

Activity Summary

CrsID

LifeEdge2004

CrsProjID

PRJ0019

Northern Lophelia Banks

6/15/2004

Life on the Edge II: Exploring Deep Ocean Habitats

Overview of Human Occupied Vehicle Dive JSLI_4692 (LifeEdge2004_ACT0059) at Northern Lophelia

Activity Vitals			Participants		Overall Dive Site Ratings	
Dates/Times/Depth	Bndg Coordinates	System(s)	Kenneth J. Sulak, Forward Observer		1 = low; 10 = high	
Start 6/15/2004 8:04:00	North 34.3241	Johnson-Sea-Link I HD Video Camera	Branwen Williams, Aft Observer		Uniqueness	6
End 6/15/2004 11:03:00	South 34.3117		Phil Santos, Pilot		Health	6
Time zone EDT UTC -04	East -75.7862	Data Collected	Patrick Jorgensen, Aft Technician		Disturbance	1
MaxDepth (m): -425.5	West -75.7931	Samples Multimedia Data			Biodiversity	4
					Relief Variation (meters):	50

Objectives

- 1) Fish count visual/video transect (1 accomplished)
- 2) Sediment suction samples (3 accomplished)
- 3) Close-up HDTV documentation of fauna (90 minutes obtained)
- 4) Digital still documentation of coral habitat (done)
- 5) Rotonone collection of fishes (not done due to current)
- 6) Collection of coral for age/genetics/contained fauna (ca. 10 good samples)

Dive Track Description

This dive targeted high profile Lophelia habitat on the "Northern Mounds" off Cape Lookout. Current on the surface was 4 kt, on the bottom 0.5-1.0 kt. The sub landed on the flat at 1350 ft., near the base of a steep haystack shaped, reef-topped mound. The dive proceeded up slope, ending at the top. The flat and rise was covered with Lophelia coral rubble. On the 70-80 degree rise were scattered dead and live Lophelia bushes. Squat lobsters were fairly common, but fishes not abundant either here or at the top. Strong bottom current limited activity to this one mound. Visibility was limited to ca. 20 ft. due to heavy concentration of suspended particles in the water column. Dive ended at top of mound, ca. 1200 ft.

Comment: Excellent dive - nearly all objectives accomplished.

Living Habitat Structure		Sediments		Geomorphology		Anthropogenics
Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type	% Cover	Type/Description
Sponges	1	Cobble (64mm - 256mm)	80	mounds	50	Nothing recorded.
Stony Corals	20	Coarse Sand (.5mm -	20	sand	50	
Dead Coral w/ encrusting	50					

Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

Pelagic Fish	Few	Other Benthic	1
Bottom Fish	Many		
Crustacean	Abundant		
Mollusk	Few		
Echinoderm	Many		

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

Low fish diversity and abundance

Unique or Rare Invertebrates **Unique or Rare Vertebrates**

Unusual colony of tiny yellow anemones on glass sponge Nothing recorded.

Fish Observation and Abundance

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

Mead's cat shark-single, Hagfish-single, Potinus scorpionfish-single, rosefish-few, rubble hake-few, pearlside-single, myctophids-few

Other Comments/Notes

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration



Generated on 12/21/2005