

Clelia 609

Pilot: Don Liberature

Obs 1: Sandra Brooke

Obs 2: Andrew David

Date: 08/30/01

Visibility: 20'

Depth range: 205-290'

Time: 17:58-20:13

Eau Gallie 609

Objectives: Fish assessment, Point Count and Transects

General Habitat: The portion of Eau Gallie that was explored consists of sand/shell hash bottom which gradually turns to coral rubble at the base of a ridge. The ridge itself is composed of 100% coral rubble. At the base of the ridge's peak on the NW side, there is a large rock bolder area. These bolders range from 2-4 meters across and are about 1 meter high. Many of them were highly eroded and some had dense encrusting epibiont growth. Live coral was practically absent from this dive with the exception of one isolated small live *Oculina* head found over the sand/shell hash area.

Invertebrates:

- Sand dollars were seen over the sand/shell hash bottom.
- Black long spined urchin (*Diadematidae*) were abundant on the dense rubble areas and the ridge.
- 1 hermit crab
- Brittle stars (*Ophiuroidea*) scattered

Human Impacts:

- Track-type marks were seen from the sub

Fish: Overall fish diversity was very limited over the sand and rubble bottom areas consisting mostly of just Anthiids.

- A large school of 75+ *Seriola dumerili* followed the sub throughout the dive and were very attracted to the spot light. There were a few *Seriola rivoliana* mixed in with this school.
- The most diversity occurred in the rock bolder zone where most of the commercially important species aggregated. Other species seen around the rocks were *Holanthias martinicensis*, 1 *Chaetodon aya*, 1 *Liopropoma eukrines* and 9-10 *Equetus*.

Commercially Important Species:

- **8-10 *Mycteroperca phenax*** aggregated in the rock bolder area. All of them were very large, had caudal fin exertions, and most displayed the cats paw pattern. One was definitely a male and performed a partial greyhead phase in front of the sub.
- **1 *Epinephelus drummondhayi*** was seen in the same site as the Scamp.
- **6 *Pagrus pagrus*** also inhabited the large rock bolder zone.

Other Species Observed

	Acanthurus sp.		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
A	Anthiinae		Equetus sp.		Plectranthias garrupellus
	Apogon sp	M	Equetus umbrosus		Plectrypops retrospinus
	Bodianus pulchellus		Equetus iwamotoi		Pomacetrus sp.
	Centropristis ocyurus		Gymnothorax moringa		Priacanthus arenatus
	Centropristis striata		Halichores bathyphilus		Pristigenys alta
	Centropristis fuscula		Halichores sp		Rypticus maculatus
F	Chaetodon aya	M	Hemanthias vivanus		Scorpaena
	Chaetodon ocellatus		Holacanthus bermudensis		Serranus flaviventris
S	Chaetodon sedentarias		Holacanthus ciliaris	M	Serranus phoebe
F	Chaetodon sp.	A	Holanthias martinicensis	A	Seriola dumerili
	Chromis cyanea		Holocentrus adscensionis	F	Seriola rivoliana
M	Chromis enchrysurus		Holocentrus sp.	S	Synodus sp
	Chromis scotti		Labridae		Callionymidae
	Decodon puellaris	S	Liopropoma eukrines		Canthigaster urosticta
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogcocephalus sp.		

Good Shots:

3chip 1

- 18:09RT....27:24 tape time
top of ridge with 100% dead coral rubble. Most of the site looks like this. Some areas have spur-type sand patches.

609-1.mpg

609-1.jpg

- 19:09RT.....57:33 tape
Rock bolder zone with many 2-4 meter across 1 meter high rock outcrops/bolders.

4 Scamp in view with large exertion on caudal fin, cats paw pattern display.

Possibly large males. Cubby underneath rock overhangs.

609-2.mpg

609-2.jpg

3chip2

3. 19:18RT.....02:00 tape

Partial greyhead phase Scamp

This could be either a display of territorial, feeding or mating behavior.

609-3.mpg

609-3.jpg