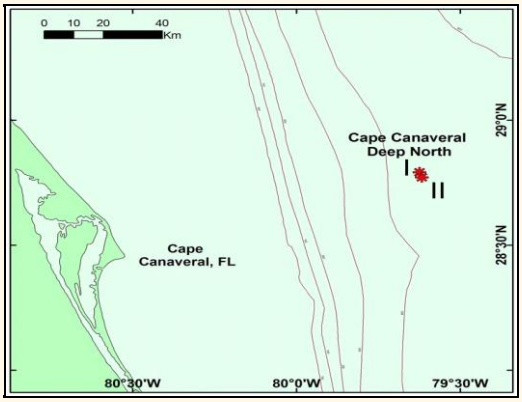
Site Characterization — *Cape Canaveral Deep North*

OVERVIEW

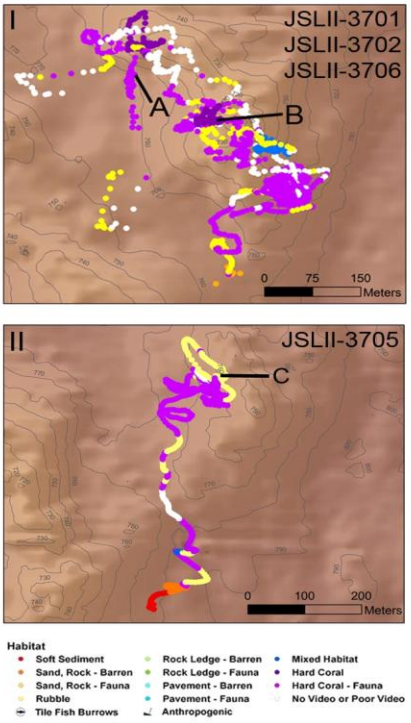
Total Dives 4

Depth Range (m): 712 to 778

GENERAL LOCATION



HABITAT CHARACTERIZATION MAPS



DIVE SUMMARY FOR SITE

Dive Date	PI	Station	Method	Start-Time	End-Time	Start-Lat (N)	Start-Long (W)	End-Lat (N)	End-Long (W)
07-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3701	HOV	9:25	11:43	28° 47.518'	79° 37.458'	28° 47.534'	79° 37.311'
07-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3702	HOV	19:21	11:43	28° 47.579'	79° 37.281'	28° 47.570'	79° 37.366'
09-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3705	HOV	8:47	11:08	28° 46.306'	79° 37.024'	28° 46.526'	79° 36.955'
09-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3706	HOV	17:10	19:05	28° 47.421'	79° 37.360'	28° 47.478'	79° 37.334'

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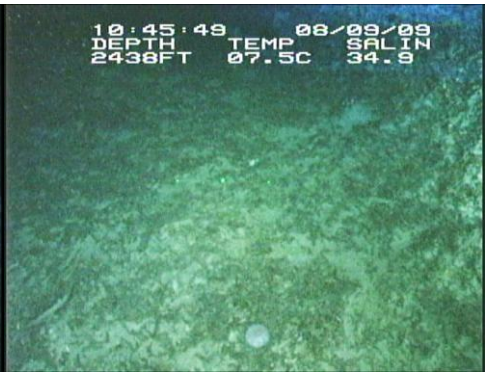
IMAGE GALLERY *** indicates image position is approximated**

Image A: Hard Coral - with Attached Fauna
28° 47.617' N, 79° 37.440' W

Image B: Hard Coral - without Attached Fauna
28° 47.572' N, 79° 37.362' W

Image C: Rubble
28° 46.556' N, 79° 36.954' W



SITE OVERVIEW **AUTHOR** SW Ross **DATE COMPILED** 25-Jan-2013

The site called Cape Canaveral Deep North was previously explored in cruises led by S. Brooke, J. Reed, and S.W. Ross. Multibeam sonar data were collected for part of this region during the 2010 Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology program cruise as well as other NOAA sponsored cruises. Four dives were completed at this site during the 2009 DSCRT program cruise.

The Canaveral deep north site is distinguished from the Canaveral deep south site by having a higher proportion of dead coral, mostly *Lophelia pertusa*. Otherwise the area is characterized by a series of low to medium profile *L. pertusa* bioherms surrounded by coral rubble in waters deeper than 700 m. Most of the bioherms have a series of ridges and swales which are interspersed along the mound flanks. The greatest amount of living coral occurs on the mound and ridge tops. *Enallopsammia profunda* is common in places and forms more hard substrate habitat here than in most other locations off the southeastern US; however, much of this coral is dead. Other attached sessile fauna included *Anthomastus* sp., abundant sponges (hexactinellids and demospongia), *Plumarella* sp., isidid corals, anemones, hydroids, and *Madrepora oculata* (rare).

Mobile macrofauna were not very abundant or diverse compared with other deep coral sites of the region. Various urchins, seastars, and a few galatheoid squat lobsters were the most notable macroinvertebrates. Fishes included *Chimaera* sp., hagfish, rattails, scorpionfish, and synaphobranchid eels.

While there is abundant, complex, hard substrate habitat in this area, it appears to be less productive compared with other areas. It is deeper than many other deep reef sites surveyed off the southeastern US, and this may influence both the amount of living coral and the lower diversity of fauna.