

Activity Summary

CrsID

LifeEdge2005

CrsProjID

OE_2005_083

Savannah Lithoherms

10/30/2005

**Continental Slope Coral Banks of the Southeastern United States:
Exploring the distributions. e**

Overview of Human Occupied Vehicle Dive JSL1-2005-4905 (LifeEdge2005_ACT0084) at Savannah

Activity Vitals

Dates/Times/Depth	Bndg Coordinates	System(s)
Start 10/30/2005 15:40:00	North 31.7845	Johnson-Sea-Link I Suction Sampler
End 10/30/2005 18:51:00	South 31.7726	
Time zone EDT UTC -04	East -79.2027	Data Collected
MaxDepth (m): -540.7	West -79.2058	Samples Multimedia Data

Participants

Cheryl Morrison, Forward Observer
Steve Ross, Aft Observer

Overall Dive Site Ratings

1 = low; 10 = high

Uniqueness	2
Health	7
Disturbance	1
Biodiversity	3
Relief Variation (meters):	25

Objectives

Explore and characterize a bathymetric feature suspected of supporting deep coral communities; collect coral specimens for genetics studies; collect fishes for food web studies; conduct transects for habitat characterization studies.

Dive Track Description

Dive started on flat sandy bottom. Noticeable fauna were pancake sea urchin, torpedo rays, and skates. Moved up-slope and to top of a small mound. Increased rubble cover toward top of mound with scattered live Lophelia, Enallipsammia, and Stylaster corals. Moved down-slope off mound and across another flat, sandy bottom, then up-slope again on another mound with similar fauna as first. Then moved down-slope again, across another flat sandy area, and up-slope on 3rd mound. Followed the top of this mound for the rest of the dive collecting corals. Video of Chimera before end of dive. No Galatheid crabs observed in this area. Generally low coral cover on mounds. No black corals or Gorgonians.

Living Habitat Structure

Type	% Cover
Sponges	5
Stony Corals	10
Octocorals	5
Dead Coral w/ encrusting	70

Sediments

Type	% Cover
Coarse Sand (.5mm -	70
Coral Rubble	30

Geomorphology

Type	% Cover
mounds	50
sand waves	1
sand	49

Anthropogenics

Type/Description
Discarded Gear
Small piece of velcro

Living Marine Resources Abundance

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

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

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

No other comments.

Unique or Rare Invertebrates	Unique or Rare Vertebrates
Chacein Crabs	Swordfish, Chimera

Fish Observation and Abundance

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

Swordfish-single, Chimera-single, Torpedo Rays-few, Skates-few, Blackbelly rosefish-few, Coral hake-few, Nezumia-few

Other Comments/Notes

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration



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