HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-167

MISSION STATUS

Mission Date: 09-10-02

Location (island, bank, seamount, etc): Brooks Bank

Specific Site (NE side, summit, etc): NW Side

Position (start latitude & longitude): 24 00.1870/166 42.9090

Depth range: 120-327 m

Project Title: Impact of Bottomfishing in the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve

Principal Investigator: Christopher Kelley

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Observer 2: Sean Corson
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Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

The overall goal of this project is to obtain data on bottomfish populations and their habitat for use in evaluating the impacts of commercial fishing in the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. This particular dive was conducted on Brooks Bank, one of two Reserve Preservation Areas (i.e., RPAs) completely closed to bottomfishing. Specific dive objectives were to survey the fish and invertebrate community at a known fishing site. Particular attention was paid to corals and other attached invertebrates that would be vulnerable to damage from anchors and fishing weights. To accomplish this objective, the ROV was deployed along a track running directly through the fishing site. Observers noted all fish, invertebrates, and fishing debris encountered.

The substrate during the dive varied from cobble-covered sediment, large boulders, low relief carbonate, and very high relief carbonate (i.e. sheer ledge at 143 meters). A number of unusual observations, at least for bottomfish habitats, were made on this dive. These included a Waikiki shell sponge, a sponge resembling a Corallistes sp, a juvenile Pristipomoides auricilla, and an extensive bed of an Antipathes sp, possibly intermedia (Table 1). Fishing debris included an anchor and fishing line. The large bed of black coral was dense enough to be potentially vulnerable to damage by fishing gear.

Table 1: Biological organisms observed during the dive.

FISHES	ECHINODERMS, CRUSTACEANS, & MOLLUSKS	CORALS, SPONGES, OTHER INVERTEBRATES
Neomerinthes rufescens	Gastroptychus sp	Narella megalepis
Erythrocles scintillans	Paromola sp	Cirrhipathes spiralis
Naso maculates	Holothurian	Corallium tortuosum
Myctophids	Shrimp	Antipathes intermedia?
Polymixia berndti	Coronaster eclipses	Corallium niveum?
Scorpaenids	Urchin	Ribbon sponge
Physiculus nigripinnis	Crinoid	Waikiki shell sponge
Etelis carbunculus	Urchin	White sponge
Etelis coruscans		
Xyelacyba myersi		
Antigonia eos		
Rexea nakamurai		
Trichiurid		
Myripristis chryseres		

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, we accomplished our objective.

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

RCV-167 held on 09-10-02.

a. CTD data by 09-10-04

b. video data by 09-10-04

c. other_____(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