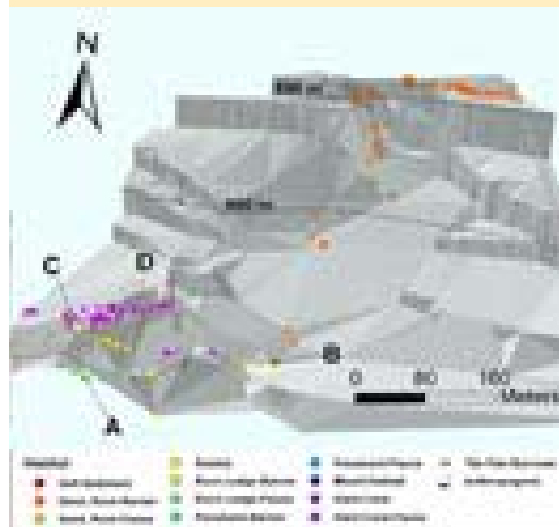


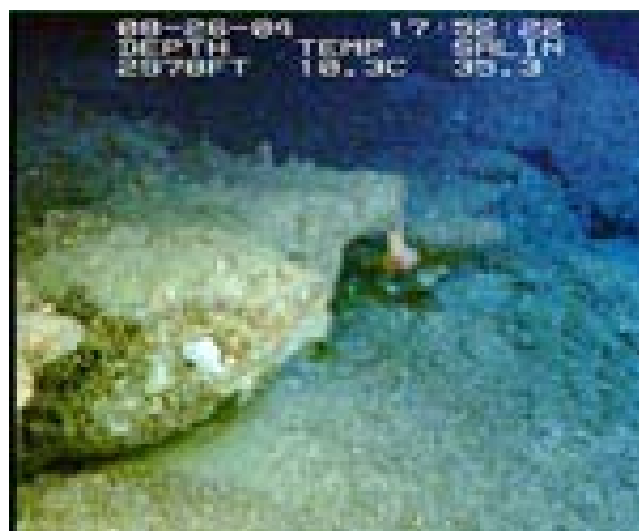
DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3467**STUDY AREA: Deep Flats****STATION OVERVIEW**

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Project | Estuary to the Abyss 2004 |
| Principal investigators | GR Sedberry ¹ |
| PI Contact Info¹ | Marine Resources Research Institute, SCDNR P.O. Box 12559 Charleston SC 29422-2559 |
| Purpose | To map, explore and describe habitats along portions of an offshore transect, while characterizing changes in biota relative to distance from shore. |
| Vessel | R/V Seward Johnson 2, Johnson Sea Link II Submersible |
| Science Divers | J Loefer (bow), K Bryan (stern) |
| External Video Tapes | 2 mini DVs |
| Internal Video Tapes | |
| Digital Still Photos | |
| Positioning System | dGPS |
| CTD File | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Specimens Collected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | |
| Acknowledgements | NOAA-OE |
| SEADESC Analyst | ML Partyka |
| Date Compiled | 11/16/2006 |

GENERAL LOCATION**Dive Track:****DIVE DATA**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Date | 26-Aug-04 |
| Minimum Bottom Depth (m) | 887 |
| Maximum Bottom Depth (m) | 908 |
| Start Bottom Time (EDT) | 16:42 |
| End Bottom End (EDT) | 18:17 |
| Starting Latitude (N) | 31° 49.686' |
| Starting Longitude (W) | 77° 31.142' |
| Ending Latitude (N) | 31° 49.464' |
| Ending Longitude (W) | 77° 31.311' |
| Surface Current (Kts) | |
| Bottom Current (Kts) | |

Image A: Rock Ledge-Fauna
31° 49.500' N, 77° 31.386' W



DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3467

STUDY AREA: Deep Flats

IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Rubble
31° 49.476' N, 77° 31.266' W



Image C: Rock Ledge-Barren
31° 49.488' N, 77° 31.368' W



Image D: Hard Coral-Fauna
31° 49.470' N, 77° 31.320' W



RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

A large number and variety of fishes were observed during the course of this dive. The most common were *Synaphobranchus affinis* and *Centroscyllium fabricii*. These were typically observed in association with the soft substrate habitat encountered at the beginning of the dive. Other species included *Myxine glutinosa*, *Nezumia sclerorhynchus* and *Chlorophthalmus agassizi*. These species were seen in a variety of habitats throughout the dive. Mobile invertebrates were represented by a large number of urchins in the soft substrate and rubble areas, abundant brittle stars in rubble and coralline habitats as well as a large red stone crab. Attached macrofauna were scarce for the majority of the dive but were found in high concentrations attached to the rocky coral substrate at the end of the dive. These included small cup corals and sponges, hydroids, *Stylaster*, and soft corals. No large sponges or gorgonians were observed during this dive.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The majority of the dive was spent on a gently sloped plain of soft sediments mixed with dense rubble with very little relief. A large rock outcrop and a densely consolidated dead coral mound were encountered near the end of the dive and were of moderate relief (1-3 m). The hard coral habitat was defined by a dense matrix of consolidated dead coral rubble with very little living coral (<5%). Most of the rubble appeared to be from *Lophelia pertusa*.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This dive was recorded on 2 mini DVs of fair quality. The footage was generally grainy and underlit, but habitat was easily distinguished as were a number of the fauna encountered throughout the dive. Sediment, coral, an eel, other fishes, and rocks were collected.