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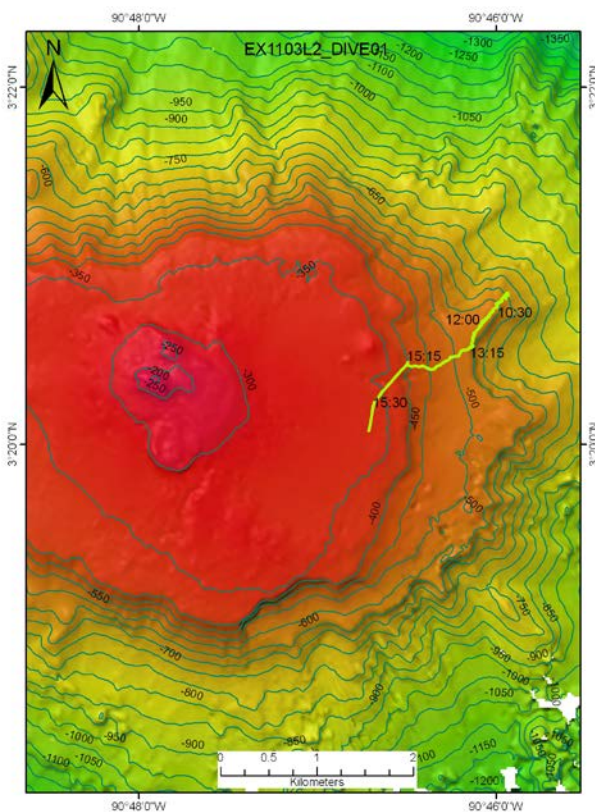
### Purpose of the Dive

The location of this dive on the eastern side of Paramount seamount at approximately 600 meters depth was chosen based on multibeam, backscatter and current data. The goal was to characterize the biological communities on the Seamount, and make comparisons with 2010 INDEX expedition to the Sangihe Talaud region in Indonesia.

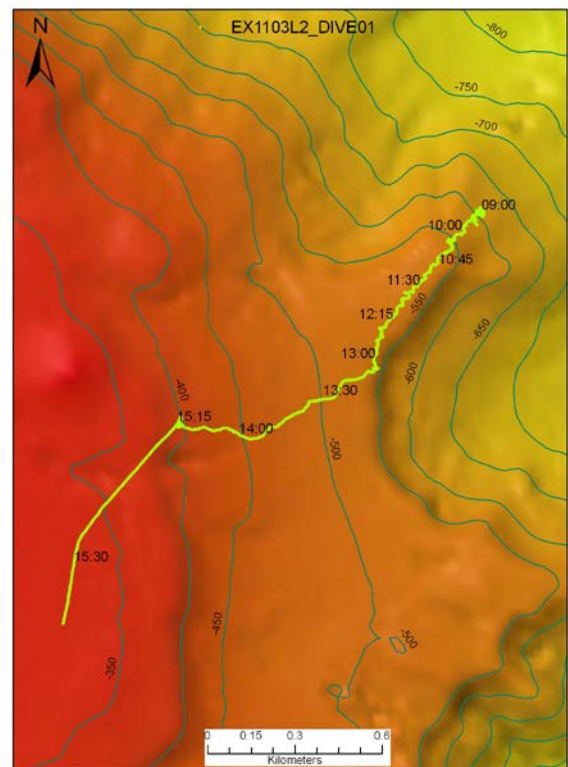
### Description of the Dive:

The ROV *Little Hercules* began this dive at approximately 800 meters depth and moved upslope to explore the rim of the seamount. We transited to the west toward a large promontory 8 meters away. As we moved upslope, there was an increase in abundance of organisms and a general trend of high abundance of corals, but with low diversity. The summit margin was characterized by a high abundance of white brachiopods and pink brittle stars in the 400 meter shallow zone along the summit margin. Multiple ophiuroids, brachiopods, and white sponges were found on a sediment-covered seafloor with occasional isolated cobbles and small boulders and brittle stars were observed on a red rocky substrate, hypothesized to be fossil shallow-water corals.

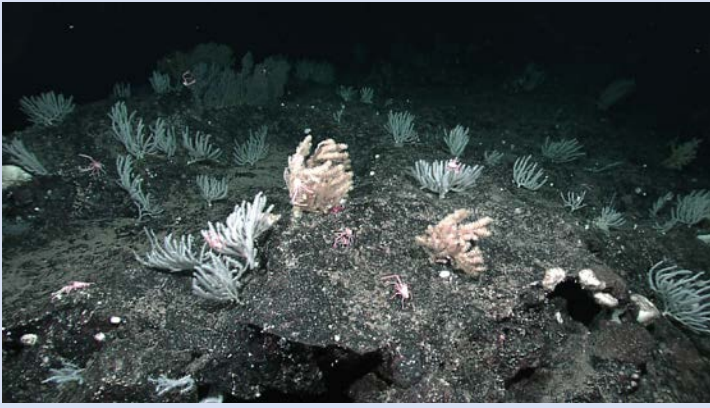
Overall Map of ROV Dive Area



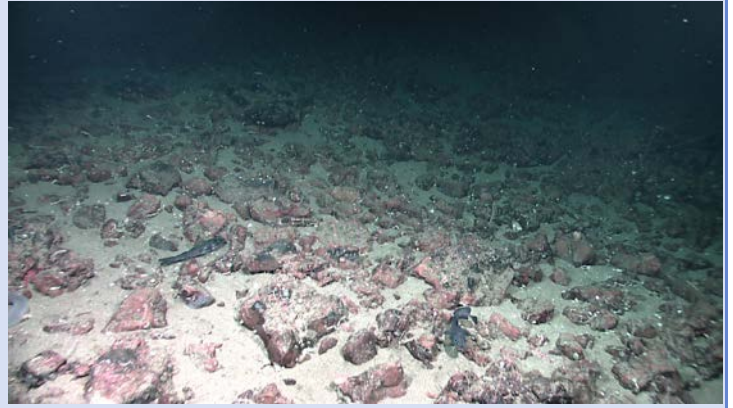
Close-up Map of Main Dive Site



## Representative Photos of the Dive



The deep slope of the seamount zone harbors a high abundance of primnoid and paramuricid gorgonians, antipatharian black corals, and their galatheid crabs associates.



The shallow zone harbors a high diversity of different species of small primnoid gorgonians, bubblegum octocorals, and antipatharian black corals. High abundances of ophiuroid brittle stars occupy the surface of red minerals, which presumably are the remnants of an ancient shallow-water coral reef.

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