

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-019

MISSION STATUS

Location: Westpac Bank 23°14.2 162°38.849

Mission Date: 9/13/98

Maximum Depth: 481 M

Project Title: Evaluating deep-water benthic and demersal communities in relation to foraging activities of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal

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Observer 1: Frank Parrish

Observer 2: Richard Grigg

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

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

An ROV Transect was run at .6-.8 knots from the west side of Westpac Bank across the north end of the summit finishing on the ENE side of the bank. The survey started at 480m depth and ran up slope across the summit at 338m and then down the opposite side to a depth of 460m where the transect was ended and the ROV recovered. A general description of the bottom with counts and identifications of corals, gorgonians, and fish encountered taken at 5 min intervals. A 480-450m prominent basalt boulders and extensions were evident, at times densely covered with the dendrophyllid coral "inappsetta". Sediment and accumulated debris was entirely composed of skeletons of the dendrophyllid coral. AT 2430m the bottom turned to cemented carbonate where the dendrophyllids disappeared and the gorgonians (e.g. Nerita venusta) became more frequent. AT 380m pink coral (Corallium secundum) was encountered and was most dense at 360m, but was present up to where the slope leveled at the summit 340m. Crossing the interior portion of the summit at 340-338 pink coral disappeared until it reappeared when the opposite edge was reached.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

standard lights did NOT function

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

Fix lights.

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

Expectations = 0

*work accomplished far exceeded expectations
attached abstract details findings.*

Expectations are now substantially higher.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

no collections planned none taken.

