

## HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

### QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-430

#### MISSION STATUS

**Location:** Makapuu, Oahu, Hawaii

**Mission Date:** September 22, 1999

**Maximum Depth:** 438 meters

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

**Principal Investigator:** Robert E. Moffitt

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

We conducted a 45 min. exploratory transect at 400m along the base of a known peak and then moved up to 350 m where a standard 30min. transect was conducted. During these transects we documented all vertebrate and invertebrate animals observed. Following two bait stations (30 min. each), one at the end of the 350m transect and one at the top of a 2<sup>nd</sup> known peak, we conducted a short exploratory transect around the base of the 2<sup>nd</sup> peak. Any fish that appeared at the bait stations were recorded.

The sub reached bottom at 438m where the substrate appeared flat and sandy with numerous *Heterocarpus ensifer* and *Chlorophalamus* apparent across the substrate. A hammerhead shark passed the sub upon landing. We proceeded across the sand to the base of a known peak to start our 400m exploratory transect. Throughout the transect, substrate was sandy with some scattered small carbonate outcroppings. Animals observed include numerous glass sponges (*Regadrella* sp.; ~ 20), gorgonian corals (*Acanella* ; ~12, *Callogorgia* ~15), soft coral (*Anthomastus fisheri*; ~15), black coral (*Leopathes glaberinna*~5, *Bathypathes conferta* ~4, *Antipathes* sp. 1 ~30), starfish

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(*Sphaeriodiscus ammophilus* ~10, brittle stars entwined in coral trees ~20), 1 *Paramala japonica*, 7 *Parapagurus dolflenii*, 3 comb jelly, numerous anemones and tunicates. Fish include scorpaenids (~12), *Chlorophthalmus* (~4), *Chrionema* (~8), *Hollardia goslinei* (~4 usually associated with a coral tree), *Polymixia* (~7), *Laemonema* (~6), *Meadia* (~6 usually associated with a coral tree).

We proceeded up to 350m where the substrate was again flat and sandy but with more patches of exposed carbonate. Fauna changed somewhat with the dominant corals becoming *Lepidisis olapa* (~30) and *Antipathes* sp. 1 (~70). Few sponges or other invertebrates were seen. Fish observed included scorpaenids (~20), *Symphysanodon moanaloae* (~200 most were in one 'patch'), 1 ehu, 5 *Antigonia*, 1 John Dori, 8 bothids, 1 Dasyacidae, 1 *Lophoides*. At the 300m bait station, 3 squalids and 1 *P. kelloggi* were observed. We then proceeded up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> known peak where we conducted another bait station. Thirteen small ehu, 3 sharks, 1 conger, 4 'skinny' eels and 1 *P. kelloggi* were observed.

We conducted another exploratory transect heading to the base of the 2<sup>nd</sup> peak where substrate became more rocky with some overhangs and holes.

**MISSION EVALUATION:**

**Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted: none**

**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.**

All goals were accomplished.

**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 22, 1999 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by September 22, 2001(date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by September 22, 2001(date)
- c. other September 22, 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. Moffatt

Principal Investigator