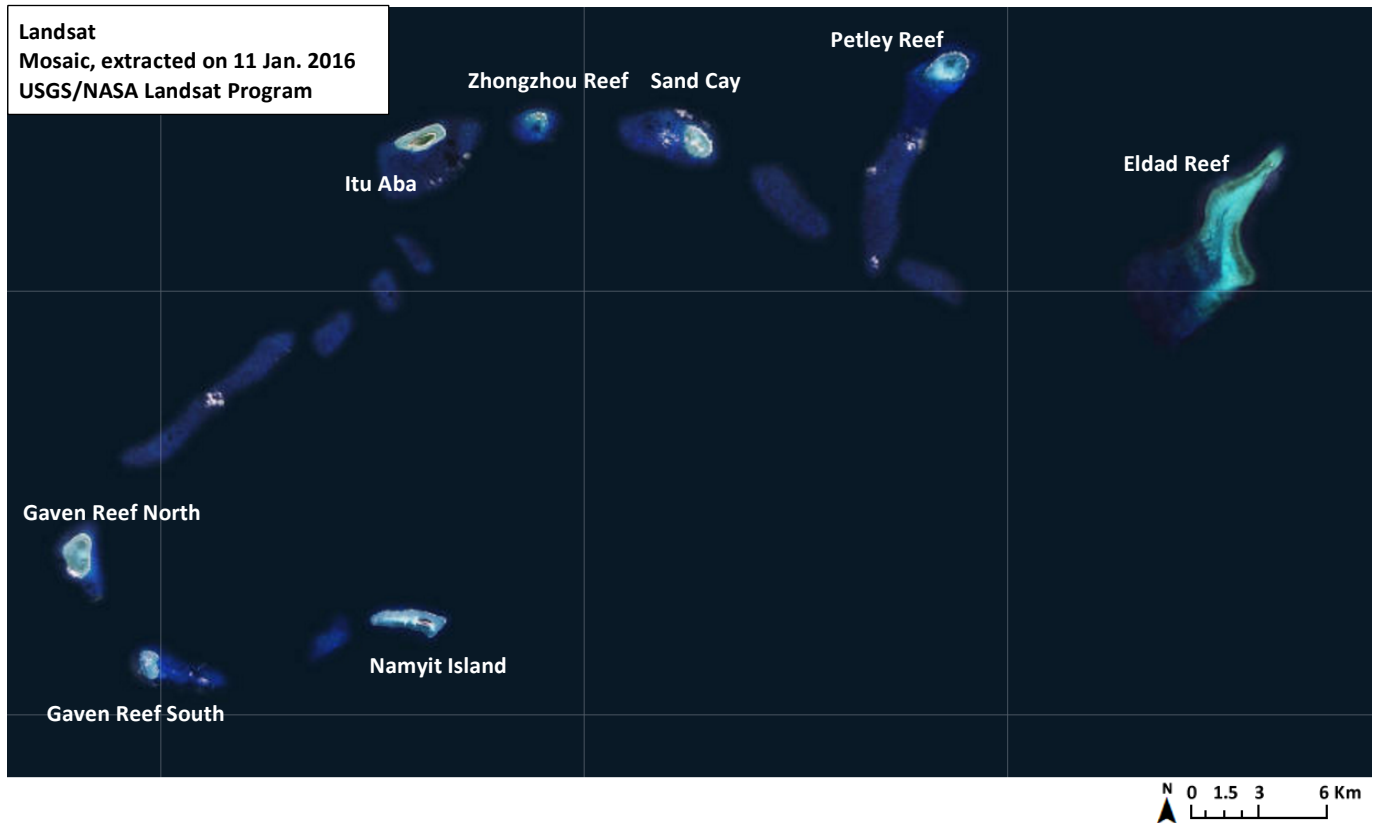


TIZARD BANK OVERALL

10°16'59.33"N, 114°26'37.81"E

Geographic area

Tizard Bank comprises a collection of shallow coral reef platforms connected through deeper and discontinuous ribbon-like reef systems. It is located in the centre of the Spratlys, immediately north of Union Reefs. It is one of the largest atolls in the Spratlys, measuring 31NM (or over 58km) along its long southwest-northeast axis. Its overall surface area is close to 700km². Union Reefs, one of the other largest atolls, is located immediately south and parallel to Tizard Bank, at a distance of 16NM. Another large atoll, Loaita Bank, is located 16NM north. Tizard Bank encompasses 8 named shallow reefs (see below).



Land area above water

The areas of above-water land with terrestrial vegetation observed on Tizard Bank are Itu Aba, Namyit Island and Sand Cay. Other above-water areas of natural land (rather than above-water man-made structures) are small sand banks that look intertidal and/or dynamic, meaning that they change in shape, size and location under the combined effect of astronomic tides, storm surges and wind-waves. Further, they are generally partly submerged and intertidal and are likely to be fully submerged at high tide (whether Mean High Water Spring or higher).

Human infrastructure

In addition to human infrastructures on the three largest above-water land areas (Itu Aba, Sand Cay and Namyit Island), buildings have been constructed on Gaven Reef North and Petley Reef. The satellite data analysed to study this atoll come primarily from different datasets extracted on 14 April 2004, 5 May 2004, 22 January 2005, 5 February 2008, 2 November 2008, 17 November 2010, 17 January 2012 and 23 October 2014 as well as additional satellite data from Google Earth used for visual interpretation. As a result, they do not reflect the latest developments.

