

HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-123

MISSION STATUS

Location: Auau Channel, Maui

Mission Date: 11/24/01

Maximum Depth: 130 meters

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

Principal Investigator: Richard Grigg

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Observer 1: Richard Grigg

Observer 2: Christopher Kelley

Address: Department of Oceanography
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Address: Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory
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Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

This ROV dive was a black coral survey of the northern boundary of the "keyhole" feature at the top of the Auau channel. As with other ROV deployments, the optimal direction for the transect, based on wind and current conditions, was determined prior to the dive. A two-mile target line was created for the transect, which depending on the speed of the ship, would allow for a 2-4 hour survey. After the RCV was deployed, observers attempted to identify black coral colonies as well as all fish and invertebrates species encountered. The black corals, *Antipathes ulex*, *A. intermedia*, and *A. dichotoma*, were encountered, and similar to R-122, the latter species was often overgrown by the telestacean, *Carijoa riisei*. No correlation between black coral abundance and bottom fish was observed. Examples of fish encountered included *Seriola dumerili*, *Chaetodon miliaris*, *Canthigaster jactator*, *Heniochus diphreutes*, *Myripristis chryseres*, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, and *Apogon kallopterus*. Examples of invertebrates included *Stylocidaris rufa*, *Halimeda sp*, an aggregation of echinothurid urchins, a colonial salp, *Scyllarides sp*, and *Plesionika sp*.

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 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 Sustainability of the Black Coral Fishery in Hawaii and Impacts on Bottom Fish Habitat (project title)

held on 11/24/01 (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