

Summary

Cruise: AT-41

Pilot: Jefferson
D'Angelo

Dive: A4967

Stbd Observer: Chris

Date: Aug. 28
Joye

Site: Blake Ridge

Port Observer: Mandy

The dive to Blake Ridge started with a long decent through an active water column, with bioluminescence picking up around 250 meters and lasting until the sea floor. We caught our first glimpse of bottom around 9:40 a.m. (2168 meters and around 2 degrees C) and immediately spotted a large number of mussels, clams and brittle stars. Here we fired a neuston net, collected 6 push cores near a mussel bed and shot 4K video. We also collected several large mussels in a biobox and other species in a mussel pot. The mussel pot kicked up a large amount of sediment, which we had to wait out. At around 11 a.m. we started cruising again in search of gas seep and hydrate, but were unable to find either. The ocean floor was covered in dead clams, dead and live mussels and large carbonate rocks. We sampled several rocks, an urchin, numerous mussels and six cores of bacterial mat. We had a hard time finding any large patches of mat for additional sampling. Other species observed: several octopus, rat tail fish, eels, a dancing sea cucumber and lots of small crabs. At around 3 p.m. we took a final set of cores in an area of sediment then did a short transit north to the shipwreck site, where we saw a pile of bricks, wine bottles and an anchor chain (no anchor was found). Near the shipwreck there was also a large metal drum. We started our ascent around 3:40 p.m. Several cores degassed on the way to the surface.