Intertidal and submerged area

All the named reef platforms are 3m deep or less and each is separately described in a specific description sheet. However, the many deeper coral reef platforms that connect these shallow platforms are not. The aerial coverage of the coral reef area is 125.47km² surrounding a deep lagoon of 573.79km² (including coral heads and coral bottom of the reticulate reef system). The total aerial coverage of reef flats is 20.09km² and of reef slopes and deep reef platforms is 105.38km². Areas of reef flats that are around 1m deep are likely to be at least partly exposed at Lowest Astronomical Tide.

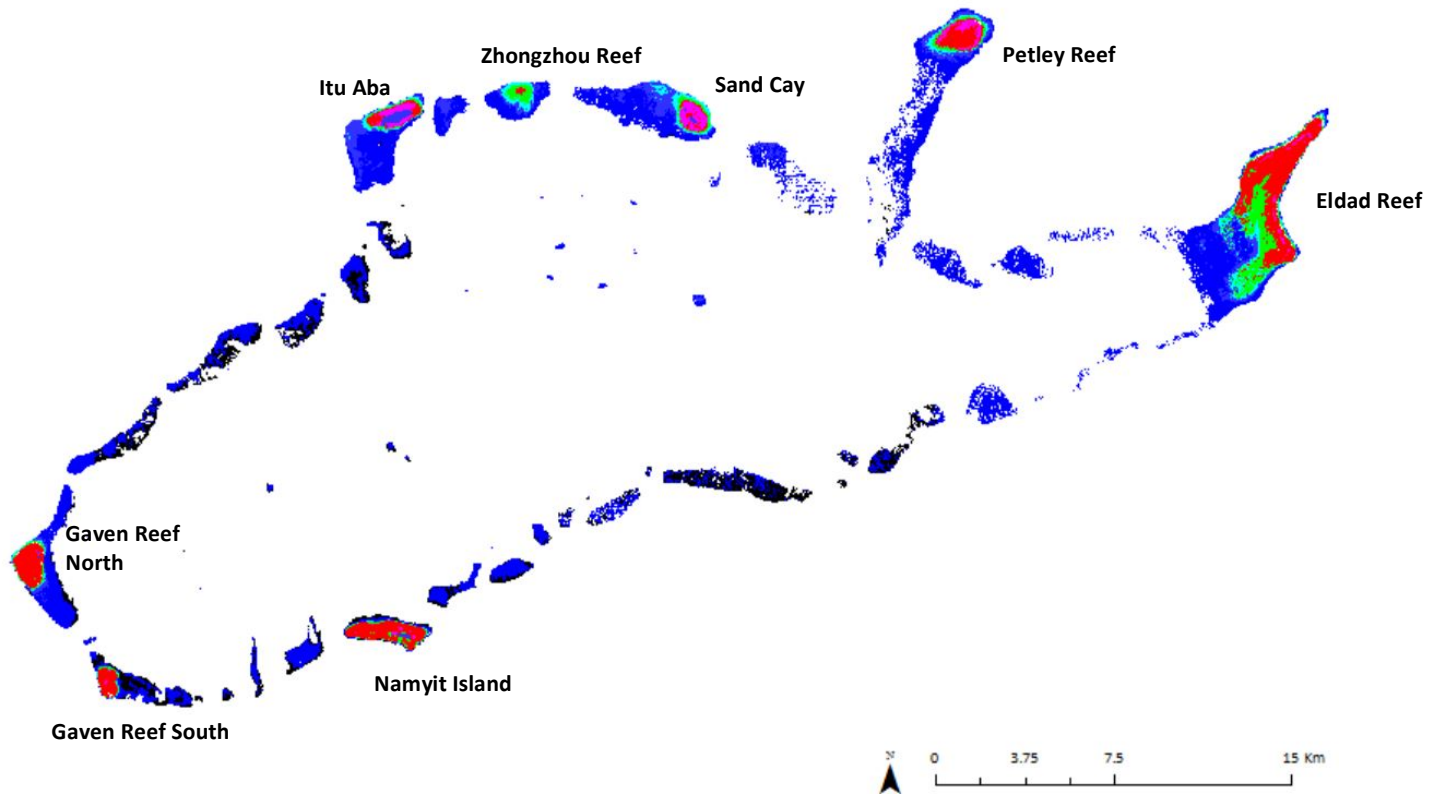
Dredging marks are visible on most shallow reefs (all except Petley Reef and Zhongzhou Reef). This involved the raking and extraction of coral and sand substrate from reef flats, which could have been collected as building material, removed to prepare the area for later construction works, or dredged for fisheries purposes. Satellite images also show fishing activities over reef slopes as well as maritime traffic that seems mostly linked to construction activities.

TIZARD BANK OVERALL

10°16'59.33"N, 114°26'37.81"E

Mosaic derived from high resolution satellite data captured from 2005 to 2014

Standardised Bathymetry Map at Mean Sea Level



Habitat Classification and Land Cover Map

