

Northern Gulf of Mexico Deep Sea Habitats Cruise
September 21 - October 2, 2003

Contact: Fred Gorell, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, 1315 East West Hwy, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, 301/713-9444

Image	Caption
ald3surfnorth.jpg:	Alderdice Bank, one of the sites explored in the Gulf of Mexico during this NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise, features two towers of basalt over 60' tall, and one large elevated region to the east, featuring sponges, gorgonians, and leafy green algae. Bathymetry courtesy of J. Gardner/USGS and image by of D. Weaver/FGBNMS/NOAA.
RonBrown.jpg	NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown at sunset in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by S. Bernhardt, FGBNMS/NOAA.
shark.2.jpg:	This small dog shark was caught on video using the SONSUB Innovator ROV at Viosca Knoll as she swam around large clusters of <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> coral bushes during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. University of Alabama, NOAA OE
ROVlaunch.JPG:	Sonsub Innovator ROV being launched from the NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown during the Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. The tether management system sits on top of the ROV during deployment and recovery of the sub, and is suspended by the support vessel above the ocean floor during dives. It manages the tether line for the ROV as it moves down to the ocean floor, ensuring that it doesn't drag along the bottom, and is secondarily used for sample storage, as can be seen from the various baskets hanging from the frame. Photo by C. Martinez, NOAA OE.
SFredericq.jpg:	Dr. Suzanne Fredericq, Phycologist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, presses a seaweed specimen onto a herbarium sheet for further study. The species that Dr. Fredericq is pressing was found at about 66 m depth (200 ft) in the West Flower Garden Bank during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise, and represents a new record for the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by S. Bernhardt, FGBNMS/NOAA.
seastar.JPG:	This delicate juvenile sea star, <i>Coronaster briareus</i> , is only 2 inches in diameter, but can grow to almost 12 inches in diameter. One of the fastest moving sea stars, this lovely creature was collected at the West Flower Garden Bank during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise to the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by S. Bernhardt, FGBNMS/NOAA.
Lophelia.JPG:	This single colony of bright-white <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> coral was captured on video at Viosca Knoll during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. <i>Lophelia</i> requires a hard substrate for attachment and growth and this large boulder provided the necessary substrate. A variety of anemones and delicate sponges also share this habitat. University of Alabama, NOAA OE.
eel.JPG	This beautiful moray eel was caught on video at the West Flower Garden Bank using the SONSUB Innovator ROV. FGBNMS/NOAA.

squatlobster.jpg:	This three-toothed squat lobster, <i>Munidopsis tridentata</i> , collected during an ROV dive in Green Canyon, was identified by Mary Wicksten, Texas A&M, during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo courtesy of S. Bernhardt, FGBNMS/NOAA.
ROV2.jpg	Sonsub technicians, Maurice Rivard and Ray Maza, working on the Sonsub Innovator ROV on board the NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown during the Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by George. P. Schmahl, FGBNMS/NOAA.
ROVvan.jpg:	Sonsub pilot, Maurice Rivard (far right), flying the Innovator ROV during surveys at Viosca Knoll, with Sonsub technician Keith Hyatt (far left) observing, and scientist Sandra Brooke, University of Oregon (in headphones) providing guidance. The red light in the ROV 'van' is used to provide illumination for those working inside the van without obstructing the images from the video monitors during dives. Photo courtesy of G.P. Schmahl, FGBNMS/NOAA.
flytrap.jpg	This flytrap anemone was collected at Viosca Knoll during the NOAA sponsored Deep Sea Habitats Cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by S. Bernhardt, FGBNMS/NOAA.