## DIVE NUMBER: JSLI-4364

# STUDY AREA: Cape Lookout Lophelia A

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JIAH	UVERVIEW	

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Project	Islands in the Stream 2001	
Principal investigators	SW Ross <sup>1</sup>	
	KJ Sulak, E Baird	
PI Contact Info <sup>1</sup>	Center for Marine Science, 5600 Marvin Moss Ln. Wilmington NC 28409	
Purpose	Continued trophodynamic studies off North Carolina; mapping of deep coral banks and ecological studies of macroinvertebrates and fishes; educational outreach	
Vessel	R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link I Submersible	
Science Divers	J Caruso (bow), KJ Sulak (stern)	
External Video Tapes	3 mini DVs	
Internal Video Tapes	3 mini DVs	
Digital Still Photos	0	
Positioning System	dGPS	
CTD File		
Specimens Collected		
Other	No bow audio log, hard copy of stern audio log	
Acknowledgements	NOAA-OE, USGS, UNCW, NC Coastal Reserve, NC Museum of Natural Sciences	
SEADESC Analyst	AM Necaise, AM Quattrini, ML Partyka	
Date Compiled	11/16/2006	









### **DIVE DATA**

Date	23-Sep-01
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	398
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	443
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	16:02
End Bottom End (EDT)	18:53
Starting Latitude (N)	34° 18.840'
Starting Longitude (W)	75° 47.013'
Ending Latitude (N)	34° 18.765'
Ending Longitude (W)	75° 47.130'
Surface Current (Kts)	
Bottom Current (Kts)	

Image A: Hard Coral 34º 18.762' N, 75º 47.124' W



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#### **IMAGE GALLERY**

Image B: Rubble 34° 18.822' N, 75° 47.094' W \* indicates image position is approximated

Image C: Hard Coral 34° 18.792' N, 75° 47.094' W Image D: Hard Coral 34º 18.768' N, 75º 47.124' W



#### **RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED**

Uchupi (1967) R/V Eastward training cruise 1966 (photo in Rowe and Menzies 1968 and Menzies et al. 1973) NR-1 submersible cruise Nov 1993 (Sulak and Ross unpubl. data) R/V Cape Hatteras cruises Aug 2001 & Sep 2006 (S.W. Ross, unpubl. data) EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991) Reed and Ross (2005) Ross and Nizinski (in press)

#### **BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

A diversity of fishes were identified over both rubble and hard coral habitats during this dive. The most common species were found in both habitats and included *Laemonema melanurum*, *L. barbatulum* and *Scyliorhinus retifer*. *Trachyscorpia cristulata, Fenestraja plutonia* and *Helicolenus dactylopterus* were only seen over the rubble and low-relief dead coral matrix areas of the dive. *Dysommina rugosa, Conger oceanicus* and *Hoplostethus occidentalis* were observed within the prime reef area.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive began over a flat rubble plain. The submersible transected to the main target up a relatively steep slope (~ 50°) covered in dense rubble and eventually a dense dead coral matrix of cemented rubble. The majority of the dive was spent over a large *Lophelia pertusa* reef without attached fauna covering a series of steep ridges and valleys. The reef in this area varied from other dives in that the coral branches were less robust, forming lacy thickets with large interstices. There was also a larger percentage of live coral growth. The valleys between the coral thickets were typically filled with a mixture of sand and rubble.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

This dive was contained in 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. There was no time or CTD overlay for this dive. Most of the first DV was spent transecting to the target site. A lot of video time covers the attempts to rotenone and capture fish, so little time was spent filming the reef in wide angle. The internal video was used in a number of instances for fish identifications.