

HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT DIVE: PV- 520

MISSION STATUS

Location: Nero seamount

Latitude: N 27°55.785

Longitude: W 177°52.3364

Mission Date: Oct. 2, 2003

Duration: 6hrs 48m

Maximum Depth: 678m

Project Title: Precious corals

Principal Investigator: Amy Baco-Taylor

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Observer 1: A. Baco-Taylor

Observer 2: Wongyu Park

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Pilot 1: Terry Kerby

Pilot 2:

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

Objectives:

1. Locate precious corals
2. Sample for population genetics + reproductive biology

Observations, findings, etc:

Pisces V landed on the bottom at a depth of 678 m on rippled sand with a slight slope. The submersible moved up the slope and up a wall which had several gold coral trees. There was also a pinnacle which had gold coral trees. The submersible team continued to explore for corals along the wall to the south and turned around and headed north when a heavily sedimented area was reached. There were many *Lepidisis olapa* along the wall.

The last few hours of the dive were spent trying to cut across the seamount to the other side, but the actual seafloor did not match the bathymetry data. The top of the seamount was covered with rhodoliths. These rhodoliths were also observed at depth. Benthic ctenophores were abundant at the shallower depths. At the very end of the dive, we descended down a carbonate slope and collected a single *Corallium* individual which may be *Corallium kishinouyei*. A total of 11 samples of coral were taken from Nero Seamount.

Species list:

Please mark whether S-single; F-Few (2-10); M-Many (11-100); A-Abundant (>100)

(e.g., *Symphysanodon maunaloae*-M)

- add rows as needed

<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i> -S	<i>Lepidisis olapa</i> - A
<i>Satyrichthys</i> -S	Ophiuroids- F
Hapupu - F	<i>Mediaster ornatus</i> - S
Kohala - F	<i>Lepidisis olapa</i> - F
<i>Symphysanodon maunaloae</i> - F	Pennatulids- F
<i>Gymnothorax nuttingi</i> - S	Cerianthids- F
<i>Nettastoma peviceps</i> - S	<i>Epigonus</i> sp- F
<i>Gerardia</i> sp. - F	<i>Callagorgia gilberti</i> - S
<i>Corallium secundum</i> - F	<i>Etelis carbunculus</i> - S
<i>Corallium kishinouyei</i> ? - S	<i>Viminella</i> sp.- S
Benthic ctenophores, white - A	<i>Bodianus vulpinus</i> - S
Glow-in-the-dark anemones -M	<i>Epinephalus quernus</i> - F
<i>Pseudocaranx dentex</i> - S	<i>Malecocephalus hawaiiensis</i> - S
Myctophids- F	

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

Bathymetry data did not match the actual seafloor.

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 collected what was available, but there wasn't enough coral.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Gold coral – 7, Pink coral – 3, *Corallium kishinouyei* ? - 1

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

Precious corals
(project title)

held on 10/02/2003 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 10/ 02/2005 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 10/02/2005 (date)
- c. other 10/ 02/2005 (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