

OVERVIEW

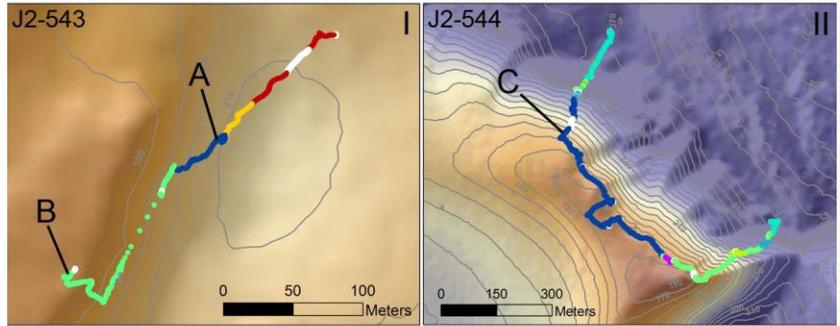
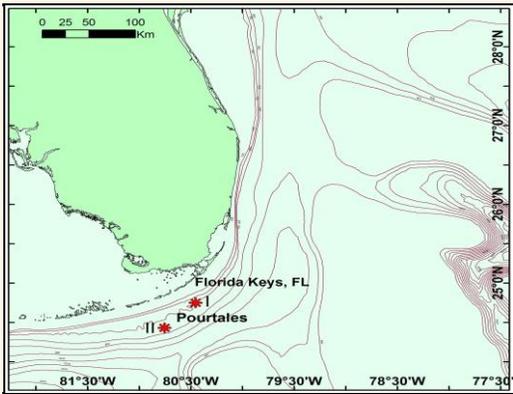
Total Dives 2

Depth Range (m): 162 to 367

HABITAT CHARACTERIZATION MAPS



GENERAL LOCATION



Habitat

- Soft Sediment
- Sand, Rock - Barren
- Sand, Rock - Fauna
- Rubble
- Tile Fish Burrows
- Rock Ledge - Barren
- Rock Ledge - Fauna
- Pavement - Barren
- Pavement - Fauna
- Mixed Habitat
- Hard Coral
- Hard Coral - Fauna
- No Video or Poor Video
- ⚡ Anthropogenic

DIVE SUMMARY FOR SITE

Dive Date	PI	Station	Method	Start-Time	End-Time	Start-Lat (N)	Start-Long (W)	End-Lat (N)	End-Long (W)
12-Nov-10	SW Ross, SD Brooke	J2-543	ROV	17:58	19:41	24° 45.028'	80° 27.196'	24° 44.948'	80° 27.298'
13-Nov-10	SW Ross, SD Brooke	J2-544	ROV	12:21	17:32	24° 25.989'	80° 45.281'	24° 25.697'	80° 45.044'

Site Characterization

Pourtales

IMAGE GALLERY

* indicates image position is approximated

Image A: Mixed Habitat

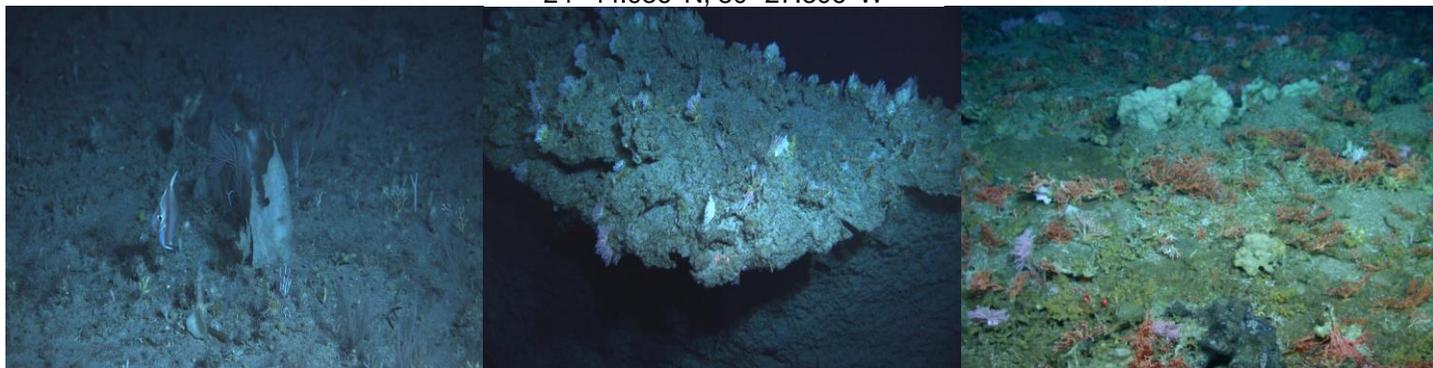
24° 44.988' N, 80° 27.240' W

Image B: Rock Ledge - with Attached Fauna

24° 44.936' N, 80° 27.306' W

Image C: Mixed Habitat

24° 25.734' N, 80° 45.300' W



SITE OVERVIEW

AUTHOR SW Ross

DATE COMPILED 18-Dec-2012

During the Nov 2010 cruise supported by the NOAA Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology program two dives were completed on the Pourtales Terrace. Previous dives had also been conducted in this region off southern Florida in 2005 (lead by S. Brooke) and 2007 (lead by C. Messing). About 70 sq km of this area was mapped with multibeam sonar during the 2010 cruise.

The Pourtales Terrace is an extensive limestone hardground outcrop, which exhibits both high relief topography as well as sinkholes. Its depths range from about 170 to 500 m. This area is swept by strong currents (Florida Current). The two dives conducted in 2010 were in very different locations on the terrace. Some sandy patches were encountered, but most of these dives traversed rocky ledges and pavements. *Lophelia pertusa* colonies were generally small and widely scattered. Various stlyasterid hydrocorals, cup corals, and gorgonians were attached to the rocky bottom. Sponges in particular were abundant and diverse on this site. Trash was observed in places.

The mobile macrofauna were diverse. Macroinvertebrates included galatheid squat lobsters, various other crabs in several families, urchins, and starfish. The fishes observed were typical of depth transition zones between the outer shelf and upper slope and included boarfish, blackbelly rosefish, codlings (Moridae) and amberjacks.

These sites are included within the Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern established by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.