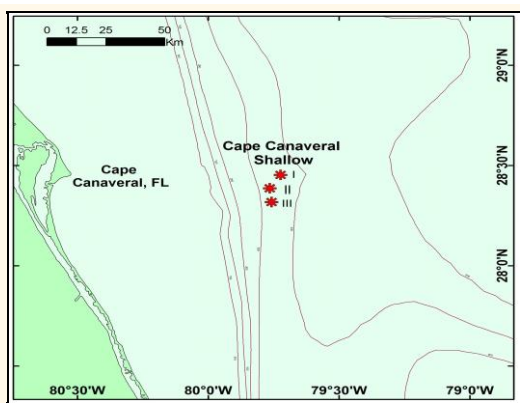


OVERVIEW

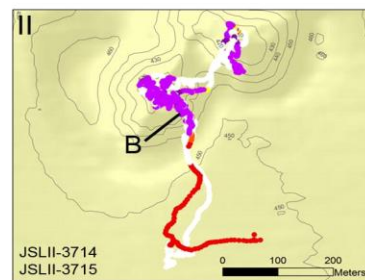
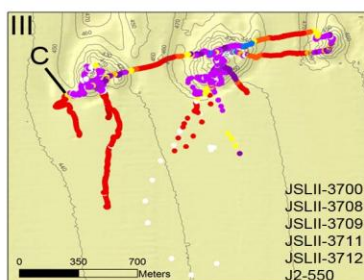
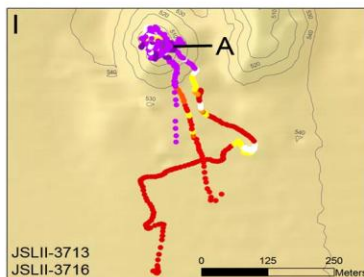
Total Dives 10

Depth Range (m): 398 to 534

GENERAL LOCATION



HABITAT CHARACTERIZATION MAPS



- Habitat**
- Soft Sediment
 - Sand, Rock - Barren
 - Sand, Rock - Fauna
 - Rubble
 - Tile Fish Burrows
 - Rock Ledge - Barren
 - Rock Ledge - Fauna
 - Pavement - Barren
 - Pavement - Fauna
 - Anthropogenic
 - Mixed Habitat
 - Hard Coral
 - Hard Coral - Fauna
 - No Video or Poor Video

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)
06-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3700	HOV	15:38	18:26	28° 18.979'	79° 45.123'	28° 19.318'	79° 45.052'
10-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3708	HOV	17:16	20:05	28° 19.102'	79° 45.155'	28° 19.289'	79° 45.097'
11-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3709	HOV	8:23	10:52	28° 19.032'	79° 45.601'	28° 19.283'	79° 45.540'
12-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3711	HOV	8:23	10:52	28° 18.767'	79° 45.508'	28° 19.226'	79° 45.554'
12-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3712	HOV	16:52	19:03	28° 19.092'	79° 45.495'	28° 19.257'	79° 45.521'
13-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3713	HOV	8:36	11:23	28° 27.254'	79° 43.410'	28° 27.520'	79° 43.392'
13-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3714	HOV	16:57	19:43	28° 23.152'	79° 45.989'	28° 23.345'	79° 45.991'
14-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3715	HOV	8:27	11:19	28° 23.186'	79° 45.901'	28° 23.350'	79° 46.017'
14-Aug-09	SW Ross	JSLII-3716	HOV	17:03	19:25	28° 27.343'	79° 43.331'	28° 27.516'	79° 43.395'
22-Nov-10	SW Ross, SD Brooke	J2-550	ROV	9:24	19:37	28° 19.177'	79° 44.988'	28° 19.232'	79° 45.562'

Site Characterization

Cape Canaveral Shallow

IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

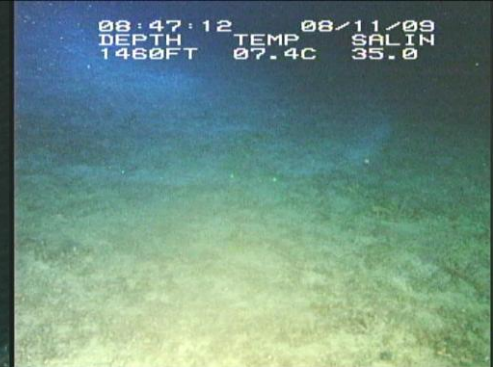
**Image A: Hard Coral -
without Attached Fauna**
28° 27.514' N, 79° 43.386' W



**Image B: Hard Coral -
with Attached Fauna**
28° 23.323' N, 79° 45.978' W



Image C: Rubble
28° 19.174' N, 79° 45.636' W



SITE OVERVIEW

AUTHOR SW Ross

DATE COMPILED 1-Dec-2012

Prior to the dives described here these sites were poorly explored, and there are no publications that have described them. One of the locations (Triceratops) was discovered and explored during a Nov 2005 cruise lead by S. Brooke. The other locations were found during multibeam sonar surveys conducted by J. Reed. These sites are generally shallower ($\sim < 500$ m) than the better known deeper coral locations occurring farther east off Florida. This area warrants further exploration, especially with multibeam sonar mapping.

This site is composed of a southern part which contains three adjacent mounds, called Triceratops, separated from each other by about 500 m. Five JSL dives were made here in Aug 2009 and one Jason ROV dive was conducted here in Nov 2010. S. Brooke also conducted two JSL dives at this location in 2005. The three mounds are *Lophelia pertusa* bioherms surrounded by coral rubble and coarse sand substrata. The central mound is the largest, reaching a depth of just under 400 m, and the smallest mound is to the east. All three mounds exhibit rugged topography and are capped by extensive fields of living *L. pertusa*. Diversity of other corals (including *Madrepora oculata* and *Enallopsammia profunda*), sponges, and other sessile fauna is quite high on these mounds.

Triceratops represents one of the most faunistically diverse deep-coral sites of the region. Besides a high species richness in cniderians and sponges, abundant mobile invertebrates (urchins, squat lobsters, crinoids, octopods) were observed. Golden crabs (*Chaceon fenneri*) are particularly abundant on the coral habitat. Fishes were abundant and included *Laemonema* spp., catsharks, blackbelly rosefish, roughies, rattails, and conger eels.

Two other smaller mound systems about 4 and 10 km north of Triceratops are included in this site. In Aug 2009, two JSL dives were made on the shallower site (407-446 m) and two JSL dives were also completed on the deeper site (491-534). Although smaller than the combined mounds at Triceratops, these *L. pertusa* bioherms displayed similar dense coral habitat and high faunal diversity.

As noted for other deep coral areas, these coral sites supported a unique reef fauna that was distinct from the surrounding soft sediment community. These sites are included within the Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern established by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.