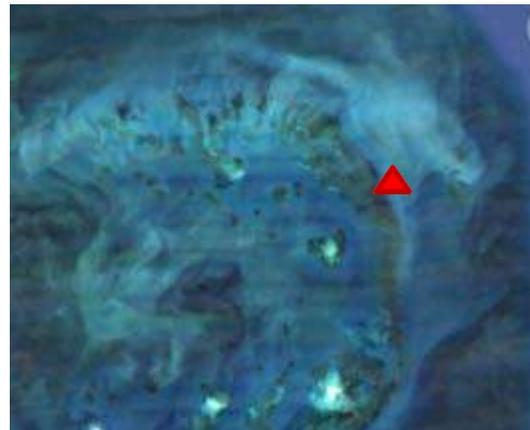
# Dry Tortugas, FL; USA



Underwater still photograph of a mixed stand of soft corals, sponges, and gorgonians colonizing former stony coral reef. Field of view in foreground is approx. 4 meters.



General location map



Aerial photo showing site at edge of Tortugas platform

# CMECS Classification

## **Biogeographic Setting:**

- Realm: Tropical Atlantic
- Province: Tropical Northwestern Atlantic
- Ecoregion: Floridian

## **Aquatic Setting:**

- System: Marine
- Subsystem: Nearshore
- Tidal Zone: Subtidal

## **Water Column Component:**

- Water Column Layer: Marine Nearshore Lower Water Column
- Salinity Regime: Euhaline
- Temperature Regime: Warm

## **Geoform Component:**

- Tectonic Setting: Passive Continental Margin
- Physiographic Setting: Ocean Bank/Plateau
- Geoform Origin: Biologic
- Level 1 Geoform: Shallow/Mesophotic Coral Reef
- Level 1 Geoform Type: Aggregate Coral Reef
- Level 2 Geoform: Shallow/Mesophotic Coral Reef
- Level 2 Geoform Type: Aggregate Coral Reef

## **Substrate Component:**

- Substrate Origin: Biogenic Substrate
- Substrate Class: Coral Substrate
- Substrate Subclass: Coral Reef Substrate

## **Biotic Component**

- Biotic Setting: Benthic/Attached Biota
- Biotic Class: Reef Biota
- Biotic Subclass: Coral Reef Biota
- Biotic Group: Colonized Shallow/Mesophotic Reef
- Biotic Community: Coral Garden Reef