

*Schmieder:*

It was unique. I had never seen anyplace like that, but again, I had only dived up and down the California coast, not to the Red Sea and so on. But I was sufficiently well prepared, and I tried to quantify in my view, I tried to sort of quantify what I was looking at, I tried to fix it as images and try to look at it, not just gaze at it, but look at it.

And I did as well as I think could be expected. It was not like any place I had seen before which doesn't make it, you know, superior in any sense. Because every place in the world is unique and intrinsically just as valuable as any other place.

But it clearly was qualitatively different from places I had seen say at Monterey where you're close to shore and up the coast to Salt Point and so on. This was a different kind of community, and that's one of the reasons I knew that I would come back year after year if I could and explore it.

Because clearly this was counter to what had been predicted by a number of professional marine biologists, different from anything I had seen in some years of sport diving. Just obviously, visually different and therefore worthy of exploring and describing.