

**HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-303**

**MISSION STATUS**

**Location:** Off Kona, Hawaii

**Mission Date:** September 22, 1996

**Maximum Depth:** 1305 m.

**Project Title:** Dispersal and Population Genetics of Seamount Benthos

**Principal Investigator:** Scott France / Lauren Mullineaux

**Address:** Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Biological Oceanography  
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**Phone:** (508)289-2898

**Observer 1:** Ewann Agenbroad

**Observer 2:** Ron Etter

**Address:** as above

**Address:** Univ. Mass., Boston

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

We are measuring the genetic variation of deep-sea corals to quantify gene flow and estimate larval dispersal among disjunct habitats (seamounts and island slopes). Our objective on this dive was to collect corals for our analysis at depths between 1300-900m. Coral colonies were sampled directly using the *Pisces V* manipulators. Our dive began at 1300m and we worked our way upslope to 900m. The slope was often very steep, heavily sedimented with basalt cobble and boulders. We found patches of the primnoid coral Narella in several places, but this area was practically devoid of any other coral species. There were anemones, fish and shrimp and holothurian sea cucumbers. We collected 11 individuals of Narella sp.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

**Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:**

The only shortcoming is the size of the collection box. We could collect more samples if it were larger. Crates are not acceptable for this purpose because they need to eliminate flow-through to keep the samples as cold as possible.

**Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:**

Build a larger collection box, or tell us the weight requirements for the sampling basket and we can supply our own.

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

The mission was definitely successful. Although we did not find all of the species we were hoping for, we successfully sampled these we did find.

**List specimens or samples collected on the mission.**

*Narella* sp. - 9 individuals  
primnoid sp. - 2 individuals  
hormathiid anemones (Venus Fly Trap) - 2 individuals  
Epitonium snail - 1 individual  
Coleus snail - 1 individual

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

Dispersal and Population Genetics of Seamount Benthos (project title)

held on 9-22-96 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 9-22-96 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 9-22-98 (date)
- c. other 9-22-98 (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).

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Principal Investigator