HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT DIVE: P4-105

MISSION STATUS

Location: Ladd Seamount, NWHI

Latitude: 28° 30.69 **Longitude:** 176° 36.54

Mission Date: 22 Sept 2003 **Duration:** 8 hr 01 min

Maximum Depth: 833 m

Project Title: Characterization of deepwater fish and precious corals on the seamounts neighboring Hawaii's most remote monk seal colonies.

Principal Investigator: Frank Parrish

Address: Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Phone: 808-983-5391

Observer 1: Frank Parrish **Observer 2: Patrick Greene**

Address: Same as above **Address: NationalGeographic Television**
1145 17th Street
Washington DC 20036

Pilot 1: Terry Kerby **Pilot 2:** NA

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

Objectives:
The dive began at 360 m. First a cross contour transect was conducted down to 500 m to determine the depth range at which precious corals were encountered. Then a series of exploratory transects were run along the contours between depths of 350 and 500 to document the resident fish and coral assemblages. Collections of sediment were made at 350 m and 500 m.

Observations, findings, etc:

The depths of interest, 350 to 500 m, were primarily a cliff face. Only a single Gold coral (*Gerardia* sp.) was encountered at 400 meters. Other corals including whip corals and crustose fans tentatively identified as a species of *Corallium* but not *regal* or *secundum* were present in patches of 50 to 100 colonies with heights between 5 and 30 cm. At 350 m the slope was covered with whip corals (*Cirrhipathes* sp.) Most notable in the fish counts was a larger mean body size of certain species of fish including *S. maunaloa*, *Epigon* sp., *Anitgonia* sp. The Fish taxa are listed below

Species list:

Please mark whether S-single; F-Few (2-10); M-Many (11-100); A-Abundant (>100)
(e.g., Symphysanodon maunaloae-M)
- add rows as needed

Macrourid sp. -few
Plesiobatis sp. -single
Beryx sp. -single
Antigonia sp. -many
Moridae-many
Hollardia sp. -many
Mictophidae-abundant
Pseudopentaceros wheeleri-few
Polymixia sp. -many
Pontinus macrocephalus-few
Epigonidae-abundant
Symphysanodon maunaloae-few
Zenopsis nebulosus-few
Etelis carbunculus-few
Laemonema rhodochir-many
Grammatonotus macrophthalmus-few
Gymnothorax nuttingi-single
Nettastoma sp. -single
Bothidae-single
Grammatonotus laysanus-many

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

No problems were encountered. The position of the primary camera is poor for close up shots and the recording of sound on the ROS camera is weaker than the primary camera.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

Adjust for future work.

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

All goals expected were achieved.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Only samples taken were sediment samples N=3 (510, 400, 354 meter)

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

Characterization of deepwater fish and precious corals on the seamounts neighboring Hawaii's most remote monk seal colonies.
(project title)

held on 22 Sept 2003 _____(date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by 9/22/2005 (date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 9/22/2005 (date)
c. other 9/22/2005 (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