HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-426

MISSION STATUS

Location: Third finger, Penguin Banks, Molokai, Hawaii

Mission Date: September 18, 1999

Maximum Depth: 304 meters

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

Principal Investigator: Robert E. Moffitt

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Observer 1: Christopher Kelley **Observer 2:**

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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: We completed all three bait stations and 5 transects at the target depths. The 250 and 300 m bait stations attracted primarily ehu, *Etelis carbunculus*, and kahala, *Seriola dumerilii*. The 200 m bait station attracted kahala and a small school of yellow-tailed kalekale, *Pristipomoides auricilla*. The two 250 m

transects and the two 300 m transects yielded counts and estimated sizes of four of our target species, ehu, kalekale (*Pristipomoides sieboldii*), onaga (*Etelis coruscans*), and gindai (*Pristipomoides zonatus*). The 200 m transect yielded counts and estimated sies of yellow-tailed kalekale and gindai. In additional, identification and estimated counts were made of all other fish species observed during the bait stations and transects.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The only operational failure was the new external laser scale. We also were late in changing the first and second digital tapes and lost approximately 30 minutes of bait station 1 with the digital camera.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

None. HURL staff were planning to work on the problem with the laser. Since the bait station was still recorded with the panasonic camera, no data was lost.

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

Yes, we completed all of the planned tasks of this dive which included 3 bait stations and 5 transects.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

None.

Dive P5-426

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 18, 1999 (date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by September 18, 2001(date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by September 18, 2001(date)

c. other September 18, 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