

Yuryaku VME Areas

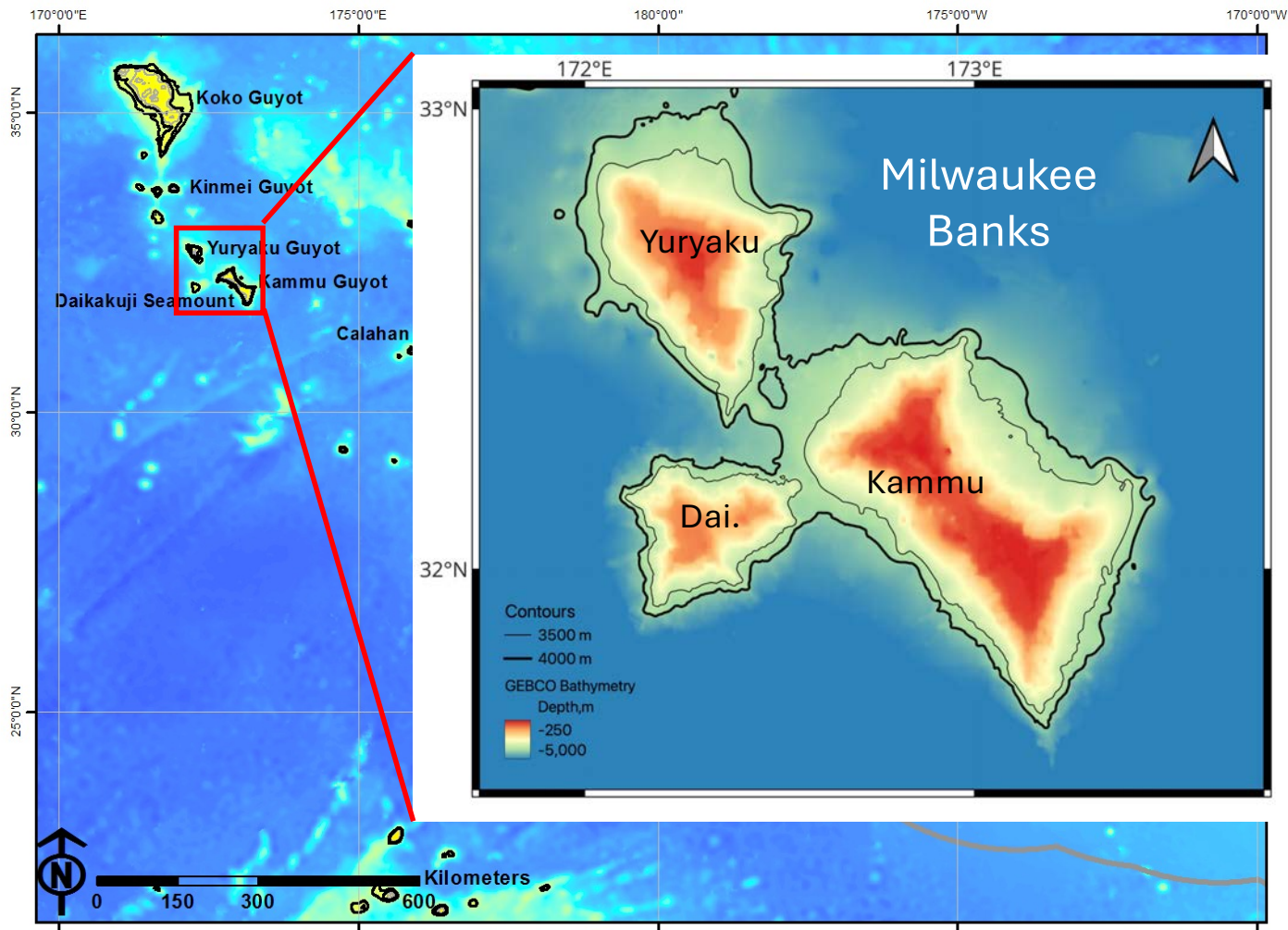
Milwaukee Banks

- Key target of the Coralliid Precious Coral industry - 1965-80s
- Up to 200,000kg of precious coral per yr
- 90% of global precious coral catch (reviewed in Grigg 2002)
- Parrish et al (2007) - densities of 30-50 inds per 100m² on Never Trawled precious coral beds

