

*Jennifer Stock:*

Since you dove there a couple years based on your experiences what did you assume the rest of the bank looked like and did you notice any changes year to year in terms of the abundance of species or absence? So, changes you may have seen over the years and what were your assumptions of what the rest of the bank looked like since you were diving such a small part of it?

*Don Dvorak:*

I didn't see any changes from year to year. Often we were diving at different sites year to year so we saw changes from the various sites. On the higher pinnacles they were mostly covered with the barnacles. There are a lot of barnacles out there and you can see them filtering the water. They were interesting but they weren't very colorful, but we did document them. And if you move down then you moved into the sponges, the hydrocoral and the garveia and the tunicates. That's where most of the color was, and corynactis, certainly.

Some of the steeper pinnacles, if you went down, the ecology changed. It was as if you were in the mountains and you were going up higher and higher and all of a sudden there's the timberline; above that there's no timber. The same on Cordell Bank: you go down to a certain depth and then the ecology changes and it's much, much more sparse, just simple solitary organisms on the side. That was very apparent to me in a couple dives. Of course you didn't see that on mostly the ridges they were somewhat flat.

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*Jennifer Stock:*

How about you, Sue?

*Sue Estey:*

I'm not sure I could tell you which sites I dove on which times. To me I just remember this total jumble of things growing on top of each other.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Just from our experiences, like one year we were out there and we saw just tons and tons of juvenile rockfish and then the next year none. I'm just curious do you have any memories of those juvenile rockfish being abundant or not abundant?

*Don Dvorak:*

I did notice sometimes yes, there were a lot of them: "Shoo, go away, I want to take this picture." That's their environment, so you're working in their environment. When you take a picture and the flash goes off if the juvenile's too close it just reflects back and you get a bright spot. It spoils the picture but that's not important,

we're not there to take these really artistic pictures, we're just bringing back a representative set of Cordell Bank.

And sometimes you would see the larger rockfish and fewer juveniles but they were always present, always there. I didn't see too many ling cod, but I did see one. But I did notice the lack of nudibranchs. Diving the shallow waters along the coast you see all kinds of nudibranchs, lots of them, different colors. I do not recall seeing a nudibranch but other divers have captured pictures of them. So that was an interesting observation on my part.