

OKEANOS EXPLORER ROV DIVE FORM

Site Name	DeSoto Canyon 493							
ROV Lead/ Expedition Coordinator	Dave Lovalvo/Jeremy Potter							
General Area Descriptor	~270nm west of Tampa, Florida							
UTC Date & Time	Deployment	3/24/2012 12:17 PM						
	Recovery	3/24/2012 18:47 PM						
Bottom Time [HH:MM]	6:30							
Landing Time & Location	UTC Time	14:17		Depth [m]	2427			
	Latitude	28	°	30.11N	'	N		
	Longitude	87	°	29.108	'	W		
Off Bottom Time & Location	UTC Time	18:47		Depth [m]	2279			
	Latitude	28	°	50555	'	N		
	Longitude	87	°	48323	'	W		
ROV Dive Name	Cruise Season	EX1202		Leg	LEG02			
	Dive Number	ROV1						
Equipment Deployed	ROV:	Little Hercules						
	Camera Platfom:	Seirios Camera Platform						
ROV Measurements	☒ CTD	☒ Depth		☒ Altitude				
	☒ Scanning Sonar	☒ USBL Position		☒ Heading				
	☒ Pitch	☒ Roll		☒ HD Camera				
	☒ Low Res Cam 1	☒ Low Res Cam 2						
Equipment Malfunctions	None							
Special Notes	Click here to enter text.							
Scientists Involved (please provide name / location / affiliation / email)	Tim Shank (on-board Science Lead), EX, WHOI, tshank@whoi.edu Pen-Yuan Hsing, PSU, penyuan.hsing@psu.edu Eleanor Bors, WHOI, WHOI, ekbors@gmail.com Catriona Munro, WHOI, WHOI, cmunro@whoi.edu							

Purpose of the Dive: The DeSoto Canyon escarpment region has not been well characterized. Past cruises discovered fauna here not found in other parts of the Gulf of Mexico, some were similar to those found in the Atlantic. This dive explored a possible seep site at the bottom of the escarpment, and moved towards possible hard substrate along the slope, identified from backscatter data.

Description of the Dive:

The ROV reached the seafloor about 200 m from the bottom edge of the escarpment. On our way to the edge, we explored the first sonar target, a rocky outcrop, at 14:38 UTC, coordinates 28.50129°N, 87.48517°W. On it we observed shrimps, a holothurian, sponges, sepiolid polychaetes, crinoids, a pycnogonid, and corals (cup and bamboo). We placed a virtual target here called DC001.

As we continued towards the escarpment, a benthothuria holothurian was observed taking off from the sediment, ejecting fecal material. More anemones, polychaetes, sponges, and other holothurians were also noted.

At about 15:12 UTC we noted a dead coral on a rock, and continued to the NE, looking for the bottom of the escarpment. There were other rocks along the way, with attached anemones, octocorals, squat lobsters, and polychaetes (virtual target DC002 at 28.50264°N, 87.48489°W). These rocks all had a dark complexion.

We encountered the first possible seep location at 15:30 UTC (28.50250°N, 87.48530°W), with multiple tubeworm (Lamellibrachia) bushes (virtual target DC003). These tubeworms had some hydroid growth on their tubes, and the ones near the base could be Escarpia. Associated animals near this bush included anemones, Alvinocaris shrimp, hydroids, and octocorals growing on the tubes. There are boulders and scattered rocks nearby with rusty/dark texture.

At 16:00 UTC we discovered more tubeworm bushes (28.50277°N, 87.48500°W) near rocky base of the DeSoto Canyon escarpment. There were possible tubeworms, mussels, and clams here. We didn't see distinctive tubeworm bushes, but they were scattered and sticking out from under the rocks here.

Afterwards we followed the bottom edge of the escarpment in the NW direction, noting a possible pock mark at 16:42 UTC (28.50291°N, 87.48505°W). Some of the holothurians here (Pseudostichopus) had petropods on their back.

At 16:50 UTC (28.50291°N, 87.48542°W) we started heading up the escarpment in NE direction. Initially we observed more holothurians, and a pen-like tripod fish.

At about 17:10 UTC we moved over an area filled with large, dark boulders with sediment, but the biology was less dense here. As we approached a plateau - the intermediate waypoint for the dive - we passed by an almost vertical rock slope, then the seafloor became all sediment with few rocks. We reached the plateau at about 17:40 UTC (28.50360°N, 87.48487°W), still lots of sediment.