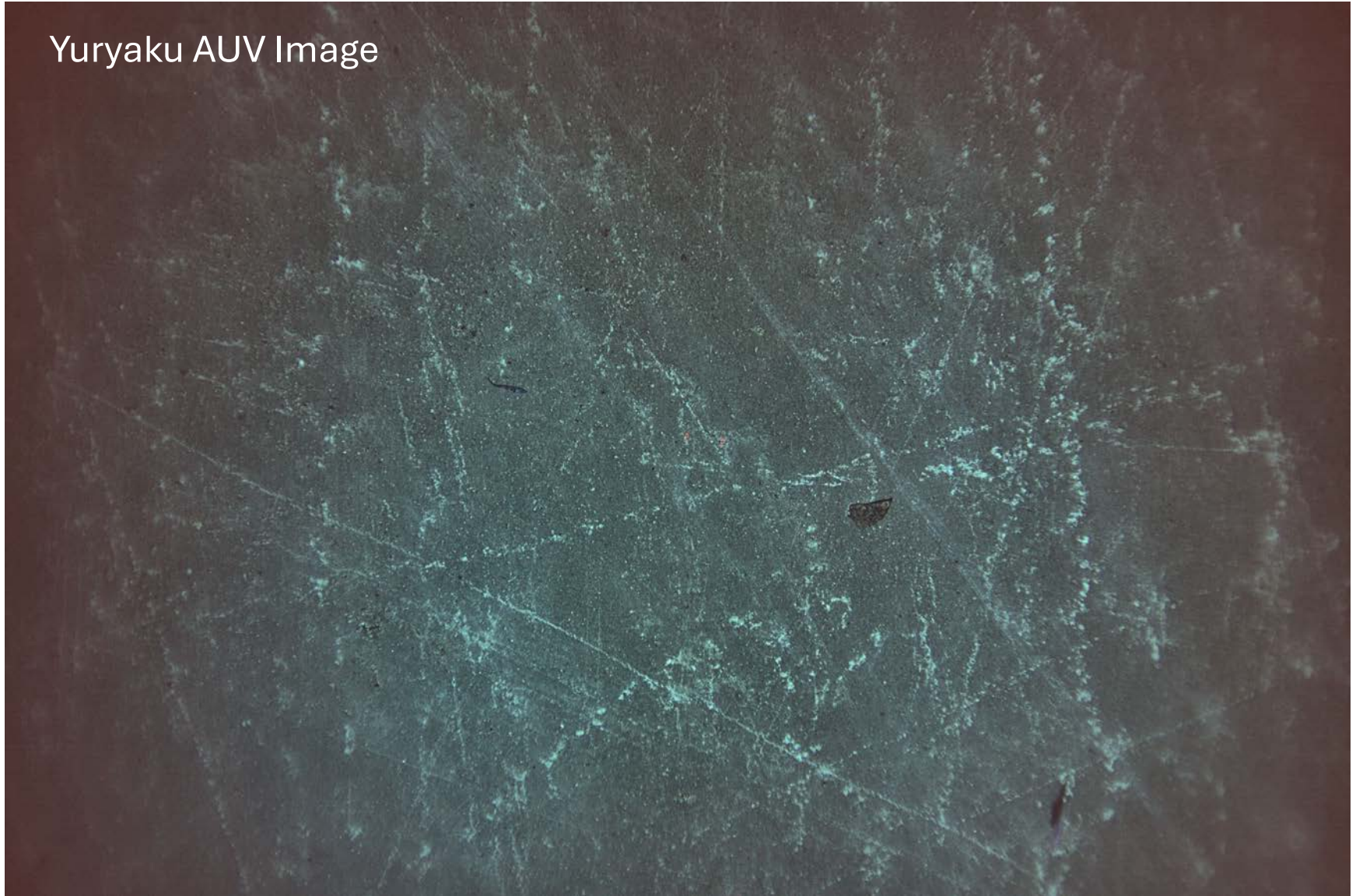
=> Coralliids were dense and highly abundant on the Milwaukee Banks seamounts = VMEs

Coralliids were
dense and
highly abundant
on the
Milwaukee
Banks
seamounts =
VMEs

Yuryaku as one
of the Banks
almost certainly
had extensive
coralliid VMEs



Yuryaku AUV Image



Milwaukee Banks – Yuryaku - SAls

- 29.5% of AUV images - gear scars (Baco et al 2020)
- Most imaging transects on Yuryaku had close to 0 Coralliids. Stat sig. reduced abundance of Coralliids relative to Never Trawled Seamounts (Baco et al 2023, Figures 3,4)
- Coralliids that are present on Yuryaku had the smallest colony sizes of 22 sampled sites (Baco et al 2023, Figure 6). Size diff is SS compared to Never Trawled

