

Summary

Cruise: AT-41

Pilot: Jefferson **Dive:** A4963 **Stbd Observer:** Kaitlin Kovacs

Date: 8/24/2018 **Site:** Stetson Deep **Port Observer:** Sandra Brooke

Alvin arrived on bottom at 13:00 UTC at a depth of ~850 m, approximately mid-way between Target 1 and 2. Bottom type was coral rubble, visibility was good (clear within light range), currents minimal, and temperature ~5°C. We began transiting east, upslope towards Target 2, and ran across rubble with sparse live *Lophelia* colonies, which became larger and more abundant as we moved up moderately steep slope. Currents were manageable and we stopped to sample *Lophelia* and fire niskins periodically. Approximately halfway up the slope, we stopped to deploy the coral units, next to a large colony of *Lophelia* on a flat area of low relief rubble (31 59.06N; -77 24.6893). Alvin requested a fix from the surface as 'coral experiment'. We sampled a *Paragorgia johnsonii* colony next to the experiment and continued to move upslope towards Target 3. The top of the mound was covered in *Lophelia* and we completed our quiver samples and placed a large *Lophelia* colony in the starboard biobox for live experiments. As we moved to the southeastern quadrant of the mound, the habitat changed to a flat area dominated by small white octocorals, *Enallopsammia* and *Madrepora* colonies. The port arm pressure compensator disconnected so we finished coral sampling and collected 3 pushcores with the starboard arm and left bottom at 17:30