# **DIVE NUMBER: JSLI-4698**

# STUDY AREA: Stetson Banks

### **STATION OVERVIEW**

Project	Life on the Edge 2004
Principal investigators	SW Ross <sup>1</sup>
	KJ Sulak, MS Nizinski, E Baird
PI Contact Info <sup>1</sup>	Center for Marine Science, 5600 Marvin Moss Ln., Wilmington, NC 28409
Purpose	Mapping of deep coral banks, ecological studies of macroinvertebrates and fishes, paleoclimate studies, coral genetics and educational outreach
Vessel	R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link I Submersible
Science Divers	SW Ross (bow), G Yeargin (stern)
External Video Tapes	2 mini DVs, 2 HDs
Internal Video Tapes	4 mini DVs
Digital Still Photos	0
Positioning System	dGPS
CTD File	
Specimens Collected	
Other	Hard copy of stern audio log
Acknowledgements	NOAA-OE, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, UNCW, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
SEADESC Analyst	AM Necaise, ML Partyka
Date Compiled	11/16/2006







#### **DIVE DATA**

Date	18-Jun-04
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	660
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	703
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	9:42
End Bottom End (EDT)	11:31
Starting Latitude (N)	31° 49.454'
Starting Longitude (W)	77° 36.693'
Ending Latitude (N)	31° 49.561'
Ending Longitude (W)	77° 36.788'
Surface Current (Kts)	
Bottom Current (Kts)	

Image A: Hard Coral 31º 49.542' N, 77º 36.828' W



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#### **IMAGE GALLERY**

Image B: Mixed Habitat 31º 49.524' N, 77º 36.762' W \* indicates image position is approximated

Image C: Mixed Habitat 31º 49.530' N, 77º 36.738' W Image D: Mixed Habitat (No Position Available)



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

Stetson (1961) Stetson et al. (1962) EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991) Reed (2002) Reed and Ross (2005) Reed et al. (2006) Williams et al. (2006) Williams et al. (in press) Ross and Nizinski (in press)

#### **BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

Several fishes were seen throughout this area. *Laemonema melanurum* was most abundant and observed throughout all habitats. Other fishes observed included *Nezumia sclerorhynchus* and *Trachyscorpia cristulata*. Sessile invertebrates were diverse and common and included several species of antipatharians, isidids, alcyonaceans, and scleractinians. Mobile invertebrates observed included galatheids and *Bathynectes longispina*.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Four habitat types were observed during this dive: 1) mixed coral community, 2) rock ledges with attached fauna, 3) coral rubble, and 4) sand and coral rubble with attached fauna. Habitats in this entire area were patchy, and the four habitats were intermittently observed. The mixed community consisted of antipatharians, isidids, cup corals, alcyonaceans, and isolated colonies of *Lophelia pertusa* and *Enallopsammia* spp. Corals in this mixed community were attached to coral rubble and sand/coral rubble substrate, and this substrate was generally overlain with a crustose sediment layer. Rock ledges were of fairly low profile (< 1m) and also had mixtures of corals attached.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

This dive was captured on 2 mini DVs and archived on 2 DVDs. The video during transects was often underlit and the sub frequently left the bottom, but there is some good footage of *Laemonema melanurum* and of mixed habitat communities.