

**HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**QUICK LOOK REPORT DIVE: PV- 523**

**MISSION STATUS**

**Location:** Bank 8

**Latitude:** 26° 13.569

**Longitude:** 174° 30.567

**Mission Date:** 6 October 2003

**Duration:** 7 hours, 6 minutes

**Maximum Depth:** 667 m

**Project Title:** Reproductive Biology and Population Genetics of Hawaiian Precious Corals

**Principal Investigator:** Amy Baco-Taylor

**Address:** Biology Department  
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**Phone:** (508) 289-2331

**Observer 1:** Amy Baco-Taylor

**Observer 2:**

**Address:** See above

**Address:**

**Pilot 1:** Max Cremer

**Pilot 2:** Terry Kerby

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

**Objectives:**

The objective of this dive was to locate precious corals on Bank 8 and to sample for reproductive biology and genetics. This was the second of two dives at this location. Pisces V was deployed at a depth of 667 meters and it moved north along a track on the south eastern portion of Bank 8.

**Observations, findings, etc:**

We landed on the bottom in sloped carbonate. We observed several octocorals including a large bamboo, which we sampled. We also observed a high abundance of a black coral we did not recognize. A sample of this species was also collected. When we got up to 545 m, we observed large boulders, These boulders had numerous large octocorals and Gerardia sp. We sampled red and gold corals, and occasionally pink corals from these boulders as we moved north along the slope. The terrain became steeper as we moved north until it became a vertical wall. On the steeper parts of the slope, gold corals and other octocorals were abundant from about 540m to

420m depth. A wide range of colony sizes was observed on the wall, but most were relatively small. This is the first site where young gold corals have been observed in such abundance and size distribution. Large colonies were only observed at the top of the wall where they were present in great abundance. The northern end of our survey was clearly a concentrated gold coral bed, with colonies separated by < 2 m in some areas. We need to return to this site to define the limits and area of the bed. As we moved up the wall, we also observed a band of the “white” puffballs” again. They ranged in depth from 420-460m near the top of the wall.

### 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

Keratoisis flabellum	S	pyrosome	S
Antipatharians	M	cidarids	F
Bathypathes conferta	F	Hollardia goslinei	S
Gorgonians	A	pennatulids	A
Corallium secundum.	M	Narella sp.	F
Gerardia sp.	AA	Epigonus sp/	M
Calyptrophora versluysi	F	Histocidaris variabilis	S
gorgonocephalids	M	seastar	S
Anthomastus sp	F	Sponge- Farrea	AA
Red Coral	M	Etelis carbunculus	S
Antigonia sp.	S	Hollardia goslinei	S

## MISSION EVALUATION:

### Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

none

### Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

n/a

### In your opinion, did the mission essentially achieve its purpose? Compare actual work accomplished with the work that was expected to be accomplished.

Absolutely! Great dive!

### List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

11- gold coral, 10- red coral, 7-pink coral, 1-sponge.



## 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

\_\_\_\_ Reproductive Biology and Population Genetics of Hawaiian Precious Corals  
(project title)

held on 10/6/2005 in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 10/6/2005
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 10/6/2005
- c. other 10/6/2005
- 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).

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Principal Investigator