

SEAMAP Fall 2008 Fall Plankton Survey Cruise Report Tommy Munro Cruise 0804

Introduction

USM/GCRL participated in the fall SEAMAP plankton survey in September 2008 (cruise 0804). Nine standard grid stations were occupied.

Objectives

1. To provide information on the distribution and abundance of critical life stages of major Gulf species and associated environmental parameters in coastal and offshore waters off the Mississippi and Alabama coasts.

2. USM/GCRL will collect plankton specimens at fixed-grid stations to determine species composition, distribution and abundance with 60-cm bongo nets (333- μ m mesh) fished obliquely to depths of 200 m, and a 1 X 2m neuston net (947- μ m mesh) pulled at the surface for 10 minutes. Stations to be sampled will be determined by consultation with NMFS personnel. Plankton samples will be fixed in formalin, transferred to 95% ethanol, and shipped to the Polish Sorting Center (PSC), with duplicate samples being maintained at the SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center at USM/GCRL for use by researchers. All station information will be recorded on SEAMAP plankton data sheets and will be recorded electronically in a sdes file. Surveys will be made from a chartered USM/GCRL vessel.

USM/GCRL will collect information on environmental parameters (salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, water transparency, wind speed and direction, wave height, cloud cover, barometric pressure) through hydrographic measurements taken in conjunction with plankton sampling (total stations to be determined by NMFS personnel prior to the surveys). All information will be recorded on SEAMAP environmental data sheets and will be recorded electronically in a sdes file.

Results

USM/GCRL conducted the fall plankton cruise (CR.0804) 9/27 – 9/29. Nine stations were sampled in depths ranging from 15 to 253 m. All sampling was conducted using SEAMAP protocols and standard gear. Samples collected were given to the NMFS for shipment to the polish sorting center.

STATION DATA

Stations	Date	Time	Lat.	Long.	Depth (m)
B174	9/27/08	08:49	2929.75	8730.01	70
B173	9/27/08	12:43	2959.97	8729.99	25
B321	9/27/08	14:49	3014.17	8730.02	15
B177	9/27/08	18:38	3000.03	8800.08	22
B176	9/28/08	07:56	2930.08	8800.17	44
B322	9/28/08	10:28	2914.79	8800.08	253
B323	9/28/08	14:59	2914.99	8830.04	85
B179	9/29/08	08:00	2930.07	8829.99	50
B178	9/29/08	12:15	3000.00	8830.06	26

Deviations

None

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