

## **A Mountain in the Sea: Exploration of a Gulf of Alaska Seamount with the Submersible *Alvin***

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Declining crab fisheries in Alaska have caused fishers to begin exploratory fishing on seamounts. However, biological knowledge of seamount species is poor. In July 1999, we conducted eight dives on Patton Seamount in the DSV *Alvin* to study the depth distribution and habitat use of deepwater species. Ten species of crabs were observed. The most abundant species (1,245 observed) was a galatheid. The large-clawed spider crab *Macroregonia macrochira*, previously unreported from the Gulf of Alaska, was the most abundant brachyuran crab (186 observed) and ranged to at least 3,240 m, the deepest depth achieved. Mating pairs of some species were observed only on or inside vase sponges. Community analysis suggests that species can be grouped into representative shallow, midwater, and abyssal communities.