

# Activity Summary

CrsID

GOMEX2003

CrsProjID

PRJ0013

Viosca Knoll (VK826)

9/24/2003

Gulf of Mexico Deep Habitats

## Overview of Remotely Operated Vehicle Dive Sonsub Dive 33 (GOMEX2003\_ACT0054) at Viosca Knoll

Activity Vitals			Participants		Overall Dive Site Ratings	
<b>Dates/Times/Depth</b>	<b>Bndg Coordinates</b>	<b>System(s)</b>	No participants recorded.		1 = low; 10 = high	
<b>Start</b> 9/24/2003 1:35:00	<b>North</b> 29.1632	Innovator			Uniqueness	<b>4</b>
<b>End</b> 9/24/2003 3:55:00	<b>South</b> 29.1634				Health	<b>9</b>
<b>Time zone</b> CST UTC -06	<b>East</b> -88.0179	<b>Data Collected</b>			Disturbance	<b>1</b>
<b>MaxDepth (m):</b> -474.6	<b>West</b> -88.0160	Samples Multimedia Data			Biodiversity	<b>4</b>
					Relief Variation (meters):	<b>10</b>

### Objectives

Survey areas of dense Lophelia thickets. Take digital photographs of colonies associated. Take sediment and water samples close to corals.

### Dive Track Description

ROV launched at 0130, arrived on the bottom at 0200. The substrate was composed of dead clam shells and sediment. There was a large amount of marine snow observed. The top of the mound consisted of large Lophelia colonies mostly not coalesced. The first grid transect was 200 meters long and 50 meters apart covering an area with high coral diversity. Dense thickets were not found, but large colonies interspersed with patches of tubeworms and mud/shell areas were predominant features.

Sediment and water samples were collected. Video footage and video still images were taken.

Living Habitat Structure		Sediments		Geomorphology		Anthropogenics
Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type/Description
Stony Corals	30	Mix of Cobbles & Gravel	50	mounds	10	none
Octocorals	10	Shell/Mud Substrate	50	rock outcrops	30	none obvious
Dead Coral w/ encrusting	20			low-relief hard bottom	60	

### Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

<b>Pelagic Fish</b>	Few	<b>Other Benthic</b>	few
<b>Bottom Fish</b>	Few	Nothing recorded.	
<b>Crustacean</b>	Few		
<b>Mollusk</b>	Few		
<b>Echinoderm</b>	Few		

#### Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

Lophelia has high diversity associated fauna but most hide in coral structure

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

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration



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