HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-174

MISSION STATUS

Mission Date: 09-16-02

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

Specific Site (NE side, summit, etc): West Raita, deep survey
Position (start latitude & longitude): 25° 30.751/169° 36.680
Depth range: 780-810 m

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

Principal Investigator: Christopher Kelley

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Observer 1: Rachel Shackelford
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Observer 2: Christopher Kelley
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Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

Materials & Methods:

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 Raita Bank. Specific dive objectives on this particular dive were similar to dive 171. The ROV was deployed to examine the fish and invertebrate community at approximately 800 meters, which is 400 meters below typical bottomfishing depths. Since the RPA boundary around Brooks bank extends out 12 miles from its geographic center, it seemed of value to devote one dive toward its deeper resources. Observers noted all fish, invertebrates, and fishing debris encountered.

Scientific data acquired:

The terrain was sandy and was chock full of potential targets. Lots of Holothurians. Several macrourids and eels. Many areas had small white 'sticks' pointing out of the sand. We couldn't tell what they were.

Table 1: Biological organisms observed during the dive.

FISHES	ECHINODERMS, CRUSTACEANS, & MOLLUSKS	CORALS, SPONGES & OTHER INVERTS
Hymenocephalus sp.	Paelopatides retifer	anemone
Macrourid	long legged shrimp	scyphozoan
Gnathophis sp?	Heterocarpus laevigatus	Pennatulid
Aldrovandia verticalis?	Edwardsii sp	Corallimorphus?
macrourid black, unknown		Anemone orange
Phormosoma bursarium		jellyfish
Eel		
Bathycongrus aquorea		
macrourid white, high dorsal w/ filament		
Nettastomatid		

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

The level wind on the winch failed 1 hour into the dive which prompted a premature termination. Two days were required to affect the repairs resulting in the loss of the vehicle for dives the following night.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

There appears to be a chronic problem with the winch during deeper dives which needs to be addressed.

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

Partially since some good images were obtained before the winch failure. However, the cancellation of the following night's dives certainly affected the work which we expected to accomplish with the ROV.

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-174 held on 09-16-02.

a. CTD data by 09-16-04

b. video data by 09-16-04

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