

## REED TABLEMOUNT

11°22'6.82"N, 116°42'52.88"E

Derived from a mosaic of high resolution and Landsat-8 satellite images from 2012, 2015 and 2016

### **Geographic area**

Reed Tablemount is a large seamount located in the northeastern part of the Spratlys, the top of which is barely visible in satellite images, except for the shallowest reefs, especially Iroquois Reef and Baker Reef. The closest named banks around Reed Bank are Nares Bank (around 12NM west), Hopkins Reef (just over 6NM southwest), Southern Bank (around 8NM south), Wood Bank (over 15NM southeast) and Temper Bank (under 12NM east). Nares Bank is sometimes considered as being a part of the Reed Tablemount. Whether they connect at a certain depth or are distinct seamounts cannot be verified with satellite data and would require hydrographic measurements. The same unanswered question remains with respect to Southern Bank and other reefs located on the southeast of Reed Tablemount, which may be all connected at a certain depth as suggested by the global bathymetry database FTP SRTM 15 PLUS and nautical charts. Reed Tablemount extends close to 190km along its northeast-southwest axis and over 60km along its northwest-southeast axis.

### **Land area above water**

There are no above-water land areas visible at all times on Reed Bank Tablemount. However, an intertidal and unstable sand bank was observed on Iroquois Reef.

### **Human infrastructure**

There are no man-made structures on Reed Tablemount based on satellite images available for this study.

### **Intertidal and submerged area**

The total visible coral area of Reed Tablemount and surrounding banks is around 10,000km<sup>2</sup> comprising Nares Bank (765.52km<sup>2</sup>), Amy Douglas Bank, including Baker and Iroquois Reefs (397.61km<sup>2</sup>), Southern Bank (1047.53km<sup>2</sup>), Hopkins Reef (1.13km<sup>2</sup>) and the rest of Reed Tablemount (7772.55km<sup>2</sup>). The outer edge of each of those features is shallower than the centre, although numerous coral heads are visible throughout every 1-3km. Each measures 500m to 1km or more. Apart from Baker Reef and Iroquois Reef that are less than 10m deep, all the other visible banks of Reef Tablemount are deeper than 10m. No assessment of the status of coral reef located at such depth can be provided based on satellite imagery.

