

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY
QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-⁴524

MISSION STATUS

Location: Penguin Bank "2nd Finger"

Mission Date: Sept. 16, 1999

Maximum Depth: 350 m

Project Title: Evaluation of non-lethal methods for assessment of overfished deepwater snapper resources

Principal Investigator: Robert B. Moffitt

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

Our objectives for this mission were to conduct a 30 minute transect at each of four depths: 200m, 250m, 300m, and 350m. At 300m and 200m, we also planned to conduct a 30 minute bait station. The purpose of the transects and bait stations was to assess the number of commercially important snappers present at this site to compare with abundance in newly formed refugia. We performed all 4 transects as planned. The 350m and 300m transects did not yield any snappers, but we did collect invertebrate samples to assist in characterizing habitat. A bait station was not conducted at the end of the 300m transect, as no snappers, or likely snapper habitat, was observed the 250m transect yielded 13 ehu, 7 onaga, 1 *Erythrocles scintillans*, 1 gindai, and several kalekale. A bait station conducted at the end of this transect drew in at least 5 onaga, 8 ehu, 1 gindai, and 15 kalekale. On the 200m transect, gindai and onaga were observed. A bait station set at 225m at the end of the transect drew in 50 - 60 kalekale, 17 ehu, and several onaga. At the completion of this bait station, we collected additional invertebrate samples, and then headed up-slope to investigate more shallow-water snapper habitat. After seeing 2 opakapaka, we reached 110m, ran out of time, and surfaced.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The section on the slurp-gun sampler was not sufficient to dislodge crabs we were trying to collect.

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, all transects were completed successfully. Two bait stations were conducted, albeit in areas dictated by geography, not our dive-plan. From all transects and bait stations, quantitative estimates of snapper abundance were obtained, as well as information on habitat requirements and the distribution of potential prey.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Two small, white coral species that need to be identified at UH Manoa.

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 overfished deepwater snapper resources (project title)

held on Sept. 16, 1999 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by Sept. 16, 2001 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Sept. 16, 2001 (date)
- c. other Sept. 16, 2001 (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).

Robert B. Moffitt Principal Investigator