

# HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

## QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-363

### MISSION STATUS

**Location:** Barbers Point / Ewa Beach area

**Mission Date:** Aug.19, 1998

**Maximum Depth:** 330-460 m.

**Project Title:** Characterization and Assessment of Two Types of Critical Habitat for Eteline Snappers in the Main Hawaiian Islands

**Principal Investigator:** Gordon Grau / Chris Kelley

**Address:** Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**Phone:** 236-7418

**Observer 1:** Paul Jokiel

**Observer 2:** Bruce Mundy

**Address:** as above

**Address:** Nat'l Marine Fisheries  
service  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

The objective of this dive was to enumerate eteline snappers at a portion of the state's newly closed no fishing areas and to characterize snapper habitat. In this, the third successful dive of the cruise, we hoped to examine a steep slope off of Barber's Point / Ewa Beach and search the slope from depths where snappers had been caught down into depths below usual fishing bathymetry. The dive was successful in this regard. Two snappers were seen at bait stations on the upper edge of the shelf break (ca. 350 m); one ehu at the first station and one onaga at the last. Most of the habitat examined at this area was relatively low-relief with few crevices or holes suitable as fish refuge. This may partially explain the absence of large fish during most of the dive. No snappers were observed below the upper shelf break. An area of highly complex geologic structure was encountered on the lower slope (ca. 400-460 m) but this structure consisted of pinnacles, "mesas" and open arches that provided little horizontal structure for large fish to use as shelter. The rock in this area seemed to be carbonate with karst-like erosion overlain by a thin dark cap. Invertebrates were relatively sparse in this survey. The dominant organisms were a variety of soft corals. The dominant fish at the bait stations were Centrophorus sp. (sharks) and Meadia abyssalis (eels). An unusual aggregation of Beryx decadactylus, a large red fish, was observed in an undercut ledge on the shelf break near the final bait station.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

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

None.

**Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:**

None.

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

Yes, see "Scientific Data Acquired" completed all tasks scheduled for dive P5-363.

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

3 rock samples collected for later analysis (2 rocks at 461 m, one at 362 m.)

## 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 and Assessment of Two Types of Critical Habitat for Eteline Snappers in the Main Hawaiian Islands (project title)

held on Aug. 19, 1998 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by Aug. 19, 2000 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Aug. 19, 2000 (date)
- c. other Aug. 19, 2000 (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