

# ROV Dive Summary, EX-21-07, Dive 01 October 27, 2021

# **General Location Map**



# **Dive Information**

Site Name	Reef Tracts	
General Area Descriptor	Row of 65 m mounds on the Blake Plateau	
Science Team Leads	Stephanie Farrington, Allen Collins	
Expedition Coordinator	Matt Dornback	
Sample Data Manager	Anna Lienesch	
ROV Dive Supervisor	Chris Ritter	
Mapping Lead	Derek Sowers	
Dive Purpose	Exploration and collections	
Was the dive restricted for Underwater Cultural Heritage?	No	
ROV Dive Summary Data	Dive Summary: EX2107_DIVE01 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	



Dive Description	Descent – Water/niskin bottle 1 ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_01W</b> ) was fired at 500 m deep for eDNA collections.
	On Bottom: Water/niskin bottle 2 ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_02W</b> ) fired with the ROV 1 m from the bottom (Niskin bottles are located approximately 1 m from the bottom of the ROV so the samples were actually collected at 2 m off the bottom) for eDNA collections.
	D2 landed on the base of the ridge in a flat area. The bottom was 100% <i>Lophelia/Enallopsammia</i> coral rubble. The rubble was old-dead, dark in color with the sclerites damaged. Bamboo corals of at least 3 different species, as well as the hexactinellid (glass) sponge <i>Vazella pourtalesii</i> , were present. A few areas with some standing dead coral bushes were also present. Anomurans (squat lobsters) were common in the rubble along with Bamboo coral ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_03B and 03B_01A</b> ).
	Making way to the slope and heading up the bottom portion of the mound, the 100% coral rubble continued on a visibly lithified substrate, strongly suggesting that we were ascending the slope of a bioherm. On the way to the first rise there were <i>Comactinia</i> – comatulid crinoids, as well as a few stalked crinoids.
	Benthopelagic jellyfish were present in the water column near the bottom - juvenile <i>Ptychogastria</i> ( reminiscent of rhopalonematids). A sample ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_04B</b> ) of the hydromedusa was collected.
	Among the fish observed was a Birdbeak Dogfish ( <i>Deania calcea</i> ), an eastern Atlantic species, rarely seen this far west or south, which may mark a range extension. A Chimaera- juvenile <i>Chimaera monstrosa</i> was spotted associated with the bottom, as were <i>Nezumia</i> (rat tail fish), along with lacy fan bryozoans oriented with fan parallel with bottom. Primnoid corals were abundant growing attached to the coral rubble, along with bamboo corals from multiple species, with some knocked over, but seemingly healthy looking. Small 20-30 cm colonies of living <i>Enllopsammia</i> were growing among the coral rubble and standing dead corals. Other Octocorallia seen among the rubble were <i>Anthomastus</i> -like colonies and nephtheid soft corals.
	A pachastrellid-like sponge (veined elephant-ear, flat lobate) was sampled ( <b>Sample EX2107_DIVE01_05B</b> ). At the mid-dive point, a third water sample was taken at 1 m above the bottom for eDNA collections ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_06W</b> ).
	An octopus - <i>Muusoctopus januarii</i> was sighted and observed foraging or retreating from the ROV for a while. Antipatharian corals were spotted, but no exemplars were focused upon. A sample of a narrow volcano-shaped, tan demosponge, <i>Characella</i> sp. ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_07B</b> ) was taken. This likely undescribed species was common but not densely situated on the reef.
	The Upper part of each of the bathymetric highs had an increase of dead <i>Lophelia</i> , with living <i>Lophelia</i> colonies, 10-40 cm in size, increasing in abundance. These living and dead colones were quite rugose, providing habitat for multiple species of small animals (solitary cup corals, stalked crinoids (rare), comatulid crinoids (common), Synaphobranchidae; <i>Synaphobranchus affins</i> – thin Cutthroat Eels (common), hydroids of many species/forms were abundant, including one imaged colony of the aglaopheniid <i>Gymnangium</i> ,with gonothecae), pink, long-spined ophiuroids (common). Volcano sponges (similar to sample <b>07B</b> , collected earlier), and possible cf. Petrosiidae-like sponges were also present. A couple of instances of a strikingly blue encrusting sponge spotted within the rubble.
	Grenadier fish (rare), <i>Nezumia aequalis</i> - Nose Down Macrourid (common), <i>Anthomastus</i> -like (common), one sea spider – Pycnogonida, family Colossendeidae.



