

**DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3419**

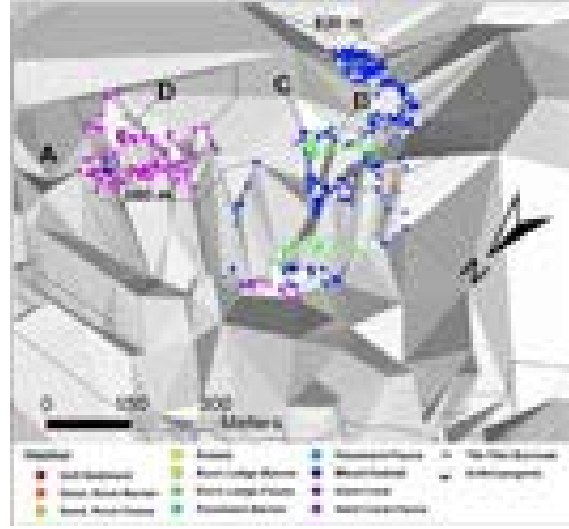
**STUDY AREA: Stetson Banks**

STATION OVERVIEW	
<b>Project</b>	Life on the Edge 2003
<b>Principal investigators</b>	SW Ross <sup>1</sup> KJ Sulak, MS Nizinski, E Baird
<b>PI Contact Info<sup>1</sup></b>	Center for Marine Science, 5600 Marvin Moss Ln., Wilmington, NC 28409
<b>Purpose</b>	Mapping of deep coral banks, ecological studies of macroinvertebrates and fishes, paleoclimate studies, coral genetics and educational outreach
<b>Vessel</b>	R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link II Submersible
<b>Science Divers</b>	AM Quattrini (bow), KJ Sulak (stern)
<b>External Video Tapes</b>	3 mini DVs
<b>Internal Video Tapes</b>	1 mini DV
<b>Digital Still Photos</b>	72
<b>Positioning System</b>	dGPS
<b>CTD File</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Specimens Collected</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b>	Hard copies of bow and stern audio logs
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	NOAA-OE, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, UNCW, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
<b>SEADESC Analyst</b>	AM Quattrini, ML Partyka
<b>Date Compiled</b>	11/16/2006

**GENERAL LOCATION**



**Dive Track:**



**DIVE DATA**

<b>Date</b>	17-Aug-03
<b>Minimum Bottom Depth (m)</b>	592
<b>Maximum Bottom Depth (m)</b>	622
<b>Start Bottom Time (EDT)</b>	8:40
<b>End Bottom End (EDT)</b>	10:51
<b>Starting Latitude (N)</b>	32° 01.746'
<b>Starting Longitude (W)</b>	77° 40.441'
<b>Ending Latitude (N)</b>	32° 02.005'
<b>Ending Longitude (W)</b>	77° 40.486'
<b>Surface Current (Kts)</b>	
<b>Bottom Current (Kts)</b>	0.7

**Image A: Hard Coral-Fauna**  
32° 02.022' N, 77° 40.446' W



Excerpt from: Southeastern United States Deep-Sea Corals (SEADESC) Initiative: A Collaborative Effort to Characterize Areas of Habitat-Forming Deep-Sea Corals (Partyka et al., 2007)

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## STUDY AREA: Stetson Banks

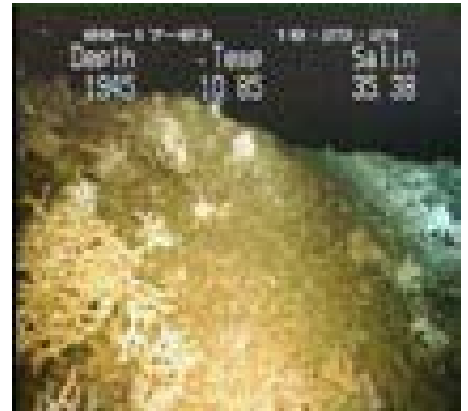
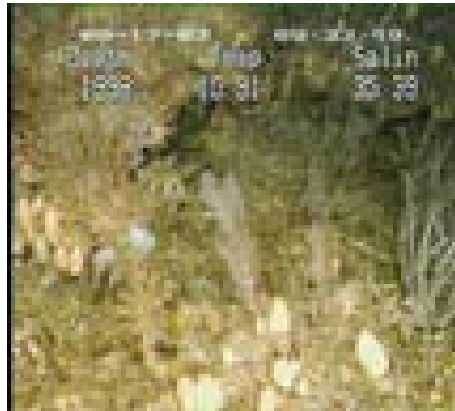
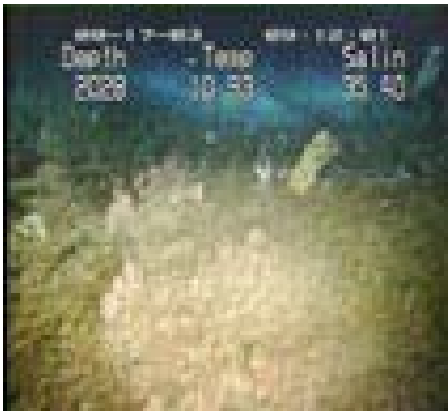
### IMAGE GALLERY

\* indicates image position is approximated

**Image B: Mixed Habitat**  
32° 01.812' N, 77° 40.512' W

**Image C: Rock Ledge-Fauna**  
32° 01.890' N, 77° 40.500' W

**Image D: Hard Coral-Fauna**  
32° 02.010' N, 77° 40.452' W



### RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

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

### BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Only two species of fish were observed during this dive, *Nezumia sclerorhynchus* and *Laemonema melanurum*. Mobile invertebrates were found in low numbers; the most common were spiny and pancake urchins. *Eumunida picta* and *Bathynectes longispina* were present. The area was dominated by sessile invertebrates, at times forming a densely populated live bottom habitat consisting of hydroids, primnoids, plexaurids, isidids (*Acanella*), numerous dendrophyllids, hexactinellid sponges, *Stylaster* and *Lophelia pertusa*. The distinction between mixed habitat and hard coral habitat was determined by the amount of *Lophelia* present, though many of the same species were present in both areas.

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive began over a relatively flat region of sediment and rubble, covered with sparse fauna, grading into a more dense, though still low-relief, mixed coral habitat. Some low rock ledges encrusted with small hydroids and soft corals were observed. These ledges appeared to be heavily cemented rubble that had been undercut, rather than solid rock. Two-thirds of the way through the dive the habitat shifted dramatically with an abrupt embankment dropping away at a steep (~70°) angle. This slope was dominated by medium sized growths (>1m) of *Lophelia pertusa* that was surrounded and covered by macrofauna such as hydroids, small sponges and octocorals.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This dive was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. The center of the footage appears out of focus because of condensation on the inner lens of the camera. Video recorded during transects was occasionally filmed too closely and lit too brightly for perspective on the surrounding habitat.