

DIVE NUMBER: JSLII-3586**STUDY AREA: Pourtales Terrace****STATION OVERVIEW**

Project Ocean Exploration Deep Coral Expedition

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Purpose Exploration and characterization of deep sea coral habitats off the east coast of Florida

Vessel R/V Seward Johnson, Johnson Sea Link II Submersible

Science Divers

External Video Tapes External Hard Drive

Internal Video Tapes 3 mini DVs

Digital Still Photos

Positioning System dGPS

CTD File

Specimens Collected

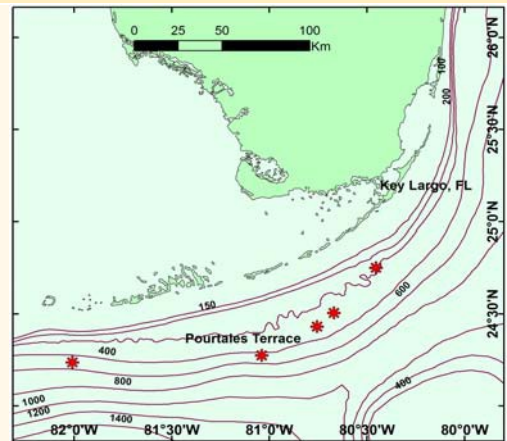
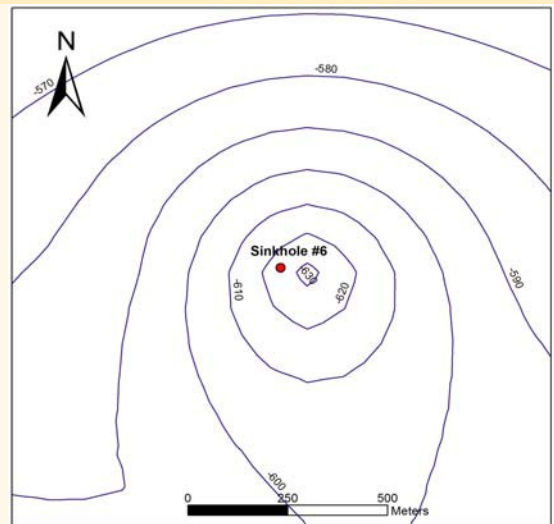
Other

Acknowledgements NOAA-OE

SEADESC Analyst M Watts

Date Compiled 8/18/2011

PI Station Number 3-VI-07-1

GENERAL LOCATION**Dive Track:****DIVE DATA**

Date 03-Jun-07

Minimum Bottom Depth (m) 601

Maximum Bottom Depth (m) 677

Start Bottom Time (EDT) 10:11

End Bottom End (EDT) 12:46

Starting Latitude (N) 24° 14.106'

Starting Longitude (W) 82° 00.486'

Ending Latitude (N)

Ending Longitude (W)

Surface Current (Kts)

Bottom Current (Kts)

Image A: Rock Ledge - Barren
Specific location of image is unknown



Image B: Rock Ledge - Barren

Specific location of image is unknown

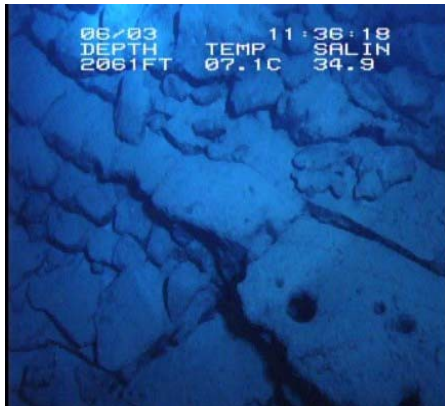


Image C: Soft Substrate

Specific location of image is unknown



Image D: Soft Substrate

Specific location of image is unknown



RELEVANT WORK AND/OR LITERATURE CITED

EEZ-SCAN 87 Scientific Staff (1991)
Reed (2002)
Reed and Ross (2005)
Reed et al. (2005)
Reed et al. (2006)
Ross and Nizinski (2007)

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The region around Poutales Terrace Sinkhole #6 consisted primarily of soft sediment habitat interspersed with barren limestone rocks and ledges. The soft sediment habitat showed extensive evidence of bioturbation and supported sparse invertebrate fauna including burrowing anemones, stalked and puff ball hexactinellid sponges, zooanthids, stalked crinoids, sea cucumbers, *Bathynomus* sp., galatheid and golden crabs, shrimp and lobster as well as their burrows. The limestone rocks and ledges were almost completely barren except for small aggregations of the black coral *Stichopathes* sp. golden crabs and rare sponges. Mobile fauna consisted of the aforementioned crustaceans and numerous fishes including grenadiers, codling, coral and offshore hake, eel, dogfish, goosefish, gaper, tripodfish, and armored searobin.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The dive began with extensive soft sediment habitat with evidence of frequent bioturbation. After traversing the soft sediment, the sub encountered an abrupt habitat change to barren phosphoritic limestone rock ledges and thin rock slabs covered in a layer of soft sediment. A steep rock ledge surrounds the main sinkhole, then plateaus into flat, thin slabs of limestone with very sparse attached fauna and some fishes. Soft sediment continued upslope of the rock ledges with sparse benthic and demersal fauna and continued in all regions lacking rock/ledge habitat. Two smaller rock slab features with low relief ledges were encountered and supported the same sparse fauna as feature surrounding Sinkhole #6.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Original dives are on mini DVs transferred to digital on a mini DV reader and stored on an external hard. Video quality was clear with almost no sections of unusable footage. CTD and navigation data for this JSL dive are missing. Therefore, only waypoints taken during the dive and recorded in dive logs are shown on the dive track map. Collections were taken of stalked crinoids, stalked and puff ball hexactinellid sponges, burrowing anemones, black corals (*Stichopathes* sp.), and phosphoritic rock. Sediment punch cores were also taken.