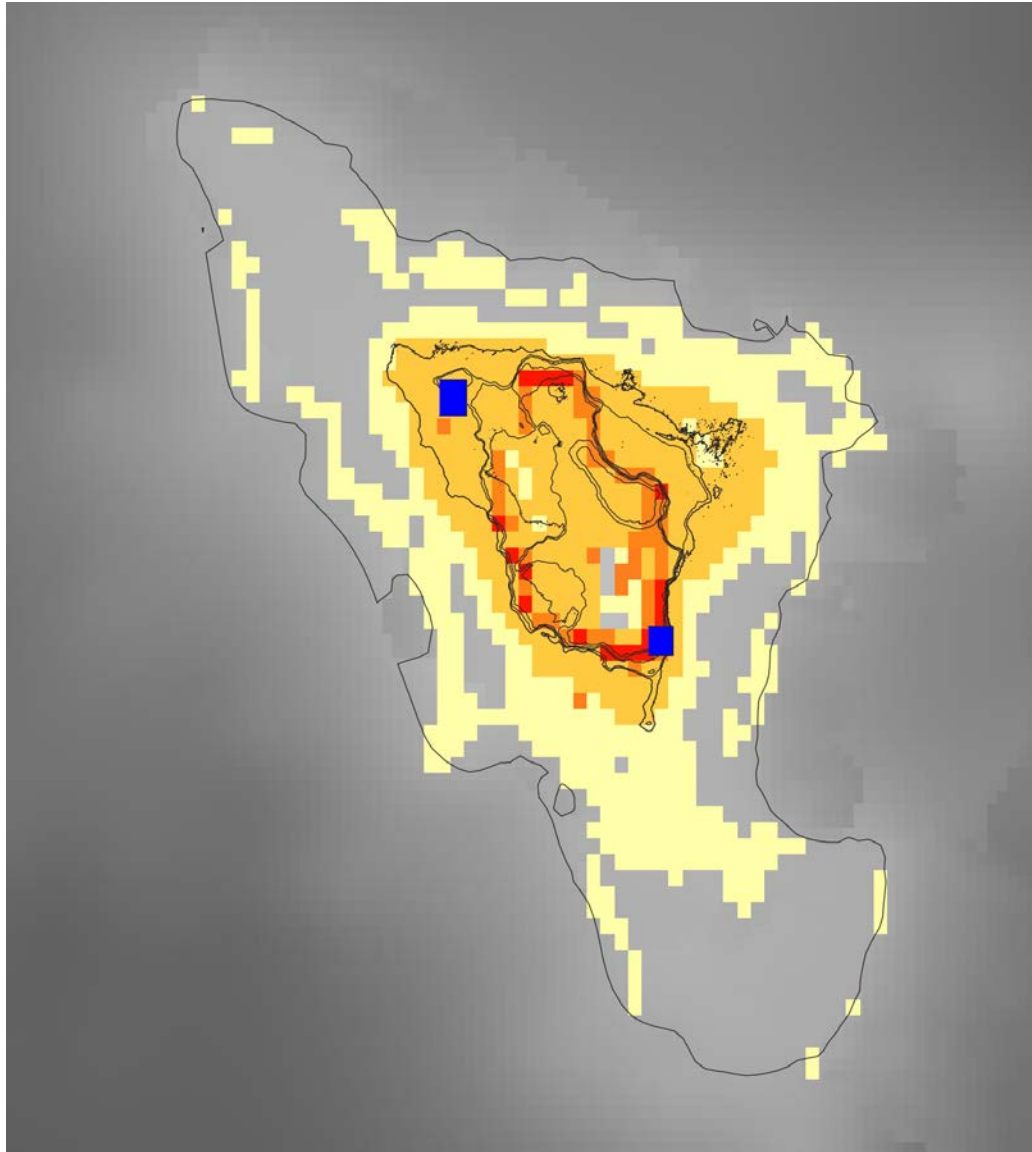
=> SAI across a significant area of Yuryaku

Conclusion from Coralliid Data

- Evidence of VMEs and SAIs
- All of Yuryaku should be closed to allow for recovery

Scleractinians

- SWG review of Global HSM NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-RP02 that Tong et al 2023 Scleractinians had a reasonable match to the data
- Includes 4 N Pacific species

