Biological Data Files

Shipwreck, Beaufort Inlet, North Carolina
by: Truelove Fabrications, Inc.

The following report is the result of a biological survey conducted during the course of two dives on September 25, 1998. This is a brief description of the biological features of the site. Total bottom time was 169 min. Visibility at peak conditions was approximately 1.25 meters. The depth at the site is approximately 7 meters. The composition of the bottom is clean white sand. Aside from the elements of the wreck there were no other distinguishing features. There appears to be a strong surge across the location and as a result there is a large amount of suspended particulate in the water column.

The site of the wreck is upon the western bar of Beaufort Inlet. It is possible that it may be the "*Queen Anne's Revenge*", flagship of the pirate known as "Blackbeard" and is considered to have been wrecked in 1718. The main body of the site appears as a pile of heavily concreated rubble with the approximate dimensions of 7.5 meters x 15 meters. It has a maximum elevation of approximately 1.5 meters above the surrounding sand bottom. The most easily distinguished shapes within the pile are two anchors about 4 meters in length with about a 2-meter span across the flukes. Some prolonged observation is necessary to realize the shapes of numerous cannon within the pile. In general they seem to be a little over 3 meters in length and have a diameter of approximately 40 to 50 cm (concreated). Also of note, adjacent to the pile, a section of the wooden hull had been exposed in a scoured depression. Individual ballast stone was scattered in and around the depression much of it clean with very little concretion. Most everything else appeared amorphous within the concreated mass.

The following is a list of various animals and plants noted during the survey along with notes on peculiar features.

FISH			
Black Sea Bass	Centropristis striata	The most common fish on the site	
White Grunt	Haemulon plumieri		
Spadefish	Chaetodipterus faber		

Sheepshead	Archosargus probatocephalus		
Pinfish	Lagodan rhomboides		
Blue Angelfish (juvenile)	Holocanthus bermudensis	noted two	
SPONGES *Porifera*			
Sulfur Sponge	Aplysilla longispina	A large single mass encrusting the underside of one of the cannon and supporting ballast. Covers an area 150cm x 60cm. It is elevated no more than 20cm above the bottom.	
CNIDARIA			
Anemone	sp. unidentified.	In extensive groups, one totaling over 100 individuals, each immediate to It's neighbor. The individual animal has a blue opaque cast. An average diameter of 10-15mm with several individuals at upwards to 30mm. The tentacles extended 5-8mm. I was unable to determine the number of tentacles.	
Hydroid	Eudendrium carneum	Found only a few small colonies in the upper elevations of the pile.	
Coral	Astrangia danae	Common throughout the site in domelike colonies of 2-6cm dia.	

Ivory Bush Coral	Oculina Arbuscula	Counted 22 colonies in a one square meter area. Noted one particular colony in the "plant like" form occupying an area of 80 square cm. The coralites were a cream color, the coenosarc was mustard yellow sometimes diminishing to a whiter tone.	
Sea Whip	Leptogorgia virgulata	Noted 8 healthy colonies and several nearly or completely dead Colonies. Some of the dead colonies were partially overgrown with barnacles. The live colonies were up to 45cm highwith as many as sixteen branches. The colonies were located toward the top of the pile or within protected depressions. The color of the colonies was a light orange.	
CHORDATA			
Rough Sea Squirt	Stylea plicata	Occassional	
ECHINODEMATA			
Purple Sea Urchin	Arbacia punctulata	numerous, counted 60 in a random square meter	
Sand Dollar	Mellita quinquiesperforata	Occassional	

BRYOZOA			
It was difficult to positively identify the species found at the site. The colonies were not that much in evidence and when found were located at the higher elevations of the site. Noted a white encrust possibly membranipora tenuis, an orange encrust possibly Schizoporella unicornis. Both types when found, were encrusting dead oyster shell.			
MULLUSCA			
Horse Oysters	Ostrea equestris	The lower valves of dead individuals are a major component of the concretion that coats the structure of the wreck. The living overgrow their predecessors to form new laminations.	
Shipworm	Sp. Bankia or toredo	Infesting the uncovered Oak frames. Oddly, the adjacent Oak planking appeared unaffected	
ANNELIDA			
Shingle Tube Worm	Owenia fusiformis	Occassional	
Feather Duster Worm	Sabella melanostigma	Occassional	
Fan Worm	Hydroides dianthus	The Feather Duster and Fan worms make a contribution tot he buildup of the concretion. A broad estimate may be 15% of the total coverage.	

ARTHROPODA			
Stiped Barnacle	Balanus amphitrite	Covering as much as 25% of the total surface	
Corraline Algae		A major contributor to the concretion covering approximately 30-35% of the total surface area of the site	

Pictures taken by Julep Gillman-Bryan