HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT
DIVE: P4-225

MISSION STATUS

Location: West Twin Bank, NWHI

Latitude: 23° 2.945 **Longitude:** 163° 9.253

Mission Date: 11/28/09 **Duration:** 8 hours 57 mins

Maximum Depth: 1441 m

Project Title: Megafauna of Deep Seamounts and Ridges in the NWHI Monument Year2

Principal Investigator: Christopher Kelley

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Observer 1: Les Watling
Address:
Dept Zoology
UH Manoa

Observer 2: John Guinotte
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Pilot 1:
Max

Pilot 2:

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

Objectives:

The objective of this dive was to collect gorgonian octocorals, primarily in the families Chrysogorgiidae and Isididae, but including others deemed of interest because they were unknown.

Observations, findings, etc:

The submarine landed in a gulley with moderately steep sides. This gulley contained a large number of octocorals of several kinds, including very large pennatulaceans. We collected in this area for several hours, but with a manipulator that was not working well, so only 4 species were obtained. We then traversed the ridge on the east side of the gulley and proceeded downward. Coral density seemed to decline and at 1441 m we decided to head back uphill. Above 1400 m the area was dominated by very long and curly whip bamboo corals and the largest Iridogorgia specimens ever seen. The latter were estimated to be on average about 5-7 m in length and 1 m or so in diameter. Several other bamboo corals seen were also very large, forming "bushes" about 3 m across. There were very few small (less than 0.5 m) octocorals observed, and never in high numbers. A total of 10 living octocorals were collected and images of several others were taken.

Species list:

Species collected, by specimen number:

1. Yellow bamboo
2. Iridogorgia "bella"
3. Bamboo whip with brown base
5. Iridogorgia "irregular" (only middle section retained as upper portion broke and floated off)
6. Bamboo bush
7. Iridogorgia tight coils
8. Iridogorgia small (no pilot picture was taken, unfortunately, due to a co-occurring sub issue)
9. primnoid with strange polyps
10. halipterid sea pen
11. Narella sp.

In addition one dead keratoisidin skeleton portion was collected (spec. 4).

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

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.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

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 (project title)

held on_____(date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by_____(date)

b. video and images by_____(date)

c. other_____(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