HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT
DIVE: PV-687

MISSION STATUS

Location: Makapuu, Oahu

Latitude: 21° 17.639 **Longitude:** 157° 31.966

Mission Date: 10-24-2007 **Duration:** 5 hours 15 mins

Maximum Depth: 442 m

Project Title: Gold coral growth validation study

Principal Investigator: Frank Parrish

Address:

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu Hawaii, 96822

Phone: 808-983-5391

Observer 1: Frank Parrish
Address:
Same as above

Observer 2: Robert Moffitt
Address:
Same

Pilot 1: Terry Kerby **Pilot 2:**

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

Objectives:

The objective was to revisit and re-measure gold coral (Geradia sp.) colonies that were marked in 2001 and 2006. This work was conducted as part of a larger series of dives to validate the 6 cm/yr growth rate currently used to calculate the harvest quota in the precious coral fishery. All the colonies marked at Makapuu were 12-30 cm in height. The sub occupants found markers left on the bottom (flower pot) or used some other landmark that identifies the colony and then using a laser scale projected on the colonies they estimated their size. Estimates were made by the observer and the pilots without the benefit of knowing what the prior estimates were. A portion of the dive is spent relocating and changing out thermographs and flow meters.

Observations, findings, etc:

Ten of the eleven mark trees were relocated and measured. The two flow meters and the two thermographs were recovered and replaced with two thermographs and a flow meter and an Aanderrra single point current meter (415 m).

Species list:
No fauna counts were made on this dive

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

Short dive time (due to the commute to and from port) and strong current associated with being close to the full moon (moon reported to be closest to earth in last 100 years) was the primary limitation. Much of the dive was spent trying to make way up current. Speed was usually 1 m/min and at time surged. The dive was conducted with the subs thrusters operating at full power throughout.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

If the current always comes from the north we should deploy north of the site and that way we could work with the current and hopefully ensure all colonies were revisted.

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

Yes, 95% success. If we had a full day of diving we would have finished it all.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

NA

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 (project title)

held on_____(date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by_____(date)

b. video and images by_____(date)

c. other_____(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