STUDY AREA: Jacksonville

STATION OVERVIEW

Project Life on the Edge 2005

Principal investigators SW Ross¹

MS Nizinski, E Baird, C Morrison

PI Contact Info¹ 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 education outreach

Vessel R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link I

Submersible

Science Divers M Roberts (bow), T Casazza (stern)

External Video Tapes 6 mini DVs
Internal Video Tapes 3 mini DVs

Digital Still Photos Yes

Positioning System dGPS

CTD File

✓

Specimens Collected
✓

Other Hard copy of bow audio log

Acknowledgements NOAA-OE, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, UNCW, NC

Museum of Natural Sciences

SEADESC Analyst A Zilg

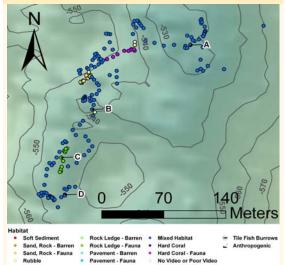
Date Compiled 9/28/2011

PI Station Number JSLI-05-4907

GENERAL LOCATION



Dive Track:



DIVE DATA

Date	01-Nov-05
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	517
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	553
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	8:28
End Bottom End (EDT)	10:47
Starting Latitude (N)	30° 48.150′
Starting Longitude (W)	79° 38.385'
Ending Latitude (N)	30° 48.032'
Ending Longitude (W)	79° 38.505'
Surface Current (Kts)	2.5
Bottom Current (Kts)	0.1

Image A: Mixed Habitat 30° 48.128' N, 79° 38.413' W



STUDY AREA: Jacksonville

IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Mixed Habitat 30° 48.094' N, 79° 38.485' W Image C: Rock Ledge with Attached Fauna 30° 48.051' N, 79° 38.507' W Image C: Hard Corals with Attached Fauna 30° 48.024' N, 79° 38.495' W







RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

Ayers and Pilkey (1981)
EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991)
Paull et al. (2000)
Reed (2002)
Reed and Ross (2005)
Williams et al. (2007)
Reed et al. (2006)

Ross and Nizinski (2007) Ross and Quattrini (2007, 2009) Ross et al. (unpubl. cruise data)

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Very few fishes were observed on this dive and included *Laemonema melanurum*, *Trachyscorpia cristulata*, and *Squalus cubensis*. Motile invertebrates included octopus, pancake urchins, cancer crabs, and galatheid crabs, which were common. The habitat was not dominated by hard coral, although a few individual living branches of *Enallopsammia profunda* and *Lophelia pertusa* were observed. Other common corals were stylasterids and cup corals. The area was largely dominated by small gorgonians difficult to identify on video. Collections were taken of *Keratoisis* sp., *Chrysogorgia* sp., *Bathypathes* sp., *Leiopathes* sp. and others. Both hexactinellid sponges and demosponges were abundant throughout the dive. sometimes in patchy distributions.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The majority of the dive transected low profile (<0.5 m relief) rubble with approximately 90% bottom coverage. Except for a few sections, the rubble had abundant attached mixed fauna. Long ridges with steep slopes (>45°) on either side were characteristic of this area. A section of rock ledge was encountered and had abundant attached fauna. A small area of hard coral habitat was also observed, also with attached fauna, and with a relief of around 0.5 m. Currents varied from 0.1-0.5 kn and visibility was approximately 40 ft.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The external bow video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. External stern video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. Internal bow video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. The camera was often out of focus, making identifications difficult.

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STATION OVERVIEW

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Purpose Mapping of deep coral banks, ecological studies

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Vessel R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link I

Submersible

Science Divers M Nizinski (bow), C Young (stern)

External Video Tapes 6 mini DVs
Internal Video Tapes 3 mini DVs

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 A Zilg

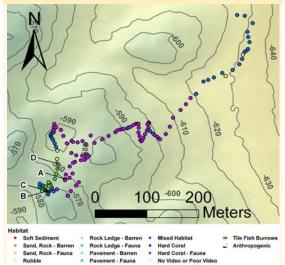
Date Compiled 10/6/2011

PI Station Number JSLI-05-4908

GENERAL LOCATION



Dive Track:



DIVE DATA

Date	01-Nov-05
Minimum Bottom Depth (m)	568
Maximum Bottom Depth (m)	628
Start Bottom Time (EDT)	16:38
End Bottom End (EDT)	18:55
Starting Latitude (N)	30° 31.122′
Starting Longitude (W)	79° 39.633'
Ending Latitude (N)	30° 31.254′
Ending Longitude (W)	79° 39.407'
Surface Current (Kts)	1.9
Bottom Current (Kts)	0.4

Image A: Hard Corals with Attached Fauna 30° 31.099' N, 79° 39.606' W



STUDY AREA: Jacksonville

IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image B: Rubble 30° 31.098' N, 79° 39.636' W Image C: Mixed Habitat 30° 31.078' N, 79° 39.633' W Image D: Rock Ledge with Attached Fauna 30° 31.105' N, 79° 39.617' W







RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

Ayers and Pilkey (1981)
EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991)
Paull et al. (2000)
Reed (2002)
Reed and Ross (2005)
Williams et al. (2007)
Reed et al. (2006)

Ross and Nizinski (2007) Ross and Quattrini (2007, 2009) Ross et al. (unpubl. cruise data)

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive was characterized by extremely abundant attached fauna. An intact matrix of hard corals, *Enallopsammia profunda*, *Lophelia pertusa*, and *Madrepora oculata*, covered the sea floor and housed numerous sponges and other corals. *Enallopsammia profunda* was the most common scleractinian. Solitary cup corals were abundant, and *Stylaster* spp. was common. Small Gorgonians were extremely abundant and covered hard coral and mixed habitats. *Keratoisis* sp., *Plumarella* sp., *Anthomastus* sp., and *Leiopathes* sp. were all observed. Various forms of hexactinellid sponges were abundant; *Aphrocallistes beatrix* was the dominant sponge, although other vase sponges were also very abundant. Demosponges were present in high numbers, but less abundant than hexactinellids. Galatheid crabs were the most abundant motile invertebrate, cancer crabs and seastars were observed occasionally. Very few fishes were observed and included *Laemonema melanurum* and *Scyliorhinus meadi*.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This dive transected four habitat types: 1) hard corals with attached fauna, 2) mixed, 3) rubble, and 4) rock ledge with attached fauna. Hard coral habitat was characterized as such due to the 100% bottom coverage of moderate relief (0.5 - 1 m) coral bushes and matrices made up of *E. profunda*, *L. pertusa*, and *M. oculata*. The majority of the coral was dead, but matrices were still intact. Fauna attached to the matrices were extremely abundant and dominated the area. Mixed habitat was only classified when the attached fauna was found on crushed coral rubble. Rubble habitats had sparse to no attached fauna. Rock ledges were rare and also had less attached fauna than the surrounding hard coral areas. Current was consistent around 0.4 kn.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The external bow video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. External stern video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. Internal bow video was captured on 3 mini DVs and archived on 3 DVDs. The video quality was clear.