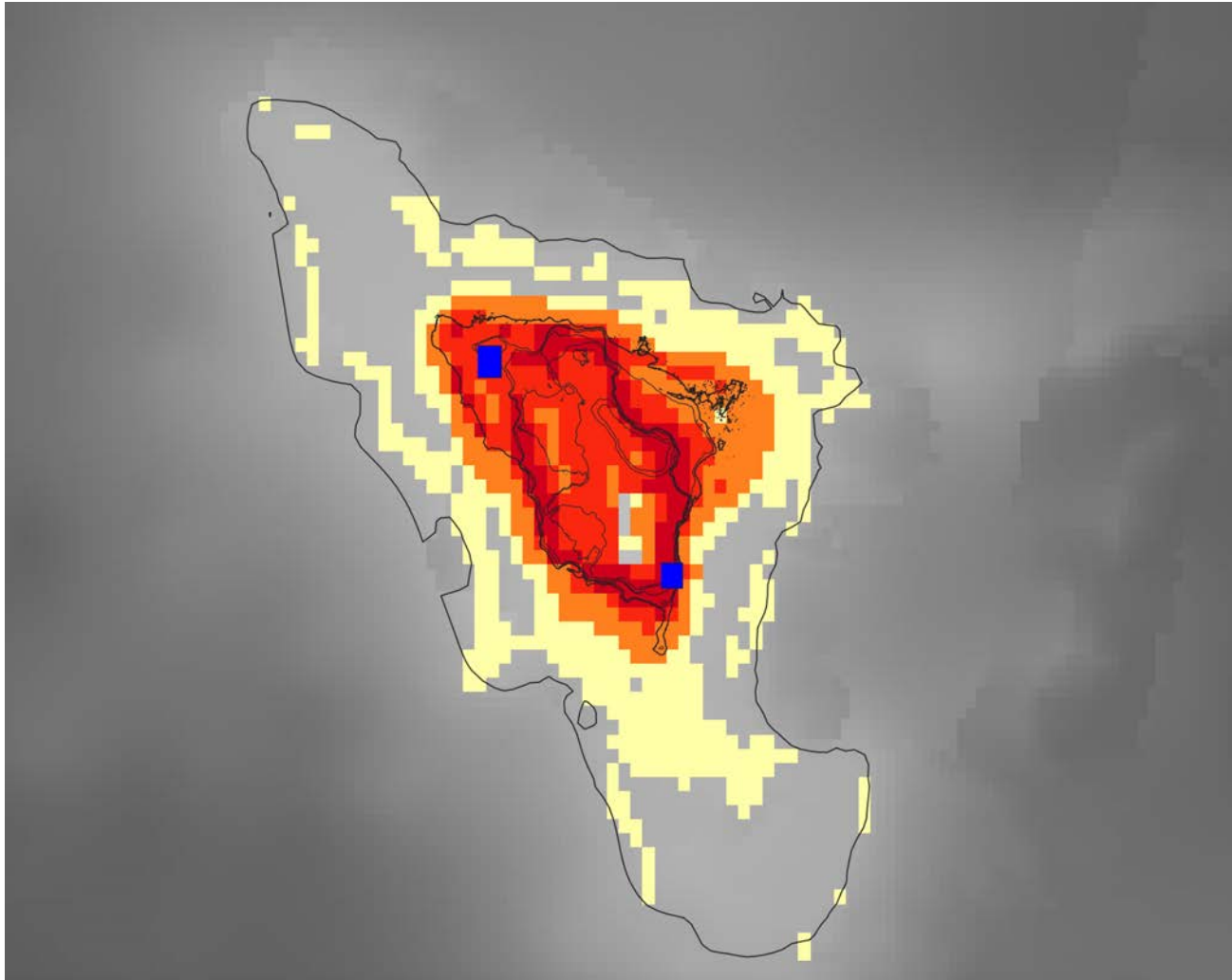


Tong et al 2023

Consensus HSM for
Pacific Species of Reef-
forming Scleractinians

DP, ER, SO, MV

- 4 species >75% suitability
- 3 species
- 2 species
- 1 species >75% suitability



Tong et al 2023

Consensus HSM for
Pacific Species of Reef-
forming Scleractinians

DP, ER, SO, MV

- 4 species >65% suitability
- 3 species
- 2 species
- 1 species >65% suitability

