## **DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3714**

# STUDY AREA: Cape Canaveral Shallow

### STATION OVERVIEW

Project Deep-sea Coral Research

Principal investigators SW Ross<sup>1</sup>

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Purpose Exploration of Deep-water Coral Ecosystems off

Cape Canaveral, Florida

Vessel R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link II

Submersible

Science Divers S Brooke (bow), T Casazza (stern)

External Video Tapes External Hard Drive

Internal Video Tapes 2 mini DVs

Digital Still PhotosYesPositioning SystemdGPS

CTD File 
✓
Specimens Collected 
✓

Specimens Collected
Other

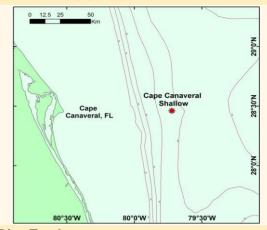
Acknowledgements

NOAA, USGS, SAFMC, OIMB,
NC Museum of Natural Sciences

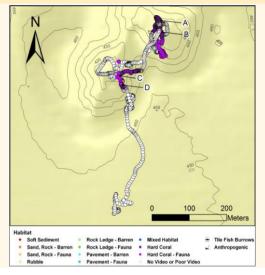
SEADESC Analyst M Watts
Date Compiled 1/24/2012

PI Station Number JSLII-09-Atl-3714

### **GENERAL LOCATION**



## **Dive Track:**

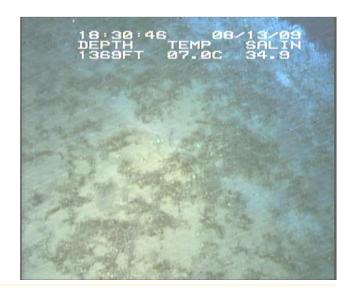


### **DIVE DATA**

Bottom Current (Kts)

Date	13-Aug-09
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	408
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	446
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	16:57
End Bottom End (EDT)	19:43
Starting Latitude (N)	28° 23.152'
Starting Longitude (W)	79° 45.989'
Ending Latitude (N)	28° 23.345′
Ending Longitude (W)	79° 45.991'
Surface Current (Kts)	

Image A: Rubble 28° 23.413' N, 79° 45.918' W



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### **IMAGE GALLERY**

\* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Hard Coral without Attached Fauna

28° 23.395' N, 79° 45.918' W



Image C: Hard Coral with Attached Fauna 28° 23.337' N. 79° 45.990' W



Image D: Hard Coral with Attached Fauna 28° 23.323' N. 79° 45.978' W



### RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

Avers and Pilkey (1981) EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991) Reed (2002) Reed and Ross (2005) Reed et al. (2006)

Ross and Nizinski (2007) Ross and Quattrini (2007, 2009) Ross et al. (2012)

### **BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

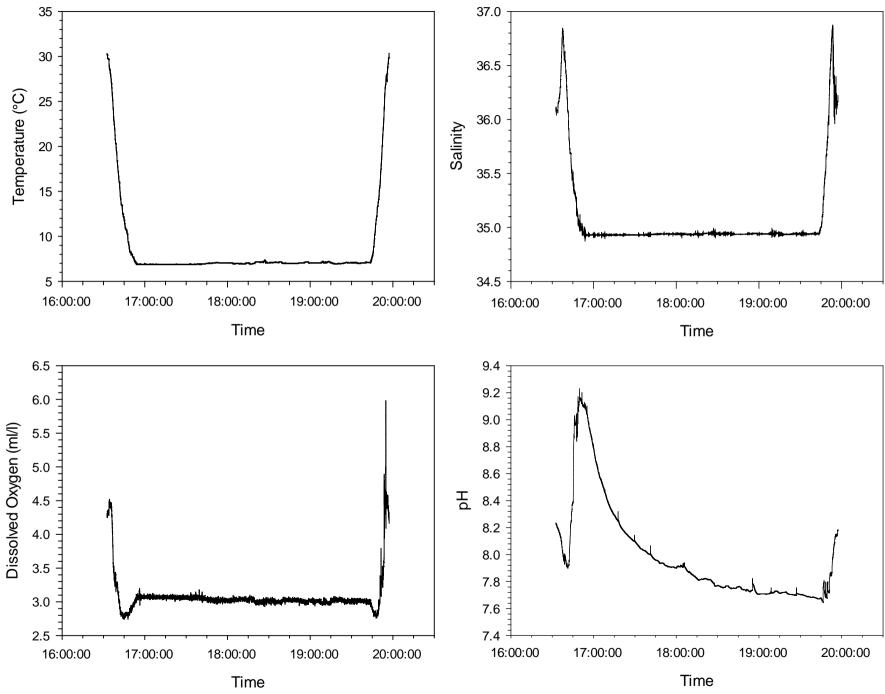
This dive traversed a Lophelia pertusa bioherm off Cape Canaveral. The coral bioherm was comprised of very dense, high relief, live L. pertusa on a dead coral matrix. The hard coral often supported abundant attached fauna such as cup corals, anemones, gorgonians (e.g. Plumarella sp.), Paramuricea sp., hydroids, hexactinellid sponges (e.g. Aphrocallistes sp. with and without vellow zooanthids) and frequent, large patches of the hard corals Enallopsammia profunda and Madrepora oculata. Mobile fauna included echinoid and cidaroid urchins, crinoids, golden and galatheid crabs, an octopus, an armored searobin, a red bream, scorpionfish, coral hakes, and a chain catshark.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive begin south of a L. pertusa bioherm, requiring a northerly traverse to reach the bioherm. The habitat on the bioherm turned quickly from sparse rubble and standing coral mixed with soft sediment into dense (60-90% cover) hard coral habitat with and without attached fauna as the submersible moved up the slope. Hard coral habitat consisted of extensive, very high relief, 60-80% live, densely packed hard coral thickets that were oriented in several ridges along the bioherm. This site contained some of the healthiest and most extensive L. pertusa habitat off the Cape Canaveral area.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Original dives are on mini DVs that were transferred to digital and stored on an external hard drive. The first hour of the dive was not recorded. Video quality was clear except for sections of dark footage as the submersible passed over deep areas between ridges. Suction samples for sediment were taken at the base of corals and a clump of L. pertusa was retrieved with the Bushmaster along with collections of E. profunda, cup corals, a black coral, galatheid crabs, and a scorpionfish.



Plots of CTD data recorded during submersible dive JSL-2009-Atl-3714 (13 Aug 2009) off Cape Canaveral, FL.