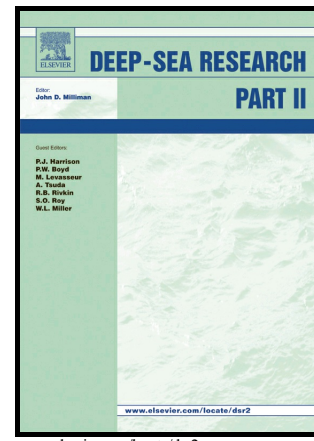


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**Distributions and habitat associations of deep-water corals in Norfolk and Baltimore
canyons, Mid-Atlantic Bight, USA**

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Abstract

A multi-disciplinary study of two major submarine canyons, Baltimore Canyon and Norfolk Canyon, off the US mid-Atlantic coast focused on the ecology and biology of canyon habitats, particularly those supporting deep-sea corals. Historical data on deep-sea corals from these canyons were sparse with less than 750 records for the mid-Atlantic region, with most being soft sediment species. This study substantially increased the number of deep-sea coral records for the target canyons and the region. Large gorgonians were the dominant structure-forming coral taxa on exposed hard substrates, but several species of scleractinians were also documented, including first observations of *Lophelia pertusa* in the mid-Atlantic Bight region. Coral distribution varied

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