Seamounts of the Sargasso Sea Commission Area

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Submarine Geography of the Sargasso Sea Commission Area









Water Mass Distribution Determines Species Present

(b) Deep circulation pathways emphasizing DWBCs (solid) and their recirculations (dashed). Red: NSOW. Brown: NADW. Blue: AABW. (M.S. McCartney, personal communication, 2009.)

From: Talley, L.D. et al. (2011). Descriptive Physical Oceanography, an Introduction. Elsevier.



Seamounts Are Not All Rock

Table 1 Habitat classification scheme for seamount landscapes



Fine grained sediment, flat, with flow related features



Beaked Whale Feeding Marks?

Kukenthal Peak, 1800 m



Basalt wall



Biogenic Substrates Increase Diversity



In the deep sea, food comes from above (except at vents and seeps)

In the North Atlantic food is produced primarily during the spring bloom



Food Delivery Varies With Depth and Latitude



And has consequences for the deep-dwelling species



Threats: Trawling on shallow seamount summits











Corner Rise showing fishable seamount summits (<1800 m)



Threats: Climate Change

Warming of the deep waters will take some time

But changes to surface circulation can affect the deep altered food supply lowered deep ocean flushing, loss of oxygen

Threats: Trans-Atlantic Cables

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