

## Islands in the Stream 2002: Exploring Underwater Oases Leg 2 Highlight Photos Annotations

Image name	Annotation
b_sled.jpg	This is a benthic sled which is used to sample the ocean bottom for various types of fish and invertebrates. Lowered to the ocean floor on a wire, the sled slides along the bottom on its side runners. Organisms and materials that are collected are swept into the net and brought back to the surface.
gal_loph.jpg	This galatheid crab, commonly known as a squat lobster, was brought aboard the <i>R/V Seward Johnson</i> from 1400 feet. It was sitting within a mass of <i>Lophelia</i> coral which grows in massive reefs in the dark, cold waters off the coast of South Carolina.
glass_sponge.jpg	These are deep sea glass sponges retrieved at 1400 feet. Glass sponges are typically very fragile and rarely hold their shape when transported to the surface.
greeneye.jpg	This deep sea fish is commonly referred to as a green eye due to the beautiful iridescent pattern around its large eyes and head.
lophelia.jpg	This is a healthy branch of <i>Lophelia</i> coral sampled from the deep ocean reefs off the coast of South Carolina. Unlike tropical species of coral, <i>Lophelia</i> possesses no zooxanthellae (a symbiotic dinoflagellate) which often give their coralline hosts beautiful colors.
man-o-war.jpg	This tiny and very dangerous Portugese Man-O-War jellyfish measures only an inch across. It was collected using a dip net over the rail of the <i>R/V Seward Johnson</i> during one evenings "night-lighting" samplings.
neuston_tow.jpg	The large aluminum frame of the neuston net is 1 meter high and 3 meters long. Here the net is being deployed off the starboard side of the <i>R/V Seward Johnson</i> . The neuston net is designed to sample the organisms living at the very surface layer of the ocean. The yellow floats on top of the frame insure that it will not sink any lower that 1 meter below the surface.
pinkloph.jpg	This beautiful pale orange coral was collected at the <i>Lophelia</i> coral banks. Very different from the surrounding pale white <i>Lophelia</i> , The members of the Islands in the Stream 2002 expedition had never seen this type of coral before among the <i>Lophelia</i> during their dives.
porpida.jpg	<i>Porpida porpida</i> has a small disc like body and floats freely in the water column. Related to other species of jellyfish, this species measures just one inch in diameter.
sargassum.jpg	A closeup of a small mass of <i>sargassum</i> weed. The numerous small round spheres are floats filled with carbon dioxide. These provide buoyancy to the algae. Lines of <i>sargassum</i> can stretch for miles along the oceans surface. The clumps of floating algae are often concentrated by the strong winds and wave action associated with the Gulf Stream.
scallop.jpg	This deep sea scallop shell was retrieved by the <i>Johnson-Sea-Link II</i> submersible during a dive at an area off the South Carolina coast called "The Steeples". Even though the scallop within the shell has died, the shell itself provides a home for bryozoans, tunicates, serpulids, and algae which grow upon it.
seward_j.jpg	The Research Vessel <i>Seward Johnson</i> carries the scientific parties for the Islands in the Stream 2002 Expedition; Exploring Underwater Oases. Owned and operated by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, the vessel serves as the platform for the <i>Johnson-Sea-Link II</i> submersible.
spiny_puff.jpg	This tiny spiny puffer fish was caught in a neuston net tow. Many juvenile fish live in clumps of <i>sargassum</i> weed, a type of marine algae that lives its whole life floating at the oceans surface.
Squid.jpg	This Arrow squid, measured almost two feet long when it was brought aboard the <i>R/V Seward Johnson</i> during an evenings "night lighting" sampling.
trigger.jpg	A juvenile scrawled filefish ( <i>Aluterus scriptus</i> ) found within the mass of <i>sargassum</i> . It's cryptic coloring helps it avoid predators as it lives among the tangled mass of floating algae. This species may grow as long as two to three feet in length.
urchin.jpg	This pencil urchin was brought up from the deep ocean using an Otter trawl.

\*All photos taken by Bruce Moravchik, NOAA