

## HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

### QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-377

#### MISSION STATUS

**Location:** Mokulua Pinnacle

**Mission Date:** Sept. 6, 1998

**Maximum Depth:** 405 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:** Walter Ikehara

**Address:** as above

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

On this dive we planned to drop on the NW edge of the pinnacle in the area where juvenile ehu and onaga were observed on previous dives. From there we planned to drop down to the 400m level on the western wall to begin transects around the tip of the feature at depths of 400, 350, and 300 m. We also planned two bait stations at depths of 400 and 300 m (1 at each depth). The dive went as planned. We landed at 300m right in the juvenile habitat. The bottom was largely shallow sand over hard carbonate with some rubble and low exposed plates with overhanging edges. We observed several juvenile ehu and onaga ranging in size from 6-12" and one larger onaga ~18". All but the latter were associated with ledges and holes to which they retreated as the sub advanced. We observed no snappers on the 400m transect which comprised largely of sandy slopes with small mounds, although at the tip of the feature the bottom was of blocky hard carbonate rock and low pedicles (little in the way of holes or ledges). A separate basalt feature bearing numerous gold corals lies off the tip to the north. We observed a single 10" ehu at the 400m bait station along with 2 Squalus mitsukurii and 2 Meadia albisalis eels. The 350m transect was over a blocky carbonate slope with few holes or ledges. We observed 2 small ehu (~10") along with several Satyrichthys and Chaunax. At the 300m level there were numbers carbonate plates with good cover in the way of holes and 1 edges. Symphysanodon maunaloae and Owstonia sp. were

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plentiful here. Also seen were 2 onaga (~12" each) and several ehu (6-10"). The bait station at 300m was at the same site as used in dive P5-375. We observed a total of about 25 onaga, 10 Antigonia and 1 Squalus mitsukurii. We attempted to feed a dummy transmitter (in a squid) to the onaga, but had no takers.

**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 planned and completed 3-30 min. transects and two 30 min. bait stations counting all snappers encountered in each.

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

Dead gold coral limb.

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 Sept. 6, 1998 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 9/6/2000 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 9/6/2000 (date)
- c. other 9/6/2000 (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