

Center for Fisheries Research & Development - Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
University of Southern Mississippi
SEAMAP Spring Plankton Cruise Report – Cruise 1301

Introduction – The SEAMAP Spring Plankton Survey was conducted in May 2013. A total of eight grid stations were sampled over a two day period.

Objectives

- Conduct offshore plankton sampling during spring to assess larval recruitment dynamics in federal Gulf waters.
- Collect information on physical-chemical and environmental parameters in conjunction with longline sampling.
- Submit data to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries commission/NMFS Data Manager.

Methods - Plankton samples were collected at grid stations in the north-central Gulf using bongo and neuston nets and following established SEAMAP protocols. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, and salinity values were measured with a Sea-Bird CTD, and meteorological conditions were recorded. Collection and processing of environmental data followed SEAMAP guidelines.

Results – A total of sixteen collections (eight neuston and eight bongo) were made during the Spring Plankton Survey on May 21 and 22 (Figure 1). All plankton samples were delivered to the NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory for shipment to the Polish Sorting Center.

Deviations - There were no deviations from standard SEAMAP protocol.

Cruise Participants - USM/GCRL/CFRD

Submitted By:



Read Hendon, Principal Investigator

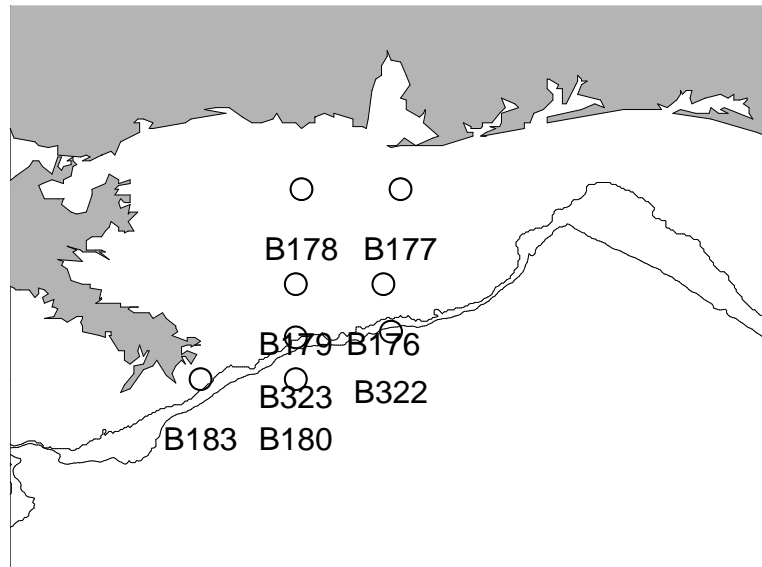


Figure 1. Map of 2013 spring plankton stations, Mississippi Cruise 1301.