HAWAII UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

QUICK LOOK REPORT MISSION NO. RCV-180

MISSION STATUS

Mission Date: 09-26-02

Location (island, bank, seamount, etc): West St Rogatien Bank

Specific Site (NE side, summit, etc): W side (S-N) Position (start latitude & longitude): 24° 35.343/167° 20.357 Depth range: 420-160 m

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

Principal Investigator: Christopher Kelley

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Observer 1: Bruce Mundy **Address:** NMFS **Observer 2:** Rachel Shackelford **Address:** HURL - see above

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 W. St. Rogatien Bank. 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 through the coordinates provided for the site. Observers noted all fish, invertebrates, and fishing debris encountered.

Scientific data acquired:

We started out at 420 m on a flat sandy bottom. The substrate went from sandy, to carbonate ledges, to large boulders, to more cobbles and ledges, to carbonate and sand, back to sand, and sand with cobbles. Toward the end of the dive the substrate changed to rocky and we hit a vertical wall at 185 m. By about 150 m coralline and green algae was growing on the rocks.

Table 1: Biological organisms observed during the dive.

FISHES

Epigonus devaneyi Symphysanodon maunaloae Pvramodon ventralis Chlorophthalmus proridens Chascanopsetta prorigera Beryx splendens ? Bathyuroconger lepturus mvctophid Pontinus sp. Parabothus coarctatus Bembrops sp. Saurenchelys stylurus Physiculus nigripinnis Pristipomoides zonatus Gymnothorax berndti Laemonema sp. ? Caprodon schlegeli (female) Priacanthus alalaua Prognathodes sp.

ECHINODERMS, CRUSTACEANS, & MOLLUSKS

Stereocidaris sp. Homola sp. Anthomastus sp. shrimp, unidentified irregular urchin test Micropyga tuberculata Acanthocidaris hastigera Sphaeriodiscus ammophilus Actinocidaris thomasi

CORALS, SPONGES & OTHER INVERTS

Javania sp. Cirrhipathes spiralis Lyrocteis sp.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

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

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-180 held on 09-26-02.

- a. CTD data by <u>09-26-04</u>
- b. video data by <u>09-26-04</u>
- 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