Online Resource

Supplemental Information

Abundance of corals on oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico

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Photographs of Coral Colonies on Offshore Oil and Gas Platforms

Scleractinian, octocoral, and antipatharian corals in the Gulf of Mexico are protected by the federal government under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and implemented through 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 622. Populations of colonies of coral were recorded using an underwater and remote operated vehicle (ROV) and scuba divers using hand-held underwater cameras.
Scleractinian Corals

Photograph 1. *Tubastrea coccinea* are the most common scleractinian coral inhabiting offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Photograph 2. *Phyllangia americana* is an ahermatypic/azooxanthella coral commonly found on offshore platforms.
Scleractinian Corals

Photograph 3. The black coral are *Tubastrea micrantus*.

Photograph 4. The green coral in the center is *Diploria strigosa*. 
Scleractinian Corals

Photograph 5. The coral in upper center is *Madracis decactuis* which is common on offshore oil and gas platforms.

Photograph 6. Two species of coral are present in this photograph, Brain Coral (*Diploria strigosa*) on the right and Great Star Coral (*Monastraea cavernosa*) on the left.
Octocoral Corals

Photograph 7. *Telesto fruiticulosa* (Orange telesto) are abundant on offshore platforms.

Photograph 8. *Carijoa riisei* (White telesto) are common on offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.
Octocoral Corals


Photograph 10. *Thesea nivea* were observed on the deeper portion of the oil and gas platforms.
Antipatharian Corals

Photograph 11. *Antipathes atlantica* (Gray sea fan-black coral) inhabit structures in deeper waters and they are located in the lower portions of the structure.

Photograph 12. Black coral sea fans were more abundant on the horizontal transoms.
Antipatharian Corals

Photograph 13. *Cirrhipathes leutkeni* (black coral or wire coral).

Photograph 14. Wire coral were found on the vertical pilings and horizontal transoms inhabiting the lower portion of deep-water platforms.