

HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT DIVE: PV-530

MISSION STATUS

**Location:** Seamount South East of Laysan

**Latitude:** 25° 40.0603 N

**Longitude:** 171° 22.3086 W

**Mission Date:** 14 October 2003

**Duration:** 5 hours, 32 minutes on bottom

**Maximum Depth:** 1768 m

**Project Title:** Seamount Surveys of Deep-Water Coral Distributions as Related to Geological Setting in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

**Principal Investigator:** Amy Baco-Taylor

**Address:** Biology Department  
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Woods Hole, MA 02543

**Phone:** (508) 289-2331

**Observer 1:** Chris Kelley

**Observer 2:** John R. Smith

**Address:** HURL

**Address:** HURL

**Pilot 1:** Chuck Holloway

**Pilot 2:**

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

Objectives:

1. To perform observational transects of invertebrate fauna along a seamount located southeast of Laysan.
2. Collect invertebrate samples for identification and for voucher specimens.
3. Collect rock samples to characterize geologic setting.

Observations, findings, etc:

The dive began at 1645 after a 2 hours descent. The landing site was strewn with basalt boulders and cobbles covered with large exotic-looking sponges. One species, nicknamed "Jabba the Hut" on a previous dive was very abundant on this site. The boulders and cobbles gave way to a solid basalt wall at 1763 m where a 500 m transect was conducted. Single branched bamboo corals were relatively common but disappeared as the sub moved off the wall and onto a more cobbled slope. The sub was not able to reach the summit of this seamount (1200 m), leaving the bottom at 1384 m. However, after surveying the deeper slope at this site, it was clear that this was a sponge-dominated community.

**Species list:**

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

**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. Samples were collected and transects were completed, even though we never reached the summit.

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

1 Acanella sp (spidery branches)

5 different sponges including Semperella sp, corbitellinae, and Trachycaulus sp

1 white crinoid

1 Iridigorgia sp

1 white echinothurid urchin

1 stalked antipatharians

10 rock samples

**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  
**Seamount Surveys of Deep-Water Coral Distributions as Related to Geological Setting in the Northwestern  
Hawaiian Islands**

(project title)

held on 14 October 2003 in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 14 October 2005 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 14 October 2005 (date)
- c. other 14 October 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