



Patterns in Deep-Sea Corals – March 2015 expedition aboard NOAA ship *Bell M. Shimada*

The following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offices have provided support for this project.

National Ocean Service

The National Ocean Service mission is to provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our ocean and coasts.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Sanctuary scientists and their partners work to understand and predict natural and human-caused changes throughout the sanctuary system. From environmental monitoring to habitat mapping to socioeconomic research, science and exploration are essential to the effective management of our special underwater places. Contact: Chris Caldwell, chris.caldow@noaa.gov.

Office of Coast Survey

President Thomas Jefferson created the U.S. Coast Survey in 1807 to provide nautical charts that would help the young nation with safe shipping, national defense, and maritime boundaries. Two centuries later, Coast Survey – now an office within NOAA – continues to provide navigation products and services that ensure safe and efficient maritime commerce on America's oceans and coastal waters, and in the Great Lakes. Innovative applications beyond navigation emerge as researchers harness evolving technologies. These advancements give Coast Survey tremendous opportunities to help the nation meet the challenges of the changing environment. Applying the newest advancements for survey and detection, data adds to our scientific knowledge of the coastal seafloor. With this knowledge, we can simulate sea level effects on coasts and ecosystems, identify sensitive marine habitats, select alternative energy sites, identify geological hazards, and predict the impact of environmental conditions on species and habitats. Contact: Michael Annis, michael.j.annis@noaa.gov.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

NCCOS is the research office of the NOAA National Ocean Service and provides research, scientific information and tools to help balance the nation's ecological, social and economic goals. NCCOS partnerships with local and national coastal managers are essential in providing science and services to benefit communities around the nation. The research and tools NCCOS develops are central to addressing coastal issues raised in legislation and NOAA's priorities. NCCOS helps coastal communities protect themselves from harmful algae, contamination and the implications of changing climate, and provides research essential for communities to develop effective and sustainable management of their resources. Contacts: Peter Etnoyer, peter.etnoyer@noaa.gov and Laura Kracker, laura.kracker@noaa.gov.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat, and provides vital services for the nation: productive and sustainable fisheries, safe sources of seafood, the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and healthy ecosystems—all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management.

Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program

The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program's mission is to provide sound scientific information needed to conserve and manage deep-sea coral ecosystems. The Program conducts three-year field efforts to research, map, and characterize deep-sea coral habitats in selected regions and also works at a national level to integrate existing research on—and known locations of—deep-sea corals; conducting workshops to further identify management-driven deep-sea coral exploration and research needs and to identify the minimum requirements to address deep-sea coral data and information management needs; analyzing the distribution and intensity of fishing practices that may impact these corals; and improving the reporting and analysis of bycatch of deep-sea corals caught in commercial fishing activities.

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Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

OAR or "NOAA Research" provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet. The Office's role is to provide unbiased science to better manage the environment, nationally, and globally.

Office of Ocean and Exploration and Research (OER)

The Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) is the only federal program dedicated to systematically exploring and characterizing the ocean. OER works with partners around the Nation to establish baselines for advancing science, identifying new habitats and species, identifying new resources, and stimulating interest and involvement in understanding the ocean. The results of exploration are critical for ocean resource management and to help citizens, businesses, and governments make smart choices to protect lives, property, and economic wellbeing. With the development and growing international adoption of telepresence and new undersea technologies, OER continues to transform how ocean exploration and research is conducted. Contact: Jeremy Potter, jeremy.potter@noaa.gov.