

**HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LAB
QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. 488**

MISSION STATUS

Location: off Kona, 19 37.30N, 156 03.67W

Mission Date: December ⁷~~3~~, 2001

Maximum Depth: 1542m

Project Title: Ecological Role and Faunal Associates of Abundant Hexactinellid Sponges on the Hawaiian Slope

Principal Investigator: Craig Young

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Observer 1: Craig Young

Observer 2: Shawn Arellano

Address: Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.

Address: Harbor Branch O.I.

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

In this dive we spent the first half of the dive surveying the slope between 1500m and 400m for sponges, ascidians and echinoderms. The second half was devoted to experimental work at the main sponge study site between 300 and 500 m depths. We collected a number of new sponges, a carnivorous ascidian and a stalked crinoid. Suction samples were taken within and adjacent to *Sericolophus*. Cores were taken near sponges and between sponges, and sponges were transplanted to a site above the normal sponge zone. By using smaller sponges, this appeared to be successful. Good photographs were taken of various benthic animals, including a pair of *Caenopedina* urchins and a *Hippasteria* starfish eating coral polyps.

Dive 488

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

One core lost its sample on the way up. Otherwise, the dive was a great success.

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.

We accomplished everything we wanted to do and much more than appeared to be humanly possible. The pilot was great.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Octacnemid ascidian, large hexactinellid piece, *Rigadrella* sp., orange crinoid, Hippasteria, Zoroasterid starfish, *Stereocidaris*, 2 *Caenopedina*, 7 *Sericolophus*, 10 dead *Sericolophus* stalks.

Dive 488

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

Ecological Role and Faunal Associates of Abundant Hexactinellid Sponges on the Hawaiian Slope (project title)

held on November 30 2001 in the following way:

- a. CTD data by Nov. 2003 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Nov. 2003 (date)
- c. other Nov. 2003 (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).

Gi M. Spang

Principal Investigator