

# Activity Summary

CrsID

GOMEX2003

Viosca Knoll (VK862)

9/23/2003

Gulf of Mexico Deep Habitats

CrsProjID

PRJ0013

## Overview of Remotely Operated Vehicle Dive Sonsub Dive 30 (GOMEX2003\_ACT0051) at Viosca Knoll

### Activity Vitals

Dates/Times/Depth	Bndg Coordinates	System(s)
Start 9/23/2003 8:22:00	North 29.1025	Innovator
End 9/23/2003 13:40:31	South 29.1004	
Time zone CST UTC -06	East -88.3845	<b>Data Collected</b>
MaxDepth (m): -347.5	West -88.3877	Samples Multimedia Data

### Participants

No participants recorded.

### Overall Dive Site Ratings

1 = low; 10 = high	
Uniqueness	3
Health	8
Disturbance	2
Biodiversity	2
Relief Variation (meters):	

### Objectives

Examine VK862 using 200 meter transects for the presence of Lophelia pertusa and other hard corals. Ground truth NR1-side scan sonographs of the site.

### Dive Track Description

Dive started at 0827, descended to 1142 ft. on a flat muddy bottom. There was a lot of marine snow. Occasionally soft corals, fish, single anemones and large clusters of anemones were seen. As the transects continued upslope, the bottom changed to small carbonate boulders but with no solid carbonate banks. Originally, the transects were 200 meters long with a 20 meter separation. Anemone clusters and small glass sponges were continually seen. At 1100, the transects were moved east 100 meters. The substrate changed to larger rocks with less mud. Glass sponges and anemone gardens were still the primary organism found with fish and soft coral seen periodically. Large carbonate boulders dominated as we continued upslope at 1300, which accounted for 50% of the total cover.

### Living Habitat Structure

Type	% Cover
Sponges	8
Octocorals	12
Other	80

### Sediments

Type	% Cover
Boulder ( > 256Mm)	5
Cobble (64mm - 256mm)	5
Silt (.004mm - .06mm)	85
Mix of Boulders & Cobbles	5

### Geomorphology

Type	% Cover
mounds	5
rock rubble	10
mud	85

### Anthropogenics

Type/Description
none
little to no visible damage

### Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

Pelagic Fish	Single	Other Benthic	many
Bottom Fish	Few	Nothing recorded.	
Crustacean	Few		
Mollusk	None		
Echinoderm	Many		

### Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

No other comments.

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

### Fish Observation and Abundance

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

scorpion fish-many, hake- unidentified, silver fish-single, conger eel-single

### Other Comments/Notes

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration



Generated on 12/21/2005