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	Gilbertaster caribaea- sea star (EX2107_DIVE01_08B) with associated amphipods (08B_02A) was sampled along with the small, delicate primnoid(?) (08B_01A) it seemed to be feeding on.
	Slope increased closer to the tops of each bathymetric high to about 45° up slope. Current was moving fast enough to cause gorgonians to flap around. Near the top of the mounds, there were increasing amounts of larger spaces among the structures created by broken rubble and standing dead colonies. The top of this mound had standing dead colonies interspersed with 10-40 cm living coral heads. <i>Chrysogorgia</i> (Sample EX2107_DIVE01_09B) with squat lobster associate (09B_A01) and associated penaeid shrimp (09B_A02) and a colony of the nephtheid soft coral <i>Pseudodrifa</i> (EX2107_DIVE01_10B) and nearby solitary cupcoral (EX2107_DIVE01_10B_A01) growing on dead coral were collected. Close zoom of a live colony of <i>Madrepora</i> showed many of the same animals mentioned above living inside/associated with the coral head. Water (EX2107_DIVE01_11W) was taken close to this coral head at 1 m above the bottom as the 4th sample for eDNA collections. <i>Nodostrella</i> glass sponges were common in this area.
	The apex of a 3 <sup>rd</sup> mound was covered by a thick layer of dead standing coral colonies with 1-2 m thickets of living coral on top. <i>Laemonema melanurum</i> (coral hake) and primnoids were common on the mound tops. <i>Vazella</i> glass sponges were also present. A less commonly seen sponge morphotype, likely representing <i>Oceanapia</i> ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_12B</b> ), was sampled. Niskin bottle 5 was used to sample ( <b>EX2107_DIVE01_13W</b> ), water 1 m above the bottom for eDNA collections.
	End dive at 803 m.
Notable Observations	Lophelia Bioherm
Community and	Corals and Sponges - (Present)
habitat	Chemosynthetic Community - (Absent)
observations	High biodiversity Community - (Present)
	Active Seep or Vent - (Absent)
	Extinct Seep or Vent - (Absent)
014500.5	Hydrates - (Absent)
Type(s)	Plateau, Coral Kuddle
SeaTube Link (science annotation system)	https://data.oceannetworks.ca/SeaTubeV3?resourceTypeId=600&resourceId=5720

### **Equipment Deployed**

ROV	Deep Discoverer
Camera Platform	Seirios
ROV Measurements	The following ROV measurements, data streams and equipment are used on each ROV deployment: CTD, depth, scanning sonar, USBL position, altitude, heading, attitude, high- resolution cameras, low resolution cameras, manipulator arms, suction sampler, sample drawers and thrusters. The section below notes if any of these sensors were malfunctioning or not operational
Equipment Malfunctions	None



#### Close-up Map of Main Dive Site



Oblique view of ROV dive track shown in white on 25 m resolution bathymetry, 3x vertical exaggeration, depth in meters.

#### **Representative Photos of the Dive**







# Samples Collected -

Sample ID	EX2107_D01_01W
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	1:11:33 PM
Depth (m)	505.0898



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Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210164
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.853175
Temp. (°C)	18.14976
Field ID(s)	Water
Comments	For eDNA

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A



Sample ID	EX2107_D01_02W
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	1:49:39 PM
Depth (m)	511.4854
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210114
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852542
Temp. (°C)	4.7221
Field ID(s)	Water
Comments	eDNA



Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A



Sample ID	EX2107_D01_03B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	2:34:00 PM



Depth (m)	866.7572
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.211579
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852514
Temp. (°C)	4.71909
Field ID(s)	Primnoidae; Bamboo Coral
Comments	white, sparsely branched

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
EX2107_D01_03B_01A	Anomura- Squat lobster; Uroptychus sp.	1







Sample ID	EX2107_D01_04B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	2:47:59 PM
Depth (m)	861.507
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.211441
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852521
Temp. (°C)	4.73509
Field ID(s)	Rhopalonematidae
Comments	yellow gonads attached completely along radial canals, red gut, two size classes of tentacles, small nipple at apex of bell, yellow margins.

