

**HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-366**

**MISSION STATUS**

**Location:** Kaneohe - Pinnacle off N. Ship Channel

**Mission Date:** Aug. 22, 1998

**Maximum Depth:** 227 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

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**Observer 1:** Paul L. Jokiel

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**Address:** as above

**Address:** Nat'l Marine Fisheries  
Service  
Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

The mission was directed at describing the critical habitat of over-exploited deep water snappers (Family Lutjanidae) in the main Hawaiian Islands bottom fish fishery. Mission P5-366 was directed at a pinnacle that lies outside of the protected zone for comparison and baseline for pinnacle surveyed during P5-364 and P5-365. The top, sides and base were surveyed for substrate type, slope, complexity, benthic community composition and fish community population structure. Observers made continuous direct observations which includes notes, voice record, digital video (continuous), 8 mm video (continuous), still photographs and physical data (temperature, conductivity, depth, oxygen). Benthic organisms and substrate samples were collected for verification. Bait stations were run on the top, sides and base of pinnacle to document abundance of bottom fish.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

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

Laser scale difficult to manipulate and keep in video image.

**Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:**

Mount laser scale/range finder in camera housing so that laser image is always in viewing field.

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

All projected work was accomplished. Exceptional data were taken on large schools of kalekale (Pristipomoides sieboldii) on the upper flanks of the pinnacle. Schools of approximately 50 fish were drawn into the bait station. Many ehu (Etelis carbunculus) were documented on the lower slopes along with the gindai (Pristipomoides zonatus). Characteristics of their critical habitat were carefully described.

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

We discovered that sediment traps can be used to hold biological specimens in the submarine baskets. Thus we were able to bring them to the surface.

Samples: starfish  
sea cucumber  
coral  
misc. rock samples  
(to be analyzed)

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. 22, 1998 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by Aug. 22, 2000 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Aug. 22, 2000 (date)
- c. other Aug. 22, 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).

\_\_\_\_\_ Principal Investigator