HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-012 A, B, C, D

MISSION STATUS

Location: Sampan Pinnacle, Kaneohe Bay

Mission Date: 21-22 Aug 98

Maximum Depth: 363 m

Project Title: Characterization and Assessment of Two Types of Critical Habitat for Eteline Snappers in the Main Hawaiian Islands

Principal Investigator: Chris Kelley

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Observer 2: Greta S. Aeby
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Address: Same ← Also: Chris Kelley

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

The main objective was to make nighttime observations on habitats and fauna along 3 transects for comparison with daytime observations on Pisces V Dive 365 (made earlier 21 Aug). Dive 012A and 012B were run along a track roughly parallel to and at times in sight of the north face of the south and east pinnacles. Dive 012C was run roughly parallel and close to the south face of the south and east pinnacles. Dive 012D was run roughly parallel and close to the north face of the north pinnacle. For all dives, the ROV cage was suspended several meters above the bottom, and as the ship towed the cage, the ROV followed at an altitude of one to a few meters above the bottom (or a few to several meters away on steep slopes and faces) and scanned the substrate and lower water column with video camera. Scientists monitored the video record continuously and made written notes and voice notes on the tape and recorded excerpts on a separate tape. Porous bait bags were attached to the ROV and cage at the beginning of Dive 012A and stayed in place throughout the 4 dives. All dives covered much terrain that was fairly level and below the base of the steep slopes. Here sediments appeared soft and fairly deep, and mostly featureless except for many animal tracks, pits and mounds. In a few areas (especially in Dives 012C and D), ripple bedforms were visible, but not as deeply formed or distinct as at other sites on this cruise. Near the bases of steep slopes, a few "sea pens" (soft corals)

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occurred, and wire coral was locally common in such environments. The immediate bases and steep slopes of exposed rock provided much cover for fishes and invertebrates and apparently could provide good habitat for eteline snappers. At least one ehu was seen in a sandy area with wire coral (Dive 012 B); other eteline snappers may be identified when tapes are studied. Antigonia was a common fish in some scattered areas. A ray and a few eels were seen, and more miscellaneous small bottom fish were seen than in most open sandy areas of this study.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The major limitation was the inability of the ROV to maintain position up on steep, rocky faces or follow along the length of such features for long distances at close enough range to resolve biological details, e.g. fish and invertebrate identifications. Winds up to at least 20 kt. made this performance more difficult. It was also necessary to avoid working in some interesting areas because of derelict cables and or lines in the water column.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

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

The mission provided much useful night reconnaissance of new and interesting areas. It provided a relatively small fraction of the desired reconnaissance on steep, rocky slopes because of the above problem and the time required to find these features.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

None

Dive RCV 012 A, B, C, D

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 Characterization and Assessment of Two Types of Critical Habitat for Eteline Snappers in the Main Hawaiian Islands (project title)

held on Aug. 21-22, 1998 (date) in the following way:

a. CTD data by Aug 22, 2000 (date)

b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Aug. 22, 2000 (date)

c. other Aug. 22, 2000 (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).

Cliff Kelley Principal Investigator