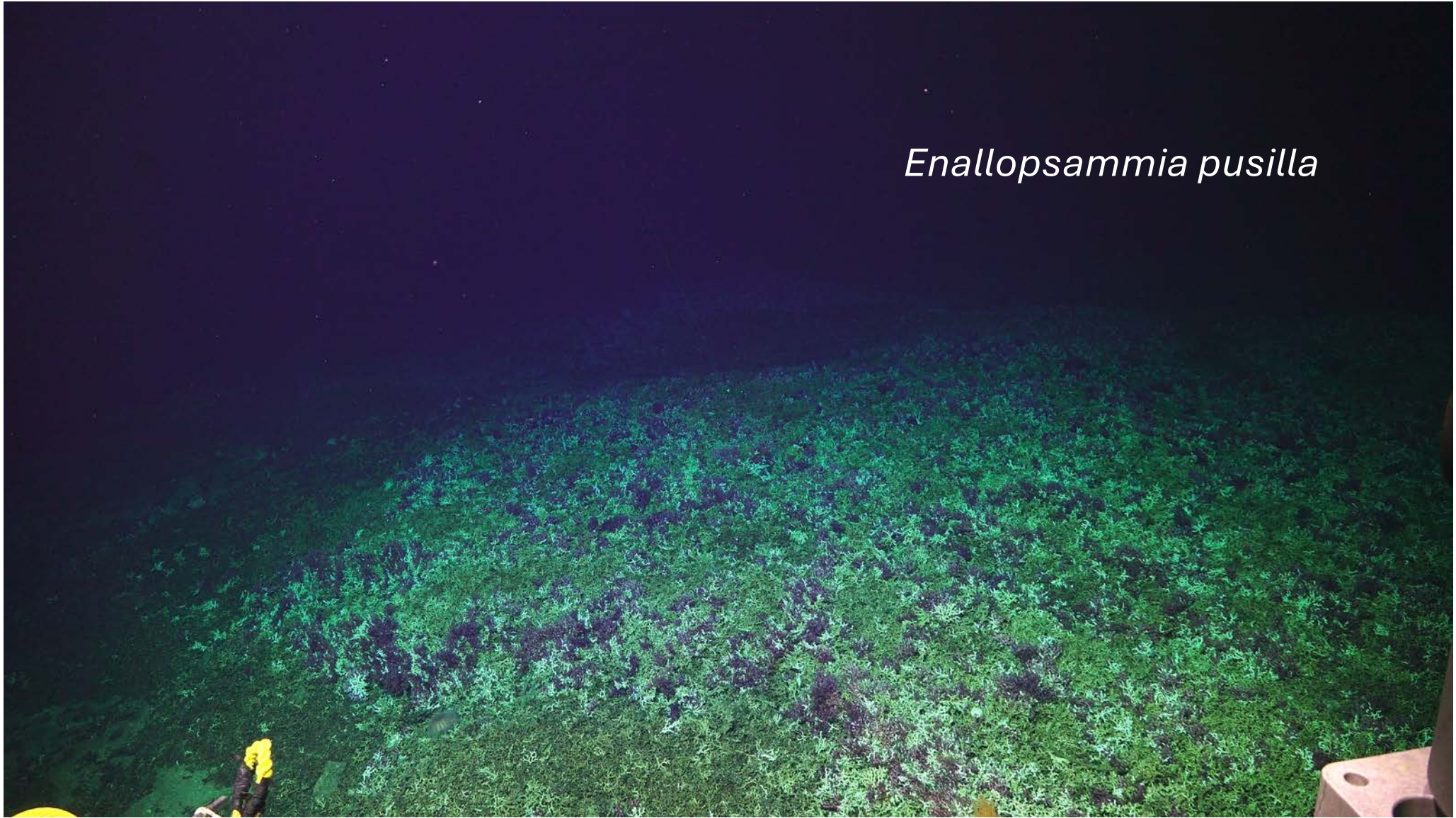
Conclusion from Scleractinian HSM

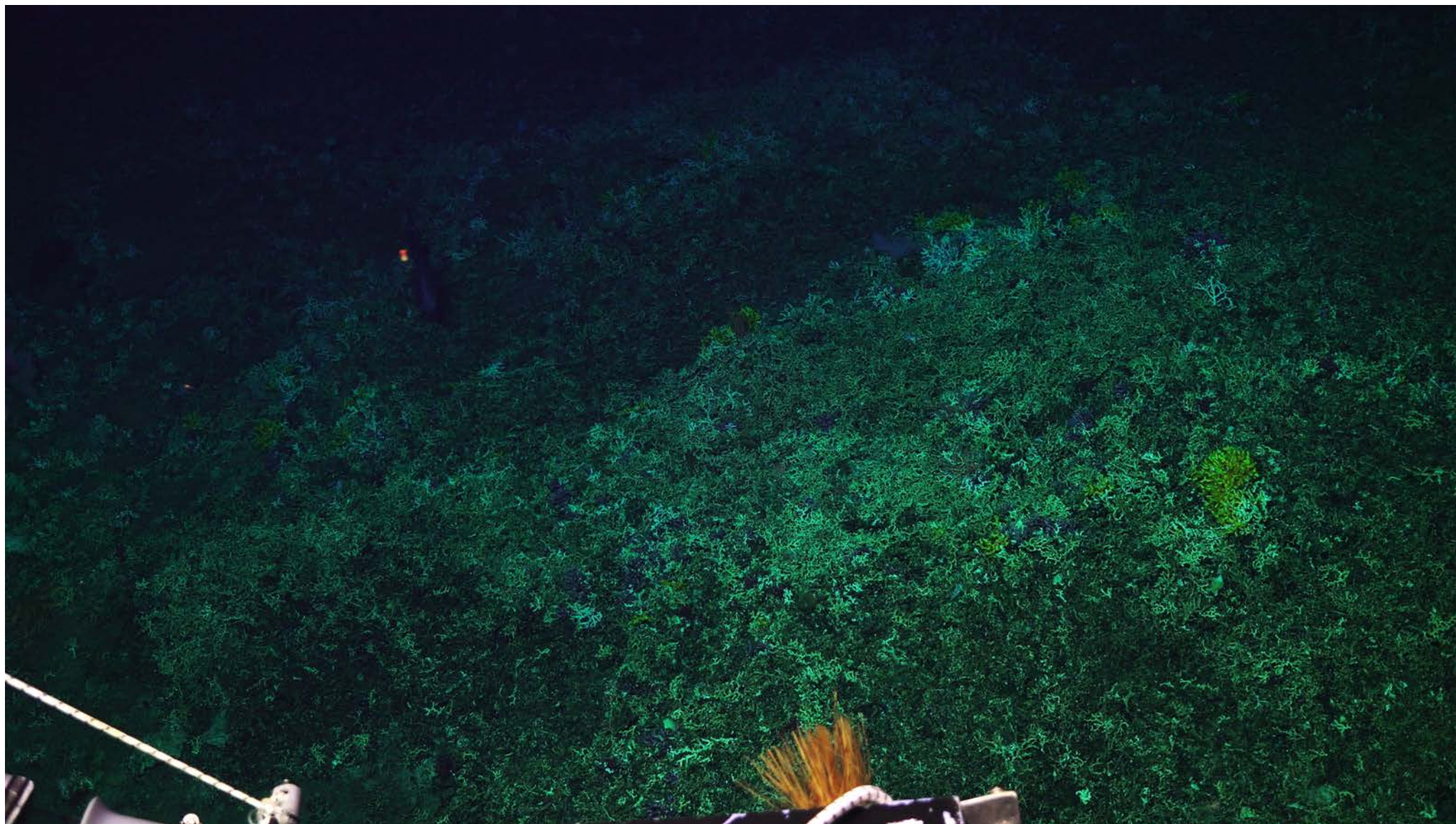
- All of Yuryaku should be closed to prevent further SAls to reef-forming scleractinians and to allow for recovery

