

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-380

MISSION STATUS

Location: West Pac. Bank 23°14.2 162°38.849

Mission Date: Sept. 14, 1998

Maximum Depth: 500 m

Project Title: Evaluating deep-water benthic and demersal communities in relation to foraging activities of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal

Principal Investigator: Frank A. Parrish

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Observer 1: Frank Parrish

Observer 2: Rick Grigg

Address: as above

Address: Oceanography Dept.
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Honolulu, HI 96822

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

A south, southeast transect stretching more than 2 miles was run along the bank's west 360m contour where previous ROV work had identified the highest density of coral. The first half of the transect remained around the 360m contour and the second half traveled down slope ending at 500m depth. In the course of the transect corals, gorgonians and fish species as seen by the pilot or either observer was verbally identified and recorded on the video log. Pink coral was commonly seen but only two colonies of gold coral were encountered. Many times cidarid urchins were observed feeding on gorgonians and coral colonies. Urchins feeding on coral has not been observed in the beds of the main Hawaiian Islands. Fish such as Polymixia, Hollardia, Antigonina, Zenopsis, Chronema, and scorpaenids occurred throughout the entire depth range of the transect but were more common in areas of relief. Polymixia was very abundant but hard to estimate because they appeared to follow the submarine at the limits of the sub's light penetration. The exterior lights of the sub were shut down at three different depths, 400m, 450m, and 500m, to evaluate the amount of ambient light available to foraging monk seals. At 400 and 450 visibility was comfortably 50 feet or better. At 500m very limited vision was possible out to a couple of feet.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

No problems

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.

All expectations met.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Same dead gold coral Gerardia sp.
2 colonies of pink coral Corallium secundum
7 apical tips of pink corals for BACO Project
2 apical tips of gold corals for BACO Project
1 Acanella colony

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

Evaluating deep-water benthic... (project title)

held on Sept. 11-22, 98 (date) in the following way:

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