DIVE NUMBER: JSLI-4694

STUDY AREA: Cape Lookout Lophelia B

STATION OVERVIEW

Project Life on the Edge 2004

Principal investigators SW Ross¹

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Purpose Mapping of deep coral banks, ecological studies

of macroinvertebrates and fishes, paleoclimate studies, coral genetics and educational outreach

R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link I Vessel

Submersible

Science Divers SW Ross (bow), TL Casazza (stern)

External Video Tapes 3 mini DVs, 2 HDs

3 mini DVs **Internal Video Tapes**

Digital Still Photos 0

Positioning System dGPS

CTD File V V

Specimens Collected

Other Hard copy of stern audio log

NOAA-OE, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, UNCW, NC Acknowledgements

Museum of Natural Sciences

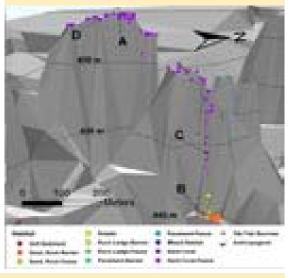
SEADESC Analyst AM Necaise, ML Partyka

Date Compiled 11/16/2006

GENERAL LOCATION



Dive Track:



DIVE DATA

| Date | 16-Jun-04 |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Minimum Bottom Depth (m) | 387 |
| Maximum Bottom Depth (m) | 440 |
| Start Bottom Time (EDT) | 8:29 |
| End Bottom End (EDT) | 10:41 |
| Starting Latitude (N) | 34° 11.277' |
| Starting Longitude (W) | 75° 53.618' |
| Ending Latitude (N) | 34° 11.284' |
| Ending Longitude (W) | 75° 53.788' |
| Surface Current (Kts) | |
| Bottom Current (Kts) | 0.6 |

Image A: Hard Coral 34° 11.250' N, 75° 53.802' W *



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IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Sand/Rubble/Rock-Barren

34° 11.262' N, 75° 53.616' W *



Image C: Hard Coral 34° 11.274' N, 75° 53.640' W





Image D: Hard Coral

34° 11.232' N. 75° 53.826' W

RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

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

On the rubble and sand/rubble habitats, several *Laemonema barbatulum* and one squalid shark were observed. Invertebrates were not as common in these habitats as they were in the hard coral habitat. Brittle stars were the most abundant invertebrate in the hard coral (*Lophelia pertusa*) habitat area, covering the surface of and occupying all spaces in the dead coral matrices. Other invertebrates observed in the hard coral area were a few anemones, fly trap anemones, urchins, sea stars, squid, hexactinellid sponges, *Novodinia antillensis*, and *Eumunida picta*. Fishes were also more diverse in the hard coral habitat, and included *Conger oceanicus*, *Dysommina rugosa*, *Beryx decadactylus*, and *Hoplostethus occidentalis*.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

A strong current was present during most of this dive as the submersible traversed over three different habitat types: sand/coral rubble, coral rubble, and hard coral (*Lophelia pertusa*). Attached fauna was sparse throughout all habitats. Sand mixed with some coral rubble was on the base of a slope, whereas coral rubble was observed up slope. *Lophelia pertusa* was present near and at the top of the slope in large mounds that were densely packed and made up of mostly dead coral. Few (~10%) twigs and bushes of live coral were present throughout this area. Few anemones were sparsely attached to these dead coral mounds.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This dive was recorded on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. The third DV has only 5 minutes of video. There is good footage of a *Conger oceanicus*.