

East FFS complex

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-020A,B

MISSION STATUS

Location: East French Frigate Shoals complex

Mission Date: 9/15/98

Maximum Depth: 460

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

Principal Investigator: Frank A. Parrish

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Observer 1: Frank Parrish

Observer 2: Rick Grigg

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Address: Dept of Oceanography
1000 Pope Rd.
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

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

Segment A

The ROV transect to survey habitat and fish community was run east for 2 miles using the focus of satellite positions from the seal instrumentation data as the start location. A previous sub dive (Bacos dive) at the seal site found a dense patch of gold coral at the start location. The transect began at 356 m and ran until 462m. The bottom was largely basalt in shallower depths and then became eroding carbonate capped with a manganese crust at the deeper extreme. Gorgonians were common only at the shallower basalt depths. Only five colonies of gold coral were encountered near the end of the transect on a single patch (within 20 meters) on large basalt boulders at 400m depth. Fish seen included *Antigonia* sp, *Scorpeanids*, *Chaunax*, *Beryx decadactylus*, *Chrionema* sp. *Symphysanodon* (maunaloae?), *Synagrops* (japonicus?) *Meadia abyssalis*, and *Laemonema* sp.

Segment B (Parrish observer)

The ROV was relocated to a position WNW of the seal activity location and was run east for greater than a mile at 375-380 meters depth. The bottom was basalt with some structural configuration but no high relief. Few gorgonians were seen and no precious coral. Fish counts were lower on this transect when compared to segment A. In both transects *Polymixia* was absent.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

ability to only trace the east
made it difficult to identify dominant
variations of coral growth

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

Improve the ships positioning capability, e.g. articulating bow
thruster.

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

yes 100%

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

NONE

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 Evaluating deepwater beakline + demersal communities in relation to foraging activities of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal (project title)

held on Sept 11-22nd 1998 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by _____ (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by Sept 2000 (date)
- c. other Sept 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).

Frank A. Powell Principal Investigator