

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-378

MISSION STATUS

Location: Makapu'u bottom fish management closed area #6. 21°20'N, 157°35'W

Mission Date: Sept. 7, 1998

Maximum Depth: 438 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 1: Nancy Ash

Observer 2: Bruce C. Mundy

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Address: as above

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

This was the last dive of a series intended to evaluate the Pisces V as a tool to census deep water snapper populations in areas recently closed to fishing. The objective of this particular dive was to replicate two transects and two bait stations done on dives P5-374 and P5-376. We traveled over transect paths at 400m and 350m, along two underwater hills, as during the previous dives. As in the previous dives, no eteline snappers were seen during the transects. As in the previous dives, a few juvenile ehu (Etelis carbunculus ca. 6-8 inches long) were seen at low rock outcrops just below the summits of the hills. Bait stations at both summits failed to attract deepwater snappers, probably because of dogfish (Squalus mitsukurii) and kahala (Seriola dumerili) that devoured the bait; this also occurred at these sites on the previous dives. This was despite the observation of small ehu in the vicinity of the first bait station prior to the arrival of the larger fish. Observations from this dive thus provide good replication of the data obtained during the previous two dives at this site.

Notable incidental observations on this dive include filming and observations of Cyttomimus stelgis, Grammicolepis brachiusculus, and several Beryx decadactylus.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The goal of the mission was accomplished without limitations, failures or operational problems.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

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

Yes. The mission achieved its purpose. We had planned two transects and two bait stations to repeat work done on P5-374 and P5-376, with the hope of exploring an additional site to the northwest if time permitted. We finished the transects and bait stations as planned. This gave us results that were very comparable to the two previous dives (i.e. only a few small ehu present at the upper depths of this site). Exploration to the northwest revealed Beryx decadactylus, also as found on the previous dives. This good replication is encouraging for use of the sub to assess fish abundance in the management areas.

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 Sept. 7, 1998 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 9/7/2000 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 9/7/2000 (date)
- c. other 9/7/2000 (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