

Clelia 620

Pilot: Don Liberature

Obs 1: Andy David

Obs2: John Brooks

Date: 09/05/01

Visibility: 35-40'

Depth range: 220-260'

Time: 08:14-10:12

Chapmans 620

Objectives: Filming and Habitat Assessment

Habitat: Chapman's Reef consists of a series of beautiful *Oculina* ridges. Two of these ridges were explored on this dive. Live *Oculina* and large standing dead colonies were almost everywhere one looked.. A few purple gorgonians were scattered between the coral heads.

- The upper slopes of the ridges consisted of large 1-3' colonies of live *Oculina*. At least 20-40% of the surface was live. These colonies were grouped together into large mounds. Some were completely live while others were dead intact *Oculina* colonies with just the outer tips alive.
- On the top of the first ridge there was a large 2 meter tall, 3 foot diameter, live *Oculina* head/mound. This head could be as much as 150 years old!
- In the trough between the 2 ridges there was some dead coral rubble but overall there was mostly small live *Oculina* clumps and dead intact *Oculina* with some live tips.
- Rubble seemed to be sparse over these 2 ridges.

Invertebrates:

- Black spiny urchins (*Diadematidae*) were very scattered apart. They were seen on live coral, dead coral, rubble, and the reef blocks.
- Yellow encrusting sponge was seen a few times on dead coral.
- One large hermit crab (*Anomura*) was seen in a small sand patch between large coral heads.

Human Impacts:

- 1 old fish trap
- 2 reef block sites
 - One reefblock site had blocks still intact with a buoy attached. This one seemed to have landed on a *Oculina* head. There was dead and live coral all around it, as well as on it.
 - The other set of blocks had broken apart and did not have any visible *Oculina* growth. The fish seemed to enjoy the habitat it provided though.

Fish:

A variety of species were abundant on this reef.

- The most numerous species were the Anthiids. *Hemathias vivanus* swarmed in

the 1000's around the coral heads and dove into them on occasion. *Holanthias martinicensis* were mixed in with this bunch and seemed to be out numbered maybe 10/1.

- *Chaetodon aya* and *Chaetodon sedentarias* were present but it was obvious that *C. aya* was the most abundant of the butterfly fish.
- *Holacanthus bermudensis* were seen in groups of 8-12. This site may be a spawning grounds for them.
- A large school of about 150+ *Seriola dumerili* followed the sub throughout the dive hovering both in front and behind the sub. About 5-10 fish in this school were *Seriola rivoliana*.
- One moray eel (*Gymnothorax moringa*) was seen hiding in a large coral head.
- One large reef shark was seen upon descent but not caught on film.

Commercially important species:

- *Epinephelus adscensionis*- 1
- *Calamus* sp- 1
- ***Mycteroperca phenax***- about 10-12, possibly more. There were no large scamp aggregations. They did meander around in small groups of 2-6.
- ***Epinephelus drummondhayi***- 1; The Speckled Hind was a juvenile.

Other Species Observed

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

A	Anthiinae		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
	Chromis scotti		Labridae		Synodus sp
	Decodon puellaris	F	Liopropoma eukrines		Callionymidae
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogcocephalus sp.		Canthigaster urosticta

Good shots:

3chip2-

1. 31:43 Juvenile Speckled Hind.
620-1.mpg
620-1.jpg

High def>

2. 13:09 Very large Oculina head; Blue Angelfish present but not in view
Greater Amberjacks in view
620-2.mpg
620-2.jpg
3. 22:24 Abundant Red Barbiers and Rough Tongue Bass; a Scamp swims through
620-3.mpg
620-3.jpg
4. 24:56 Broken blocks with no live coral
620-4.mpg
620-4.jpg
5. 26:56 Fish trap with yellow sponge, Bank Butterflyfish and a Wrasse Bass
620-5.mpg
620-5.jpg
6. 31:34 Reef blocks intact with live Oculina growth.
620-6.mpg
620-6.jpg
7. 36:18 Nice Oculina ridge
620-7.mpg
620-7.jpg
8. 42:38 Red Barbiers with live coral, coral looks fuzzy because the polyps are extended. There is a gorgonian in the background.
620-8.mpg
620-8.jpg

