

Activity Summary

CrsID DavidsonSeamount2006

CrsProjID OE_2005_048

T943**1/28/2006****Deep Water Corals of the Davidson Seamount: Habitat Suitability, Taxonomy, Age and Growth**

Overview of Remotely Operated Vehicle Dive T943 (DavidsonSeamount2006_ACT0011) at T943

Activity Vitals			Participants		Overall Dive Site Ratings	
Dates/Times/Depth	Bndg Coordinates	System(s)	Andrew DeVogelaere, Chief Scientist		1 = low; 10 = high	
Start 1/28/2006 17:45:00	North 35.7397	Tiburon	James Barry, Co-Principal Investigator		Uniqueness	
End 1/29/2006 3:12:00	South 35.7336	HD Video Camera	Chad King, Navigator		Health	
Time zone UTC UTC 00	East -122.7055	Data Collected	Erica J Burton, Scientist		Disturbance	
MaxDepth (m): -1773.0	West -122.7194	Samples Multimedia Data	Lonny Lundsten, Scientist		Biodiversity	
					Relief Variation (meters):	

Objectives

1. Run transects in valley (low BPI), slope (mod BPI) and ridge (high BPI)
2. collect bamboo and black corals
3. measure various areas with current meter
4. Niskin water sample at depth

Dive Track Description

Day 3 T943Davidson Seamount Expedition Log: Day 3

Days Objectives: benthic transects, manipulator-held current measurements, Niskin water samples, coral samples from "Big Valley," bamboo coral collections on "Bamboo Ridge," ascend to peak for final transect.

Today was a very exciting day. We saw many "Coral Gardens" on the ridges, peaks, and valleys of Davidson Seamount. We dropped down to 1750 meters and took several current measurements and then began a 180 m transect on the rocky edge of the valley floor. We ended this transect by taking a push core of the gravel and mud in a sediment pool, sampling a white trumpet sponge and a rock for MBARI scientist David Clague. Surprisingly, we found many more corals than we had expected to on this transect. We saw what appeared to be several species in the family Primnoidae, many Corallium, and many small but beautiful bamboo corals called Acanella. We also sampled a Primnoidae that appeared to be overgrown with a colony of zoanthids – we'll see when the sample comes up! We sampled a gold gorgonian, Acanthogorgia, as well. The geology on the last portion of the 2nd transect was not what we were expecting to see. We had expected mostly flat sediment, however, pillow lava and some angular talus covered the benthos. We began the ascent up to "Bamboo Ridge" from "Big Valley" where we finally saw the large bamboo corals Keratoisis, which Allen Andrews is using for age and growth studies. We sampled a community of Keratoisis, took some Niskin water samples, and current measurements in the vicinity of the Keratoisis community. We finally made the ascent to the ridge at 1500 meters and found several very large bubblegum corals, Paragorgia arborea, clinging to the edge of a vertical face, where current velocity appears to be highest. We took several more current measurements around the bubblegum corals and started our ascent. We were able to film a "Big Red" iellv. Tiburonia aranroio. in HD before finally returning to the

Living Habitat Structure		Sediments		Geomorphology		Anthropogenics
Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type/Description
Nothing recorded.		Nothing recorded.		pinnacles		Nothing recorded.

Living Marine Resources Abundance

None (0) Single (1) Few (2-10) Many (11-100) Abundant (>100)

Pelagic Fish	Other Benthic
Bottom Fish	Nothing recorded.
Crustacean	
Mollusk	
Echinoderm	

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

No other comments.

Unique or Rare Invertebrates	Unique or Rare Vertebrates
Nothing recorded.	Nothing recorded.

Fish Observation and Abundance

None (0) Single (1) Few (2-10) Many (11-100) Abundant (>100)

Nothing recorded.

Other Comments/Notes

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