HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT DIVE: P4-090

MISSION STATUS

Location: Nihoa, NWHI

Latitude: 23°10.6865'

Longitude: 161°53.1992'

Mission Date: 9/4/2003

Duration: 6 h 12 min

Maximum Depth: 660 m

Project Title: Canyon & Scavenger Communities

Principal Investigator: Craig Smith & Eric Vetter

Address: University of Hawaii, Dept of Oceanography
1000 Pope Rd, MSB 205
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone:

Observer 1: Eric Vetter

Address:

Observer 2: Craig Smith

Address: same as above

Pilot 1: Terry Kerby

Pilot 2:

Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

Objectives:

- Deploy traps and bait at 2 depths.
- Observe scavengers attracted to bait.
- Video transects for megafauna and detritus.
- Sediment sampling.

The Pices IV landed on a sloping sandy bottom near rocky outcrops and a vertical wall. Moved down canyon and descended 180m down a vertical wall. There was evidence of much sand movement down the wall and few animals. Many myctophids seen midwater from 600-650 m. Deployed bait and a trap at the base of the wall (650 m) on sandy sediment. During a 35 m observation period, 4-6 large (up to 2.5 m) rays inspected the bait (Plesiobatis daviesi). Moved down canyon, sediment still sandy and much algal detritus present. CVoral rubble abundant in some areas. Stopped to core at 660 m, observed a 3 m sleeper shark and another ray. During transit to 350 m, observed many holothurians, crabs, shrimp, another large shark. Near the top of the wall were gorgonians and soft corals. Crossed a barren sandy stretch with large sand ripples. At 350 m, many hermit crabs and much algal detritus.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

Orion manipulator did not function

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

In your opinion, did the mission essentially achieve its purpose? Compare actual work accomplished with the work that was expected to be accomplished.

This was a great dive and exceeded our expectation of abundance and diversity of life in canyons in the NWHI.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

none

Dive **P4-090**

DATA RELEASE

Data may be retained by the project leader for up to 2 years after the mission date with the following exception. NOAA may request to use photos for publication or publicity purposes at any time.

Fill in the appropriate statement below and sign this form.

I hereby release the data archived by HURL for public consumption following mission

___Canyon & Scavenger Communities_____(project title)

held on_____9/4/2003_____(date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by___9/4/2005_____(date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by___9/4/2005_____(date)

c. other_____9/4/2005_____(date)

d. I will give my written consent to individuals wishing to use these data prior to the above dates depending on the nature of the request(s).

_____Principal Investigator