

Clelia 619

Pilot: Askew

Obs1: Andy David

Obs 2:

Date: 09/04/01

Visibility: 30-40'

Depth range: 250-290'

Time: 15:43-18:53

Sebastian 619

Objectives: Reefball assessment

General Habitat: This part of the Sabastian area is very barren with undulating small rolling dunes of sand/shell/very broken rubble hash. There are a few rises and some completely flat areas with this same type of hash bottom.

- Small rock out crops were scattered about. These outcrops usually had some isolated live *Oculina* heads associated with them and more intact dead coral. There were 2-3 large rock outcrops/ridges (8-15') spaced out over this area. All of the larger relief usually had a few live chunks of *Oculina* and other epibionts growing on it.
- Reefballs and disks in this site provided good habitat for life in these barren. Some had small pieces of transplanted live coral growth.

Invertebrates: seemed very sparse

- Black long spined urchins (*Diadematidae*) were mostly seen on the isolated high relief rock structures and some reefballs. Pencil urchins (*Eucidaria*) were very scattered as well.
- 1 white/lime green stalked anemone seen on a rise.
- 1 small sponge over the rubble bottom
- 3 Brittle stars (*Ophiuroidea*)
- 1-2 *Anomura* (hermit crabs)

Human Impacts:

- Some line seen at end of dive.
- Sub found 2 disk sites and found 25/25 in each
 - each site had about one or two disks with a small bits of live *Oculina* on the tips of the PVC pipe
 - not many fish associated with the disks
- Sub found 3 reefball sites
 1. At the first site 2/5 were spotted. There was no live *Oculina* attached to either one. One of the reefballs had its entire top broken off. Very few fish species in this area.
 2. On the 2nd site 18/20 were located. All were in good shape, about 4 upside down, 4 on side, and about 4 with live *Oculina* fragments. Many fish and a few invertebrates were associated with these reefballs.
 3. At the third site 2/10 reefballs were found.

Fish:

- Fish were few and sparse over open rubble bottom. Some small aggregations were seen on the small relief rock outcrops scattered about. These included only the small species. *Serranus phoebe* were scattered over the whole area.
- The most fish and the most diversity seen at one time was at the large reefball site. This site had about 18/20 reefballs, some live *Oculina* fragments and was located in the same proximity as a high relief rock bolder/outcrop area.

Commercially Important Species

- Larger species were mostly seen in the reefball and rock outcrop areas except for a stray Red Snapper
- No grouper aggregations observed
- At large reefball site, 1 Snowy and 1 Speckled hind were spotted inside of 2 reefballs adjacent to each other.

Species	# in Rock Outcrop Area	# in Reefball Area	# in Rubble/Sand bottom	Total
Lutjanus campechanus	6-7	3	1	10-11
Mycteroperca phenax	2-3			2-3
Epinephelus drummondhayi	1	1		2
Epinephelus niveatus		1		1

Other Species Observed

M	Anthiinae		Equetus sp.		<i>Plectranthias garrupellus</i>
S	<i>Apogon</i> sp.		<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>	M	<i>Halichores bathyphilus</i>	F	<i>Pristigenys alta</i>
	<i>Centropristis fuscula</i>		<i>Halichores</i> sp		<i>Rypticus maculatus</i>
F	<i>Chaetodon aya</i>	F	<i>Hemanthias vivanus</i>		<i>Scorpaena</i>

M	Anthiinae		Equetus sp.		Plectranthias garrupellus
	Chaetodon ocellatus	F	Holacanthus bermudensis		Serranus flaviventris
F	Chaetodon sedentarias		Holacanthus ciliaris	A	Serranus phoebe
	Chaetodon sp.	A	Holanthias martinicensis	A	Seriola dumerili
	Chromis cyanea	F	Holocentrus adscensionis	S	Seriola rivoliana
	Chromis enchrysurus	S	Holocentrus sp.		Sphoeroides spengleri
	Chromis scotti		Labridae		Callionymidae
	Decodon puellaris	S	Liopropoma eukrines	S	Canthigaster urosticta
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogcocephalus sp.		Canthigaster sp

Good shots:

3chip1

1. 19:53
disks with *S. dumerili* swimming through, rubble/sand bottom, very flat, not many fish at all around disks, very small bit of live coral growth

619-1.mpg

619-1.jpg

2. 25:43 Ball with top off, how did it happen?

619-2.mpg

619-2.jpg

- 3.. 16:03rt 09:36

This is what most of bottom looks like! Bottom shot, rubble/sand mix, *S.*

Dumerili following sub (100+) and one *L. Camp* comes into view

619-3.mpg

619-3.jpg

3chip2

4. 00:47:18 Speckled and Snowy inhabiting reefballs, Snowy swims by as a shy

Speckled Hind hides in 1st reef ball

619-4.mpg

619-4.jpg

- 5.. 010034 *Oculina* on reefball, urchin, Greater Amberjack present

619-5.mpg

619-5.jpg

6. 01:03:34 High relief rock structure with Red Snapper, black urchins. Other large species in this area included Scamp and a Snowy Grouper

619-6.mpg

619-6.jpg