

Activity Summary

CrsID

GOMEX2003

CrsProjID

PRJ0014

West Flower Garden Bank (Site 2a)

9/28/2003

Gulf of Mexico Deep Habitats

Overview of Remotely Operated Vehicle Dive Sonsub Dive 41 (GOMEX2003_ACT0073) at West Flower

Activity Vitals			Participants	Overall Dive Site Ratings
Dates/Times/Depth	Bndg Coordinates	System(s)	No participants recorded.	<i>1 = low; 10 = high</i>
Start 9/28/2003 5:46:00	North 27.8723	Innovator		Uniqueness 6
End 9/28/2003 10:59:00	South 27.8220			Health 8
Time zone CST UTC -06	East -96.8370	Data Collected		Disturbance 4
MaxDepth (m): -137.2	West -93.8488	Samples Multimedia Data		Biodiversity 7
				Relief Variation (meters): 3

Objectives

Characterization of area for development of a habitat map of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Collect specimens that are indicator species of the various zones for positive identification.

Dive Track Description

The dive began south of the southern most mound feature within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in 140 meters depth. This area is characterized by a sand veneer over scattered rocks. Several species of black corals (antipatharians) were attached to the rocks in this area. As the ROV moved north it came upon the major mound feature. The depth of the feature rose to 107 meters. The feature is characterized by numerous low relief rock outcroppings becoming much larger (3 meters relief) and were highly eroded. After approximately 5 hours, weather conditions on the surface became quite rough and the ship was not able to hit position and the dive was concluded earlier than expected.

Digital video was collected of the entire dive. Digital video still images of items of interest were taken as well as all sampled items. Annotations were made of the entire dive with habitat and species identification when possible. Seventeen samples were collected including: antipatharians, corals, sponges, gorgonians, and crinoids. All samples were cataloged in the database.

Living Habitat Structure

Type	% Cover
Stony Corals	30
Octocorals	30
Dead Coral w/ encrusting	10
Other	25
Other	5

Sediments

Type	% Cover
Cobble (64mm - 256mm)	20
Medium Sand (.25mm -	40
Fine Sand (.06mm -	20
Mix of Sand & Silt	20

Geomorphology

Type	% Cover
mounds	10
drowned reefs	20
rock outcrops	20
low-relief hard bottom	10
rock rubble	20
sand	20

Anthropogenics

Type/Description
Discarded Gear large amount of longline debris

Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

Pelagic Fish	Many	Other Benthic	many
Bottom Fish	Abundant	Nothing recorded.	
Crustacean	Few		
Mollusk	Few		
Echinoderm	Many		

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

No other comments.

Unique or Rare Invertebrates	Unique or Rare Vertebrates
slit shell, white sea urchin	snowy grouper, warsaw grouper

Fish Observation and Abundance

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

cubbyu-single, rough tongue bass-many, spiny-cheek soldier fish-few, red snapper-many, scamp-few, scorpion fish-few, snowy grouper-few, reef butterflyfish-few, reg bogfish-single, almaco jacks-single, hunchback scorpion fish-single, big eye-few, bank butterfly fish-single, band tail puffer-single, tatter-single, wrasse bass-single

Other Comments/Notes

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration



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