

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5- 435

MISSION STATUS

Location: Makapuu Closed Area #6, Oahu, Hawaii

Mission Date: 27 Sept 1999

Maximum Depth: 429 m

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

Principal Investigator: Robert B. Moffitt

Address: National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 808-983-5373

Observer 1: Robert B. Moffitt

Observer 2: Eric Couklin

Address: above

Address: 46-007 Hilipuna Rd.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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

On this dive we planned to collect coral samples at about 400 m depth, conduct a single transect at 350 m on appropriate bottomfish habitat, conduct 2 bait stations at feature summits near depths of 325 m and run in to explore a charted feature at ~250 m. We collected the corals as planned. On the 350 m transect we observed only 2 snappers both small ehu (~6-8" in length). *Lepidisis* and *Antipathes* were the dominant coral types observed and *Symphysodon moanaluae* was by far the most abundant fish species observed (over 500 individuals). The first bait station at 327 m attracted a maximum of 5 small ehu (8-10" range), as well as 4 *Squalus*, 6 *Meadia*, 2 *P. Kellogi*, 1 Conger, and about 100 *Emmelichthys*. The second bait station at 327 m on the second summit attracted 15-20 small ehu (count was difficult as they stayed at the edge of visibility), 7 *Squalus*, 1 *P. Kellogi*, 1 Conger, 1 ophichthid eel, and 1 Xanthid crab. The shallow water (250 m) feature was all soft sand bottom with no deep water snappers present.

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.

Yes. We completed all bait stations and transects as planned. We were also able to collect several valuable biological specimens, some as planned prior to the dive and others as opportunity presented itself.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Corallium negale, Gardardia sp., Antipathes sp., Leiopathes sp.,  
Munida sp., Trizopagurus sp., Mitra, sp., Xanthid crab gen.sp.,  
Pagurid crab gen. sp.

## 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 . . . . (project title)

held on 27 Sept 1999 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 27 Sept 2001 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 27 Sept 2001 (date)
- c. other 27 Sept 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. Maffett Principal Investigator