

DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3465**STUDY AREA: Stetson Banks South**

STATION OVERVIEW		GENERAL LOCATION
Project	Estuary to the Abyss 2004	
Principal investigators	GR Sedberry ¹	
PI Contact Info¹	Marine Resources Research Institute, SCDNR P.O. Box 12559 Charleston SC 29422-2559	
Purpose	To map, explore and describe habitats along portions of an offshore transect, while characterizing changes in biota relative to distance from shore.	
Vessel	R/V Seward Johnson 2, Johnson Sea Link II Submersible	
Science Divers	J Stephen (bow), P Mikell (stern)	
External Video Tapes	2 mini DVs	
Internal Video Tapes		
Digital Still Photos		
Positioning System	dGPS	
CTD File	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dive Track:
Specimens Collected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other		
Acknowledgements	NOAA-OE	
SEADESC Analyst	ML Partyka	
Date Compiled	11/16/2006	

DIVE DATA		Image A: Mixed Habitat 31° 23.898' N, 77° 51.096' W
Date	25-Aug-04	
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	740	
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	786	
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	17:10	
End Bottom End (EDT)	19:15	
Starting Latitude (N)	31° 23.886'	
Starting Longitude (W)	77° 51.067'	
Ending Latitude (N)	31° 24.174'	
Ending Longitude (W)	77° 50.872'	
Surface Current (Kts)		
Bottom Current (Kts)		

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IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Rubble
31° 23.922' N, 77° 51.018' W

Image C: Hard Coral-Barren
31° 23.970' N, 77° 50.958' W

Image D: Mixed Habitat
31° 24.096' N, 77° 50.874' W



RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

Popenoe and Manheim (2001)

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

A number of fishes were seen during the course of this dive, though the majority of them were represented by single individuals. Some of the species observed included *Nezumia sclerorhynchus*, *Nettenchelys exoria*, *Merluccius albidus*, *Hoplostethus occidentalis* and *Trachyscorpia cristulata*. Mobile invertebrates were limited and represented by pancake urchins, brittle stars and a large red shrimp seen swimming across the bottom. Small macrofauna were difficult to see when the sub was not stationary, however higher-relief fauna like bamboo and black corals were more easily distinguished. Only one large sponge was seen during the course of this dive.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive began in a rubble strewn habitat along a shallow ridge-line. Transects continued up a steep slope (50-60°) over a mixed habitat with a dense layer of coral rubble with some small living corals and attached fauna. The top of the ridge was covered with a thick dead coral matrix with less than 5% living coral. The dive proceeded down the slope and over a relatively flat area with a series of small ridges and rises alternating between low-relief mixed habitats and expanses of coral rubble with sparsely attached fauna. The dive continued to another steep rise (~70°) covered in dense dead coral, primarily *Lophelia pertusa*, with attached macrofauna at its summit.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This dive was recorded on two mini DVs. The majority of this video was underlit and filmed too far off the bottom for easy habitat identification and description. Additionally, there was condensation on the inner lens of the camera that further obscured the view. Crinoids, sediment, coral, rocks, and sponges were collected.