

Center for Fisheries Research & Development
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
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SEAMAP 2009 Fall Plankton Cruise Report
R/V Tommy Munro, Cruise 0905

Introduction

USM/GCRL participated in the fall SEAMAP plankton survey in September 2009 (cruise 0905). Five standard grid stations were occupied.

Objectives & Methods

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- μm mesh) fished obliquely to depths of 200 m, and a 1 X 2m neuston net (947- μm 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 SDES. Surveys will be made from a chartered USM/GCRL vessel.
3. 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 SDES.

Results

USM/GCRL conducted the fall plankton cruise (0905) September 16 and 17, 2009. Five stations were sampled in depths ranging from 44 to 622 m. All sampling was conducted using SEAMAP protocols and standard gear. Samples collected were given to the NMFS for shipment to the PSC. Station data are presented in Table 1.

Deviations

There were no deviations from standard SEAMAP protocol.

Submitted By:

Bruce Comyns, Field Party Chief

Table 1. Station data for Fall Plankton Cruise 0905.

Station	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (m)	Gear
B176	09/16/09	8:30	2930.17	8759.93	44	PN
B176	09/16/09	8:43	2930.17	8759.93	44	NN
B322	09/16/09	11:48	2915.22	8759.99	274	PN
B322	09/16/09	12:05	2915.22	8759.99	274	NN
B180	09/16/09	16:59	2900.01	8829.94	622	PN
B180	09/16/09	17:22	2900.01	8829.94	622	NN
B323	09/17/09	8:23	2915.04	8830.02	84	PN
B323	09/17/09	8:40	2915.04	8830.02	84	NN
B179	09/17/09	10:50	2929.97	8830.04	51	PN
B179	09/17/09	11:00	2929.97	8830.04	51	NN