HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. P5-436

MISSION STATUS

Location: Makapuu Restricted Fishing Area 6, Oahu, Hawaii

Mission Date: September 28, 1999

Maximum Depth: 510 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:**

Address: Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology **Address:**
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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 on the Lanikai Onaga Pinnacle, the open fishing control site for Restricted Fishing Area 6. The data obtained from this site will be compared to:

1) similar data obtained from RFA 6.
2) similar data obtained from this site last year.

Techniques: Two techniques were employed to obtain counts and estimated sizes of targetted species:

1) Two 30-minute transects at 300 m and 350 m.
2) One 30-minute "lights-out" bait station at the top of the pinnacle.

Findings: We completed both the transects and the bait station. The bait station on the peak of the formation attracted primarily onaga, *Etelis coruscans*, ehu, *Etelis carbunculus*, *Antigonia* sp., and *Erythrocles scintillans*. The onaga were of

particular interest because we recorded not only a school of larger adult fish, but a second smaller group of subadults as well as a relatively large school of juveniles during the observation period. We also noted and videotaped a large *Echinorhinus cookei*.

Ehu were the only target species recorded on the 300 m and 350 m transects. Prior to the transects, we relocated a school of adult *Beryx decadactylus* that had been observed on the two previous dives this year on this site. As we usually find, *Symphysanodon maunaloa* were abundant in the areas where the ehu were found. This species is believed to be an important prey species for ehu.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The panasonic video camera failed again in this dive, however, it was functioning during the bait station, which is when it is particularly critical.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

None. As usual, HURL staff started working on the problem immediately after the sub was recovered at the end of the mission.

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.

None.

Dive P5-436

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 28, 1999 (date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by September 28, 2001(date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by September 28, 2001(date)

c. other September 28, 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)

_____Principal Investigator