

# HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

## QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-425

### MISSION STATUS

**Location:** Third finger, Penguin Banks, Molokai, Hawaii

**Mission Date:** September 17, 1999

**Maximum Depth:** 304 meters

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

**Principal Investigator:** Robert E. Moffitt

**Address:** National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

**Phone:** 808-983-5373

**Observer 1:** Christopher Kelley

**Observer 2:**

**Address:** Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

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

**Objectives:** The objectives of this dive were to conduct an assessment of the commercially important deepwater snappers (family Lutjanidae) present in Restricted Fishing Area 10 which encloses the third finger of Penguin Banks. The data obtained from this site will be compared to:

- 1) similar data obtained from an open fishing area, the second finger, Penguin Banks, which is the control site for this study
- 2) similar data obtained from this site last year to determine what effect the fishing restriction has had after one year.

**Techniques:** Two techniques were employed to conduct this assessment:

- 1) 30-minute transects at 200, 250, and 300 meter depths
- 2) 30 minute "lights-out" bait stations at 200, 250, and 300 meter depths

**Findings:** Since this dive was terminated after only 1.5 hours, very little data was obtained. Several ehu, *Etelis carbunculus*, and 1 onaga, *Etelis coruscans*, were observed in transit to the first bait station. One ehu was observed at the 300 m bait station prior to the termination of the dive.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

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

This dive was terminated after approximately 1.5 hours due to a medical emergency on board the KOK which required returning to Honolulu.

**Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:**

None. The captain's decision to abort was appropriate.

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

No. When the dive was aborted, neither the transects nor the bait stations had been completed. We were in the middle of the 300 m bait station. Prior to the dive, we were expecting to complete 5 transects and 3 bait stations.

**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 overfished deepwater snapper resources (project title)

held on September 17, 1999 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by September 17, 2001(date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by September 17, 2001(date)
- c. other September 17, 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. Moffett

Principal Investigator