

# CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

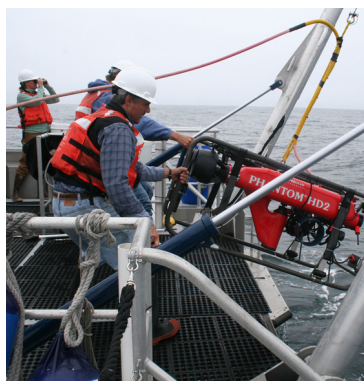


Photo: Michael Carver/CBNMS

## Sanctuary Tests Innovative Techniques for Removing Deepwater Marine Debris

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary staff successfully tested innovative methods of removing derelict fishing gear from the deep waters of Cordell Bank using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in August 2008. The team experimented with removing lost longlines and gillnets that had become entangled on the rocky reef, using the ROV's manipulator arm to cut loose and retrieve several large sections of fishing gear over the course of the six-day mission. The results of their tests will be incorporated into marine debris removal protocols that can be used for habitat restoration in other sensitive deepwater areas like Cordell Bank. In addition, sanctuary staff collected marine life attached to the derelict gear for aquaria and museum exhibits to share the underwater ecosystem of Cordell Bank with a wide audience and increase our understanding of this ocean treasure. To learn more, visit the mission log at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2008cordellbank>.

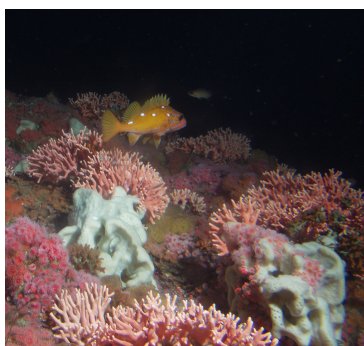


Photo: Rick Starr/CBNMS

## Integrated Science Helps Sanctuary Staff Understand and Protect Cold-water Corals

The sanctuary research team used new maps of Cordell Bank in conjunction with submersible observations to identify habitat types on the Bank where cold-water corals are found. Corals, which are slow-growing and sensitive to disturbance from activities such as bottom-tending fishing, provide crucial habitat for fish and invertebrates on the Bank and indicate areas of high biodiversity. The relationships between habitat types and coral presence were used to create predictive maps of the most sensitive and biologically diverse regions of the Bank. Understanding fine-scale patterns of corals provides a framework for monitoring these sensitive species and associated communities, particularly in the presence of changing ocean conditions. This knowledge of cold-water coral communities highlights the need for continued protection for these fragile seafloor communities. Detailed maps of Cordell Bank, which were generated using multibeam technology through a partnership with the California State University Monterey Bay Seafloor Mapping Lab, provide critical baseline data and have been useful for a variety of resource protection and research activities within the sanctuary.



Artwork: Chlo Viret

## Expanded Web Site Reaches Diverse Audiences on Sanctuary and Research

Information on Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary's natural history and the research that is being conducted within the sanctuary was added to the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) Web site, <http://sanctuariesimon.org>. Originally created for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, SIMoN now provides a comprehensive regional assessment of the three central California sanctuaries. For the general public, the SIMoN Web site is the primary tool for disseminating Cordell Bank sanctuary monitoring information by providing facts and trends on sanctuary habitats and biological communities. For scientists and resource managers, the SIMoN Web site details current and historic monitoring efforts, encouraging collaborations and the advancement of our understanding of the sanctuary ecosystem.