Increased Exploration = More VMEs

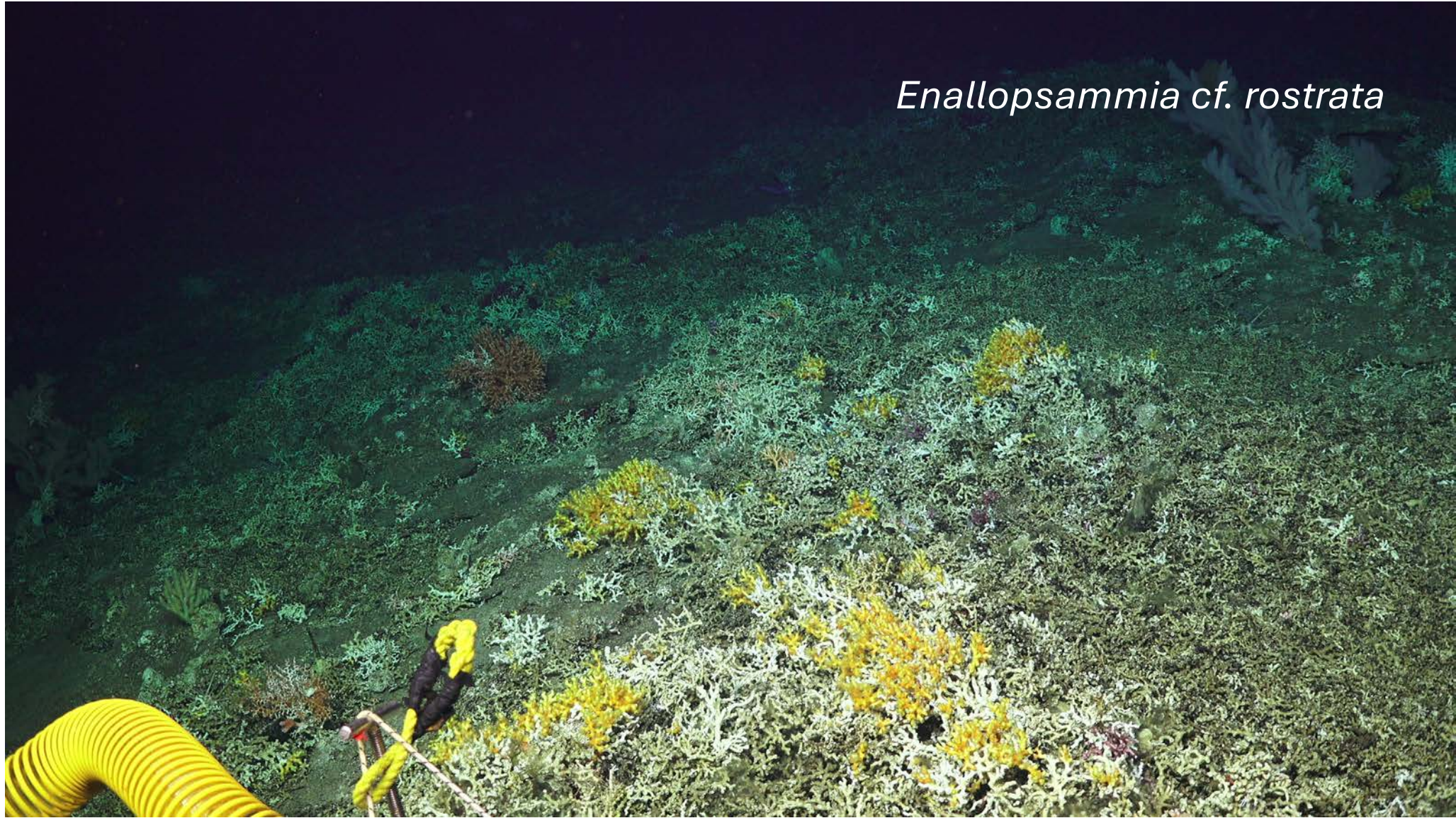
- Additional unpublished data from 2021 and 2022 cruises
- Still in process of annotating dives

