

**HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-382**

**MISSION STATUS**

**Location:** Far East French Frigate Shoals dive 1

**Mission Date:** Sept. 16, 1998

**Maximum Depth:** 576 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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**Scientific Data Acquired :** Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

Objective of the dive was to survey habitat and fish community of the area. The sub was deployed at and landed on the basalt monoliths the seal positional data coincided with. Gold coral was very dense along the edges of the pinnacles which afforded as much as 10 m of relief in places. Samples of recent-dead gold coral were collected for sectioning. Channels between pinnacles were about 10 meters wide and supported fewer gold coral colonies. Fish abundance was more diverse and obviously higher in this habitat. Running a transect south, the basalt relief, gold coral, fish community and all gorgonians dissipated within a 100 m distance. The sub traveled over nearly two miles of barren carbonate substrate supporting only the occasional basalt boulder and a few cryptic fish species. At 420m the slope became steep and the sub traveled to 575m passing and inspecting the erosional visors of at least three different submerged shorelines (500m, 550m and 570m). The erosional visors supported one colony of *Corallium regalis* and some gorgonians. Fish seen inhabiting the edge of the bank and the shoreline visors included *Polymixia*, *alfonsid*, and *moridae*. The results of this sub dive, and the two ROV transects suggest the basalt pinnacles and gold coral comprise a small area.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

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

No 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.**

100% successful

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

Live samples for Amy Baco:

8 gold clippings

8 pink clippings

1 dead stump of gold and pieces of dead gold for sectioning.

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