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A





Sample ID	EX2107_D01_05B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	4:02:30 PM
Depth (m)	844.758
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210588
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852432
Temp. (°C)	6.78786



Field ID(s)	Porifera; Axinellidae
Comments	less than 1 cm thick, elongated lobe, elephant ear, vein like structures on one side, 15cm. One side lots of hairy spicules.

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A



Sample ID	EX2107_D01_06W
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	4:06:54 PM
Depth (m)	844.6795
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210585
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852452
Temp. (°C)	6.85379
Field ID(s)	Water
Comments	eDNA

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A





Sample ID	EX2107_D01_07B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	163152
Depth (m)	840.6085205
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.21042061
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.85248566
Temp. (°C)	7.094359875



Field ID(s)	Characella sp.
Comments	Possibly undescribed species, common on the reef. 15cm, crispy hollow tube, very heavily spiculated, distinct, oscule at top has no membrane, volcano shaped

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A







Sample ID	EX2107_D01_08B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	5:04:26 PM
Depth (m)	831.5980225
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210175
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852624
Temp. (°C)	7.39789
Field ID(s)	Gilbertaster caribaea
Comments	Rare, feeding on Primnoid (Associate 1A) five arms cookie star, biscuit star, was eating a possible octocoral. Has amphipods and cnidaria associates.

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
EX2107_D01_08B_A01	Cnidaria; Primnoid?	2
EX2107_D01_08B_A02	Amphipods	2 present - 1 in DNA, 1 standard





Sample ID	EX2107_DIVE01_09B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	5:32:52 PM
Depth (m)	821.5385
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210087
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852799
Temp. (°C)	7.54934



Field ID(s)	Chrysogorgia sp.
Comments	About 10 cm, bushy branching. Growing off of <i>lophelia</i> (dead). <i>Lophelia</i> has hydroid. Associate will be in the same container with primary.

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
EX2107_D01_09B_A01	Galatheoidea	1
EX2107_D01_09B_A02	Penaeidae	1







Sample ID	EX2107_D01_10B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	5:38:19 PM
Depth (m)	821.4911
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210073
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852771
Temp. (°C)	7.59658
Field ID(s)	Pseudodrifa sp.
Comments	Octocoral, on a piece of dead <i>Lophelia</i> , <i>Lophelia</i> has hydroid and cup coral. Cup coral was sampled as associate with no DNA sample

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
EX2107_D01_10B_A01	Scleractinia- solitary cup	1- No DNA





Sample ID	EX2107_D01_11W
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	6:04:49 PM
Depth (m)	809.2019
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210044
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.852982
Temp. (°C)	7.67008
Field ID(s)	Water
Comments	eDNA

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A





Sample ID	EX2107_D01_12B
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	7:33:16 PM
Depth (m)	814.8426
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210672
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.854619
Temp. (°C)	8.14084



Field ID(s)	Oceanapia sp.
Comments	Firm, amorphous, fistula, on <i>Lophelia</i> rubble, tan inside, tan outside, dermal layer, has an <i>ircinia</i> -like strong scent.

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A



Sample ID	EX2107_D01_13W
Date (UTC)	20211027
Time (UTC)	7:50:36 PM
Depth (m)	802.7205
Latitude (decimal degrees)	31.210832
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-77.854869
Temp. (°C)	8.84597
Field ID(s)	Water
Comments	eDNA

Associates Sample ID	Field Identification	Count
N/A	N/A	N/A





Sciencists involved (provide name, email, armation
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