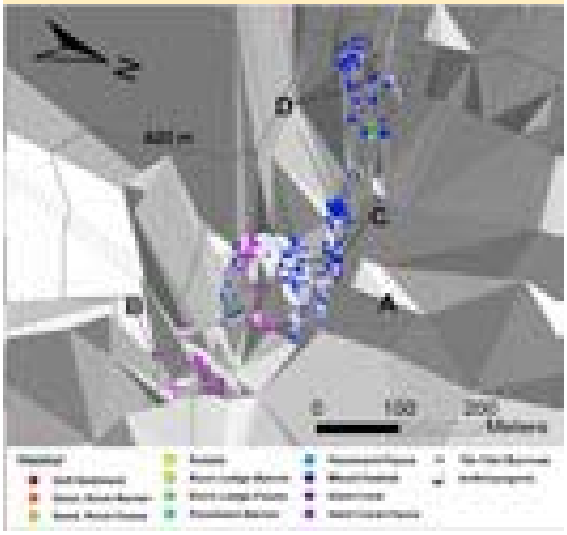
DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3420 *STUDY AREA: Stetson Banks*

STATION OVERVIEW

Project	Life on the Edge 2003
Principal investigators	SW Ross[1] KJ Sulak, MS Nizinski, E Baird
PI Contact Info[1]	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 II Submersible
Science Divers	M Nizinski (bow), A Brooks (stern)
External Video Tapes	2 mini DVs
Internal Video Tapes	1 mini DV
Digital Still Photos	0
Positioning System	dGPS
CTD File	☑
Specimens Collected	☑
Other	Hard copies of bow and stern audio logs
Acknowledgements	NOAA-OE, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, UNCW, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
SEADESC Analyst	AM Quattrini, ML Partyka
Date Compiled	11/16/2006

GENERAL LOCATION

Dive Track:



DIVE DATA

Date	17-Aug-03
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	624
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	640
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	16:18
End Bottom End (EDT)	18:24
Starting Latitude (N)	32° 02.012'
Starting Longitude (W)	77° 40.706'
Ending Latitude (N)	32° 02.039'
Ending Longitude (W)	77° 40.927'
Surface Current (Kts)	
Bottom Current (Kts)	0.8

Image A: Mixed Habitat
32° 02.052' N, 77° 40.806' W

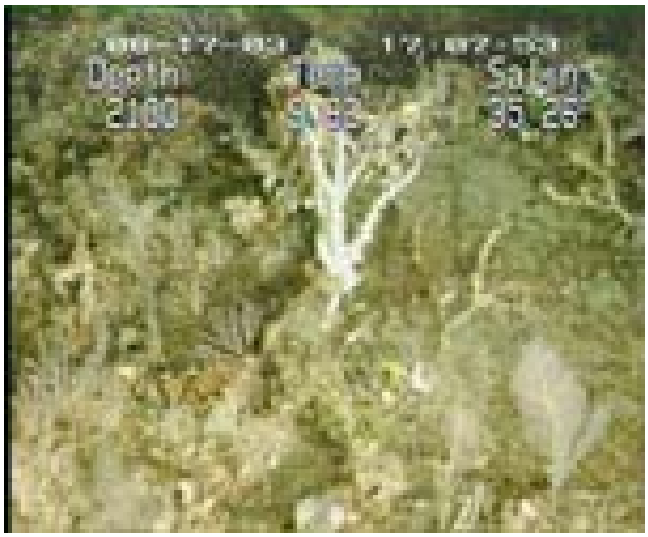


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IMAGE GALLERY

*** indicates image position is approximated**

Image B: Hard Coral-Fauna
32° 01.980' N, 77° 40.704' W

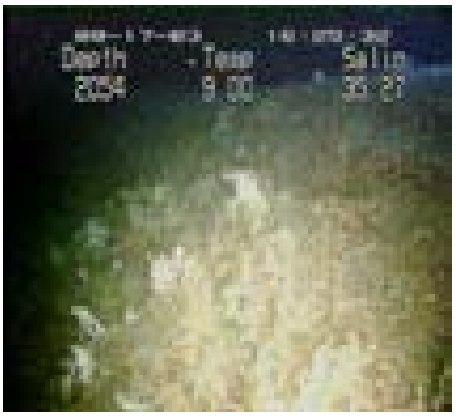
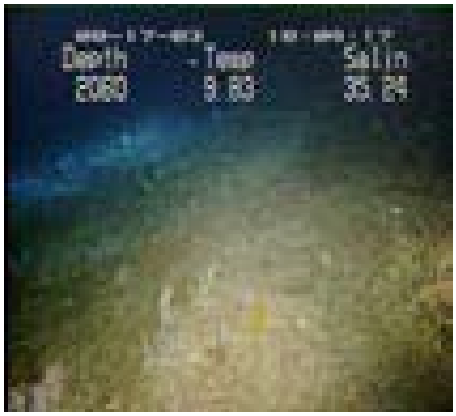


Image C: Mixed Habitat
32° 02.052' N, 77° 40.818' W

Image D: Mixed Habitat
32° 02.022' N, 77° 40.914' 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

Very few species of fish or mobile invertebrates were observed during this dive. The most common fish species were *Nezumia sclerorhynchus, Laemonema barbatulum, L. melanurum* and *Chlorophthalmus agassizi*. Of the mobile invertebrates, pancake and spiny urchins were the most common, while only a few *Bathynectes longispina* were observed. The sessile invertebrates were highly diverse and abundant in this area. The dominant groups in the area were hydroids, primnoids, dendrophyllids, hexactinellid sponges and small colonies of *Lophelia pertusa*.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive followed a ridge with a precipitous drop on one side (70° slope) and a flat plateau on the other. The habitat in the area varied from hard coral to mixed to rock ledge, all of which had a dense coverage of attached macrofauna. The underlying substrate in these regions seemed to be dense coral rubble mixed with fine sediment. The rock ledge areas appeared to be made up of heavily cemented slabs of coral rubble that had been undercut, rather than solid rock.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This dive was recorded on 2 mini DVs and archived on 2 DVDs. Condensation on the inner camera lens obscured the center of the viewing field. The lighting was occasionally too bright, making identification of habitat components difficult. Additionally, there is a 30 minute gap between the DVs and no internal bow video from which to recover those data.