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Chapter 6 Reconnaissance of Reefs and Fishing Banks of the Texas Continental Shelf

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Publisher Summary

This chapter discusses the investigation study of reefs and fishing banks of the Texas continental shelf. Biotic assemblages of reefs and hard-banks of the Texas–Louisiana outer continental shelf can be distinctly grouped according to their natures into four categories: (1) the sparse Claypile Bank biota (35–55 m) of predominantly low-growing filamentous and leafy algae and sponges with occasional ‘meadows’ of high-standing leafy algae occupied by numerous fish, (2) the more diverse Stetson bank and Three Hickey rock biota (28–56 m) dominated by the hydrozoan fire coral *Millepol alcicornis* and sponges, (3) the highly diverse and abundant flower gardens/twenty-eight Fathom bank biota with coral reefs (22–49 m), algal nodule and sand-covered platforms (45–76 m), and drowned reefs from 76 to 100+ m, bearing an assemblage of organisms directly comparable to the deep-water biota of category 3, and (4) the deep-water biota of the South Texas fishing banks (56–78 m) and fishnet bank (61–82 m)

are characterized by the presence of antipatharian whips, deep-water alcyonarian fans, comatulid crinoids, certain species of deep-dwelling fishes, and sparse populations of encrusting coralline algae. This chapter discusses about the coral reef at West Flower Garden Bank. It also presents some findings on antipatharian zone.



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