

Clelia 616

Pilot: Ben Chong

Obs 1: John Reed

Obs 2: Craig Russell

Date: 09/03/01

Visibility: 30'

Depth range: 220-340'

Time: 10:29-12:07

Cape Canaveral 616

Objectives: Coral, transects

General habitat: During this Cape Canaveral dive the target area was a large pinnacle/dune. The majority of the bottom surrounding it consisted of dead coral rubble. Many purple gorgonians, about 6 different species of sponge, wire coral and a small amount of red blade algae were associated with this rubble bottom.

- Large rock boulders (10' across, 2' high) and a few intact dead *Oculina* heads were seen in transit to the pinnacle area.
- Once at the Northern slope nothing but 100% dead coral rubble was seen. No standing coral was visible.
- At the Western base 5'-10' across, 3' high rock boulders were spotted. The bottom around them is composed of sand/shell hash and many other small rock boulders. Up higher on the Western slope more big boulders were seen as well as some standing dead *Oculina*.
*larger fish species are most abundant here
- The peak is covered in 100% dead rubble with a few small 1-2' outcrops of dead coral. Some of the dead coral was still sort of white/ recently dead. (J. Reed on tapes says that 30 yrs ago 20% was live)
- On the flank there is mostly sand/very broken down coral hash bottom, not as mush rubble as other sites.
- Eastern base/side of peak is composed of a sand bottom with 1-2' dead intact *Oculina* heads with a few small sprigs of live coral on them. Also some 1-2' across live *Oculina* heads were seen!

Invertebrates:

- Orange and brown sponges common (6 different species seen)
- Hydroids present on rocks
- About one long spined black urchin (*Diadematidae*) every 20' in some areas. Off the top of the pinnacle there was a steep drop-off into a shallow bowl which was densely populated by these urchins
- Pencil urchins (*Eucidaria*) scattered about
- Starfish (*Asteroidea*) and Brittle stars (*Ophiuroidea*) scattered
- A few anemones

Human Impacts:

- The top of the pinnacle has a smooth rounded top to it with a large groove running

through it

- While heading East down the North slope a large linear track was spotted -2' wide, 1/2' deep running E-W

Fish:

- Fish species both large and small were few and sparse. The majority of species were spotted by the rock bolders seen on the Western slope and the few clumps of live *Oculina* on the East slope. There were very few species over the rubble bottom elsewhere.

Commercially Important Species

- large 10' across 2' high rock bolder at beginning of dive (10:35)--**1 *Mycteroperca phenax***-brown phase
- western base/slope around the rock bolders (10:57)-- **3 *M. phenax***- 2 in cats paw phase with large exertions and **1 *Epinephelus drummondhayi***

4 *Mycteroperca phenax* total on dive and 1 *E. drummondhayi*

Other Species Observed

	<i>Acanthurus</i> sp.		<i>Equetus lanceolatus</i>		<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.
A	Anthiinae		<i>Equetus</i> sp.		<i>Plectranthias garrupellus</i>
	<i>Apogon pseudomaculatus</i>		<i>Equetus umbrosus</i>		<i>Plectrypops retrospinus</i>
	<i>Bodianus pulchellus</i>		<i>Equetus iwamotoi</i>		<i>Pomacetrus</i> sp.
	<i>Centropristis ocyurus</i>		<i>Gymnothorax moringa</i>		<i>Priacanthus arenatus</i>
	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	F	<i>Halichores bathyphilus</i>		<i>Pristigenys alta</i>
S	<i>Centropristis fuscula</i>	S	<i>Halichores</i> sp.		<i>Rypticus maculatus</i>
F	<i>Chaetodon aya</i>	M	<i>Hemanthias vivanus</i>		<i>Scorpaena</i>
	<i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i>	S	<i>Holacanthus bermudensis</i>		<i>Serranus flaviventris</i>
S	<i>Chaetodon sedentarias</i>		<i>Holacanthus ciliaris</i>	F	<i>Serranus phoebe</i>
	<i>Chaetodon</i> sp.	A	<i>Holanthias martinicensis</i>	M	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>
	<i>Chromis cyanea</i>		<i>Holocentrus adscensionis</i>	F	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>
F	<i>Chromis enchrysurus</i>		<i>Holocentrus</i> sp.		<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i>

	Acanthurus sp.		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
A	Anthiinae		Equetus sp.		Plectranthias garrupellus
	Chromis scotti		Labridae		Callionymidae
	Decodon puellaris	S	Liopropoma eukrines		Canthigaster urosticta
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogocephalus sp.		Canthigaster sp

Good shots::

3chip1-

1. 31:16 2 Large cats paw Scamp in rock bolder zone
616-1.mpg
616-1.jpg
2. 00:48:10 tape time 11:17 RT
top of pinnacle shot- 100% dead Oculina rubble, some recently dead
no fish
616-2.mpg
616-2.jpg
3. 00:55:03 tape time 11:23 Rt- 11:25
track marks- Straight linear line, groove through rubble
10' below peak of pinnacle
616-3.mpg
616-3.jpg

3chip2

4. 11:38:00RT 00:02:53 tape
live Oculina head about 1' across on Eastern side of peak, some dead intact as
well
sand bottom/very little coral rubble; Apparently this is what is left of the reef.
@11:39Rt 00:03:46 S. dumerili come in and C. aya
616-4.mpg
616-4.jpg