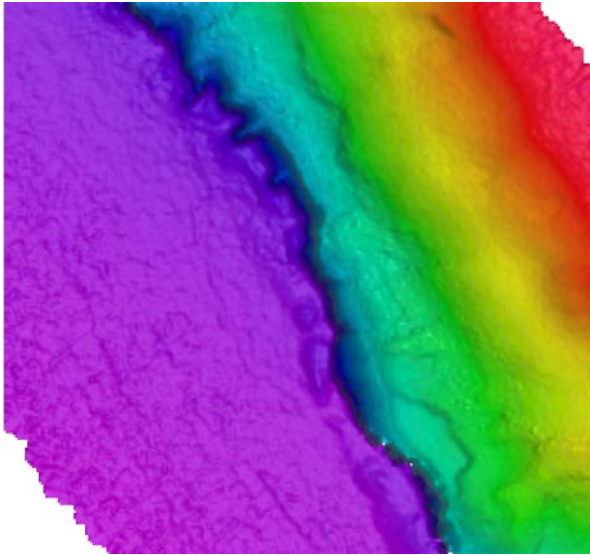
After we passed the plateau, which is an area less steep, we continued NE along a steeper slope. Lots of scattered rocks, heavily sedimented. All along the escarpment we observed dense, white pteropod shells along the bottom. Other biology include multiple sightings of holothurians of the pseudostichopus or benthosthuria varieties. Some small corals were noted when we neared the plateau, growing on the rocks. Most were cup corals.

The rocks on this dive all had the dark and rusty red colour, presumably due to manganese or iron oxide staining on limestone.

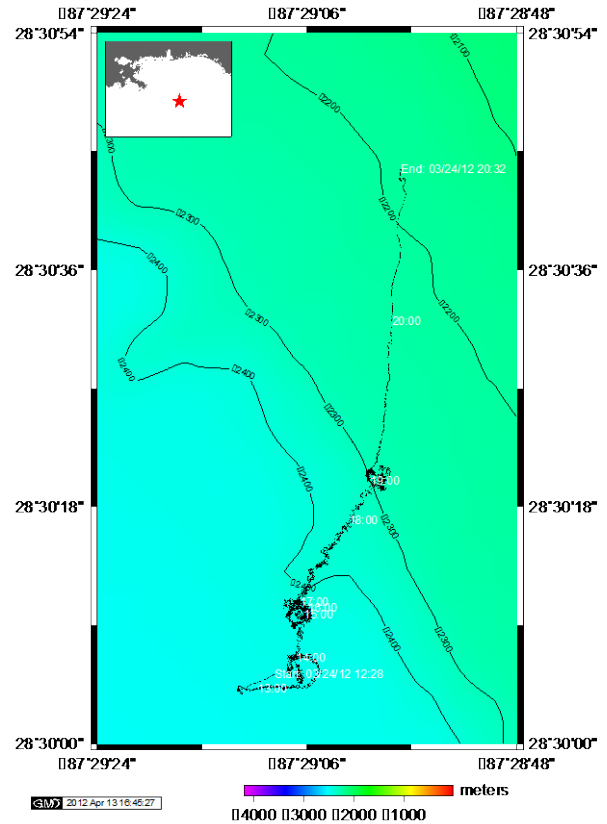
Before the dive ended at 18:30 UTC, we explored an almost vertical, rocky wall (28.50528°N, 87.48323°W). It was still heavily sedimented with limited fauna on it. We reached the top of the wall at about 18:28 UTC (28.50563°N, 87.4830°W), virtual target "DC004 Top of the wall". There were several corals here, mostly

Irridigorgia.

Overall Map of ROV Dive Area



Close-up Map of Main Dive Site



Representative Photos of the Dive



EX1202L2_IMG_20120324T152850Z_ROVHD_COP_TUB_SQA.jpg
Typical tubeworm bush (Lamellibrachia and Escarpia) in seep area near bottom of escarpment.



EX1202L2_IMG_20120324T154822Z_ROVHD_COP_TUB_SQA_SHI.jpg
Associate fauna on tubeworms include shrimp and octocorals that grow near the tube openings.

Please direct inquiries to:

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research
1315 East-West Highway (SSMC3 10th Floor)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

	(301) 734-1014
--	----------------