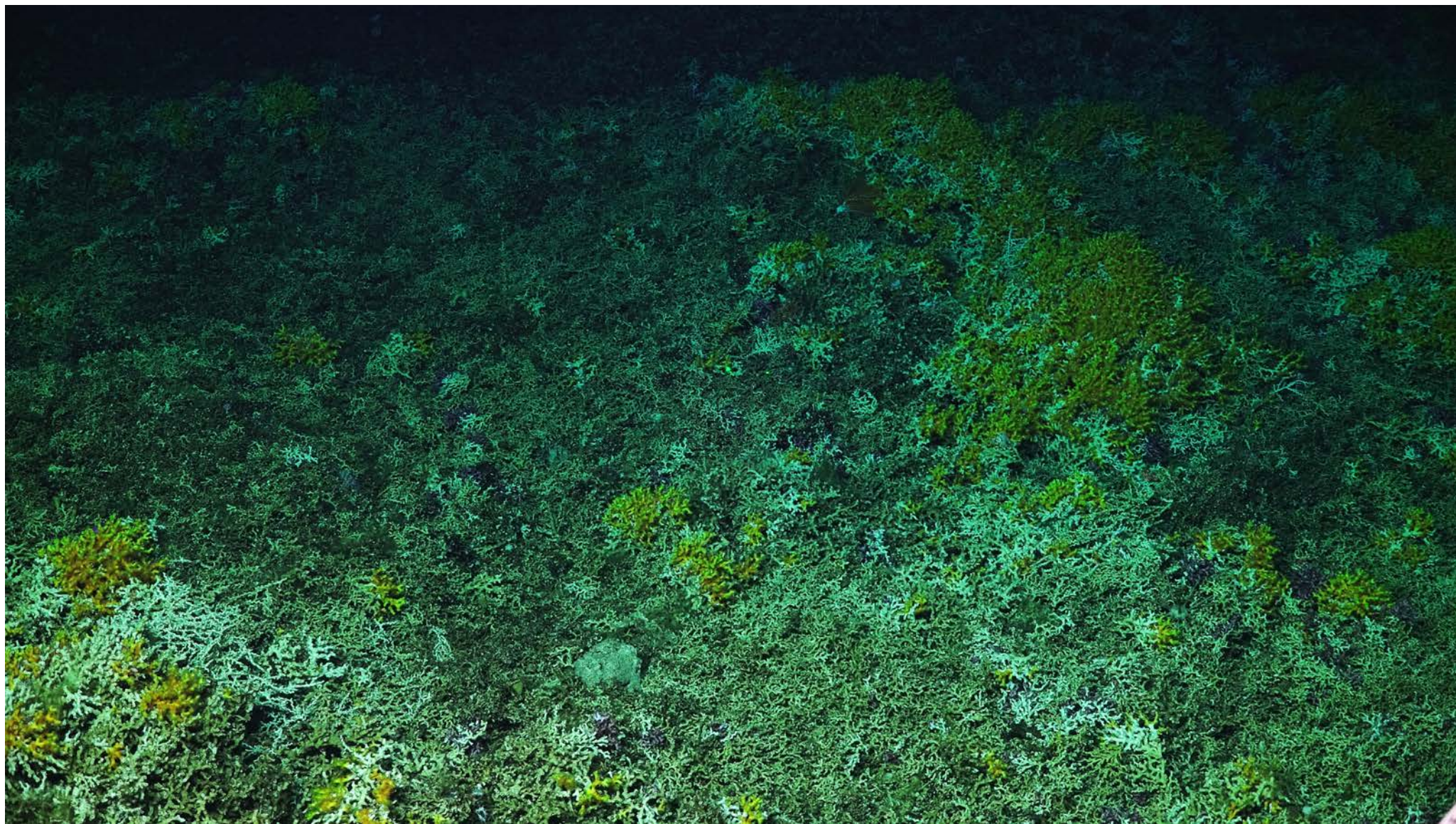
Enallopsammia pusilla

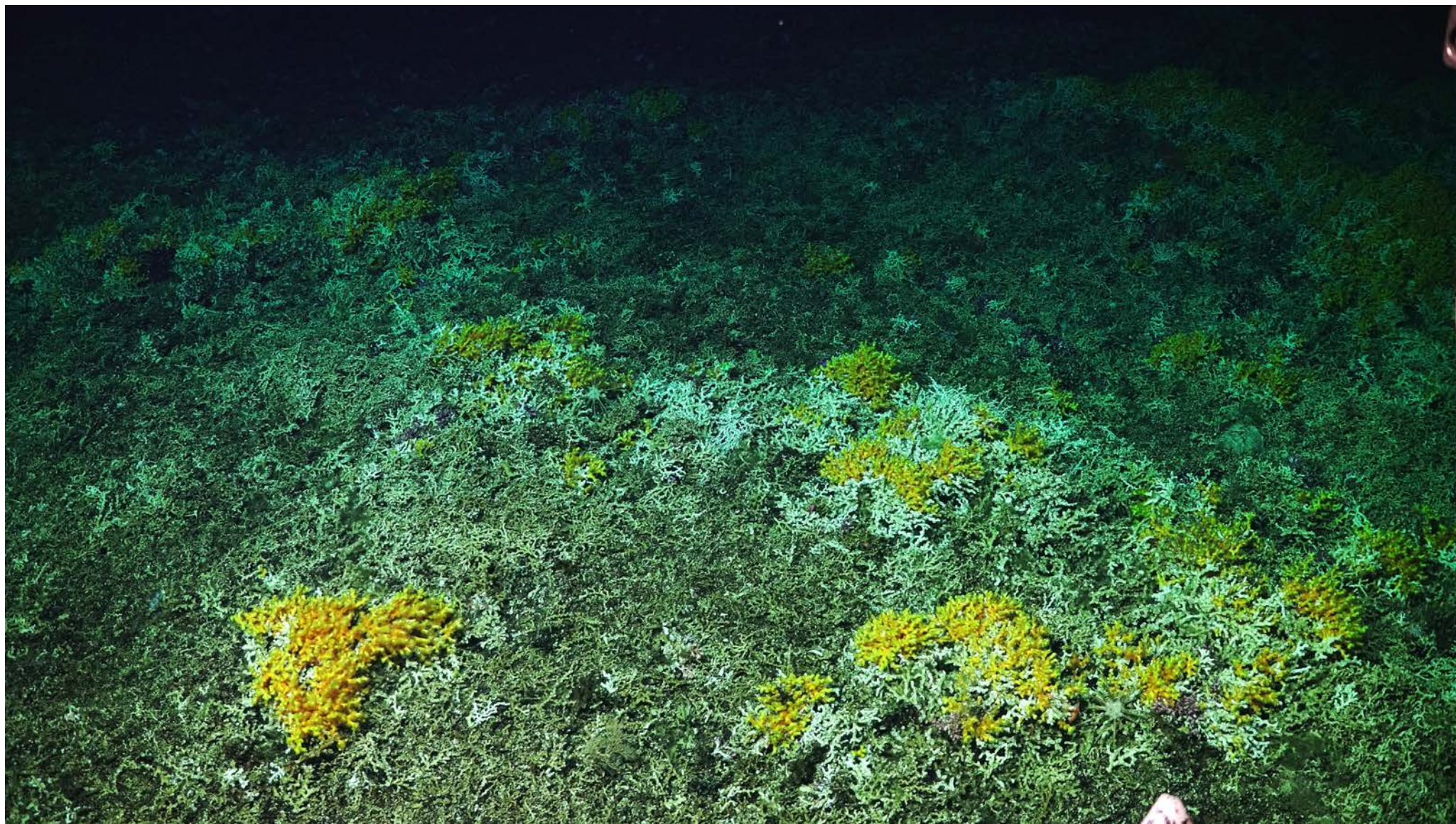




Enallopsammia cf. rostrata







Conclusions

- Proposed boxes do not capture full extent of VME areas on Yuryaku
- The more we explore with imagery, the more we find