

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LAB
QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-428

MISSION STATUS

Location: Penguin Banks 3rd Finger

Mission Date: Sept. 20, 1999

Maximum Depth: 352 m

Project Title: Evaluation of Non-lethal Methods for Assessment of
Overfished Deepwater Snapper Resources.

Principal Investigator:

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Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc. On this dive we planned to conduct 4 thirty minute transects (one each at depths of 350, 300, 250, and 200m) and 2 thirty minute bait stations (one each at 300 and 200m). We completed all of these tasks. On the 350m transect we observed 4 ehu and about 60 *Symphysanodon moanaloae*. On the 300m transect we observed 10 ehu ranging in length from 6-18"^{2 onaga,} and approximately 300 *S. moanaloae*. On the 250m transect we observed 17 ehu, 2 gindai, 2 *Erythrocles*, 1 *Kahala*, ~~and~~ over 450 *S. moanaloae*, and about 100 of the unidentified diamond tailed fish (*Callanthias*??). Although the *S. moanaloae* and the diamond tailed fish are similar in size and habitat they seemed to be separated spacially with the diamond tailed fish on the first portion of the transect and the *S. moanaloae* on the later portion. On the 200m transect we observed 4 gindai, 1 *Kahala*, and approximately 800 diamond tailed fish. We did not observe any ehu, onaga, or *S. moanaloae*. At the 300m bait station we observed 5 ehu, 1 gindai, and 1 *Gymnothorax nuttingi*. At the 200m bait station we observed 10 yellow tailed *Kalekale*, 1 *Kalekale*, 1 *Gymnothorax nuttingi*, and 1 *Holanthias elizabethae*.

— Over —

After the 200m bait station we traveled up over the top of the finger and down the north side. On the top the sandy bottom was mostly covered with *Diaseris* corals.

At the ~~edge~~ southern edge of the finger on the drop off between 111 and 131 meters we observed many fish including 2 taape, 1 opakapaka, many *Symphysanodon* *typus*, some *Naso*, some *Chromis* *verator*, and several *Myripristes* *chryseres*. On the northern side the break started at about 100m dropping to 115m. Here we observed *Chromis*, *Heniochus*, *Naso*, *Symphysanodon* *typus*, and *Carax* *ignobilis*. After the short carbonate wall (100-115m) the slope quickly became a featureless, gentle sandy slope without any fish or invertebrates observed.

At ~~20~~ 250m we observed 5 ehu on the sand then used the sonar to locate a hard target about 40m distant. It turned out to be a small carbonate outcropping (table top size) sheltering the 5 ehu, 1 *Antigonia* and a few small fish (probably *Symphysanodon* *moanaluae*).

Dive P5-428

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

~~None~~ We tried to collect *Munida brucei* specimens with the suction device for identification confirmation. Suction is not strong enough to collect these crabs.

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

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

3 coral specimens from 250m.

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... (project title)

held on September 20, 1999 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by September 20, 2001 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by September 20, 2001 (date)
- c. other September 20, 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