**HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-322**

## MISSION STATUS

**Location:** N. Shore Oahu - near Kahuku

**Mission Date:** Aug.17, 1997

**Maximum Depth:** 1000 ft.

**Project Title:** Investigation of insular slope fishery habitats, Oahu with emphasis on identification of bottomfish nursery grounds in relation to coastal discharge.

**Principal Investigator:** E. Gordon Grau

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

This project has two primary objectives:

1. Identify the nursery grounds of commercially important insular fish species, particularly the deep water snappers (opakapaka, onaga, ehu).

2. Characterize the physical and biological aspects of the nursery ground in relation to major coastal discharge.

Dive P5-322 was directed at exploring depths from 1000 ft. to 400 ft. off the N. Shore of Oahu near Kahuku. We discovered a large number of juvenile snappers (Pristipomoides sp.) at 600 ft. We elected to spend more time at this site rather than go to the 400 ft. station.

# MISSION EVALUATION:

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

Only minor problems noted and quickly corrected. This was the first dive of the series with two observers with no previous experience with *Pisces V*. Minor issues with water sampler and sediment samplers were quickly resolved. Fish trap deployment and retrieval was accomplished successfully, but did not trap fish (very barren area).

**Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:**

Already corrected -- very minor.

**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 successful. We obtained the water samples, sediment samples and a great video/photo record. Trap deployment/retrieval was successful. Bait station technique worked well. Video/photo work is excellent. Most important discovery was a snapper nursery grounds (Pristipomoides sp.) at 600 ft.

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

1. Sediment samples (Total of 5 samples at 3 stations)

2. Water samples (Total of 14 at various depths)

3. Video/photo (8 hours 8mm tape, 1 hour digital and approx. 70 still photographs)

# 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

Investigation of Insular Slope Fishery Habitats ... (project title)

held on Aug. 17, 1997 (date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by Aug.17, 1998 (date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Aug.17, 1998 (date)

c. other Aug.17, 1998 (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