

HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

**QUICK LOOK REPORT
PISCES V**

MISSION STATUS

Location: Canyon site off Barbers Point Oahu

Latitude: 21° 12.111 N

Longitude: 158° 00.032 W

Mission Date: August 21, 2013

Duration: 6 hours

Maximum Depth: 538 m

Project Title: Coral habitat studies - exploration

Principal Investigator: Frank Parrish, NOAA Fisheries

Address: Dole St, Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 808-944-2181

Observer 1: Frank Parrish

Observer 2: Chris Kelley

Address: NMFS

HURL

Pilot 1: Terry Kerby

Pilot 2:

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

Objectives: The dive was to explore the floor and sides of a canyon feature well south of the S-19 site in the hopes of identifying a new precious coral bed for longterm monitoring experiments.

Observations, findings, etc:

Once we reached the bottom, strong currents were encountered making progress to the south slow. However we did manage to successfully survey the floor of the canyon and start a transect up the southern west wall before time ran out. The base of the canyon had spaced out colonies of Dendrophylliidae, probably *Enallopsammia rostrata*, demosponges, and the hexactinellid sponge *Regadrella spl.* To our surprise, there were very few corals present, or for that matter any other animals, even though the substrate was rocky and currents were strong. Once we finished the canyon floor and moved up the wall, we encountered a significant bed of some type of brambling scleractinian coral, which we sampled. We also encountered an apparent red morph of *E. rostrata* that we also collected. It is possible that we would have found more corals growing further up the canyon walls from the beginning of our dive. We did indeed attempt to move up the wall early on but had to retreat to the floor because of the increased strength of the current.

Species list:

Fishes: *Chlorophthalmus proridens*, *Laemonema rhodochir*, *Polymixia berndti*, unid squid, *Chaunax sp.*, *Hollardia sp.*, *Meadia abyssalis*, *Satyrichthys hians*, *Ijimaia plicatellus*, *Squalus mitsukurii*, Thresher shark,

Cnidarians: *Enallopsammia rostrata*, purple scleractinian

Echinoderms: ??? Can't remember.

Other Invertebrates: *Plesionika sp.*, *Heterocarpus sp.*, *Regadrella sp.*, unidentified demosponges, others.

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, in all aspects. We now know that the canyon is not a suitable site for studying precious corals.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

Clippings from 3 separate yellow *Enallopsammia rostrata* colonies were collected for aragonite analysis. Other samples were collected for identification and voucher purposes including;

A red morph of *Enallopsammia rostrata*

A purple dendrophylliid

Two demosponges tentatively identified from lab photos and spicule preps as *Desmacella* sp and *Characella* sp

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 P5-826

held on August 21, 2013 in the following way:

- a. CTD data by n/a (date)
- b. video and images by August 21, 2015 (date)
- c. other August 21, 2015
- 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).

Frank Parrish

Principal Investigator