Activity Summary

Cruise **biolum2009**

Project **Bioluminescence 2009**

Little Bahama Bank Lithoherm

2009/07/29 08:00:00 EDT - 2009/07/29 11:30:00 EDT

Bioluminescence in the Deep-Sea Benthos

JSL2-3697

Activity Vitals

Dates/Times/Depth		Bndg Coordinates		System(s)
Start	2009/07/29 08:00:00	**North**	27.5	Johnson Sea Link II
End	2009/07/29 11:30:00	**South**	24	
Time zone	EDT	**East**	-79	**Data Collected**
MaxDepth (m)	2034	**West**	-79.5	Multimedia
Operating Depth Range (m)	1900-2034			

Participants

Sonke Johnsen, Forward Observer
Ryan Keith, Aft Observer
,
,

Overall Dive Site Ratings

1=low, 10=high

Uniqueness	No rating
Health	No rating
Disturbance	No rating
Biodiversity	No rating
Relief Variation (m)	

Objectives

To collect and photograph bioluminesence

Dive Track Description

We dropped down to a barren plain and then moved towards a series of ridges (roughly northwards). The first ridges were quite low, only about 5-10 feet high, the later ridges much higher, peaking at about 30-50 feet. We followed the ridges, which were roughly whale-backed, slowly getting higher and then tapering of before another started. Then we surfaced.

Biological Comments

The flats were quite empty of life, with just the occasional urchin or solitary coral. The low ridge had glass sponges and yellow sponges on their sides, and crinoids on the top. The higher ridges had similar sides, but the peaks and sometimes the current-side slopes were covered with large stands of Gerardia. These in turn had many small galatheid craps on them and were usually surrounded by larger galatheid crabs(Eumunida?). There were also shrimps hiding under small ledges. In a few places we saw micro-communities on solitary large dead black corals. The best of these had many venus fly trap anemones, a few basket stars, some Novadinia, galatheid crabs, and gooseneck barnacles. Truly marvelous things.

Geological Comments

Mostly described above. It was interesting how the lower ridges seemed to be piles of rubble and that the larger ridges were highly undercut at their peaks, sometimes by as much as 8 feet.

Living Habitat Structure

Type	% Cover
Nothing recorded	

Sediments

Type	% Cover
Nothing recorded	

Geomorphology

Type	% Cover
Nothing recorded	

Anthropogenics

Type/Description
Nothing recorded

Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

Nothing recorded

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)

Nothing recorded

Other Comments/Notes

No additional comments.