

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-122

MISSION STATUS

Location: Auau Channel, Maui

Mission Date: 11/24/01

Maximum Depth: 74 meters

Project Title: Sustainability of the Black Coral Fishery in Hawaii and Impacts on Bottom Fish Habitat

Principal Investigator: Richard Grigg

Address: Department of Oceanography
University of Hawaii

Phone: 956-7186

Observer 1: Richard Grigg

Observer 2: Chris Kelley

Address: Department of Oceanography
University of Hawaii

Address: Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory
University of Hawaii

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

This ROV dive was a survey of a moderately harvested area for black coral on the easterly boundary of the "keyhole" feature in the Auau channel. No reduction in abundance was observed, however, most colonies at depths less than 200' are four feet in height, or less (state size limit = 4 feet). Larger "trees" up to 7 feet are present at depths between 225 and 250 feet. No correlation between black coral abundance and bottom fish was observed. The most alarming finding is the increasing abundance of Telastoceran (*Carijoa riisei*) invading the habitat of black coral.

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.

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 Black Coral Fishery & Bottom Fish Study (project title)

held on 11/25/01 (date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by 11/03 (date)
- b. voice transcripts, video, and still camera film by 11/03 (date)
- c. other 11/03 (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