

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-371

MISSION STATUS

Location: Penguin Banks (3rd finger)

Mission Date: Aug. 31, 1998

Maximum Depth: 400 m.

Project Title: Evaluation of non-lethal methods for assessment of overfished deep water snapper resources.

Principal Investigator: Robert B. Moffitt

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Observer 2: Kurt Kawamoto

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Address: NMFS

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

We planned to conduct one 30-minute transect at each of five depths (400m, 350m, 300m, 250m, and 200m) enumerating all snappers observed. We also planned to conduct a 30-minute bait station at the end of three of the transects (400m, 300m, and 200m). We dropped down to 90m on the top of the finger then descended to 400m and started the 400m transect. This transect overlapped those of dive 367 and 369. The bottom at this depth was largely deep silt slopes of $\sim 30^\circ$ with occasional carbonate outcroppings. We observed 1 ehu ($\sim 12''$) on this transect and 1 Beryx decadactylus. The 400m bait station attracted 1 ray, 3 ehu (one 15'' and two $\sim 20''$), and one Conger oligoporus. The bottom on the 350m was a 45° slope of silt over carbonate (similar to the 400m transect). On this transect we observed 2 ehu and 1 Randallichthys and two unidentified snappers with the latter. We also observed several scorpionfish (probably all Pontinus). We observed 3 ehu on the ascent from 350 to 300m. The bottom on the 300m transect was steeper than the previous with much more carbonate outcroppings including large overhangs. We observed several ehu (~ 10), 2 monchong, and 3 large onaga ($\sim 36-40''$) on this transect. We attempted to run the second bait station at the end of this transect, placing the ball on a small ledge. It fell as we were emptying the bait bag and tumbled down to about 330m. It took us about 20-30 minutes to recover the "pumpkin"! After recovery we moved back up to 300m and continued west until we reached an adequate

Dive P5-371

site for the bait station. It was probably the exact same spot as used on dive 369. The second bait station attracted 1 ehu (~15") and 1 Neopilumnoplax major crab. On the ascent from 300 to 250m we observed about 6 ehu (all small) and 2 Pontinus. The 250m transect started on a 70° carbonate wall and it included many overhangs and vertical wall areas. We observed about 30 ehu on this transect, most under a very large overhang where several pockets of 4-8 ehu were seen. Size ranged from 6-20" with mixed sizes using the same pocket. We also saw 1 gindai and Erythrocles. The 200m transect started on a 30-40° sandy slope but included many areas of exposed carbonate with slopes of at least 70°. We observed about 10 gindai (~15" each), 5 aweoweo, 3 kahala, and 6-8 kalekale. The third bait station was conducted at the end of this transect. We observed 1 hapuupuu (~24") and 1 kahala. The hapuupuu stayed for the duration of the station. We then left the bottom ending the dive. A further note on the observations made on top the finger at the start of the dive. A school of approximately 100 taape (~6") was seen at the upper edge of the slope where the carbonate gullies interface with the sandy flatter area. Several balistids were also seen in this area.

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. We conducted all operations that were planned altering only by shortening the 200m transect to 25 minutes and the 200m and 300m bait stations to about 20 minutes. These were shortened to allow completion of all operations and probably had little impact on results.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

None.

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

_____ Evaluation of non-lethal methods for assessment of... _____ (project title)

held on Aug.31, 1998 _____ (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 8/31/2000 _____ (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 8/31/2000 _____ (date)
- c. other 8/31/2000 _____ (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