

SEAMAP Summer 2014 Shrimp/Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by
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R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1401

Introduction

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) Summer Shrimp/Groundfish cruises are annually conducted during June and July of each year. The goal of SEAMAP Shrimp and Groundfish cruise is to produce fishery-independent monitoring and assessment data as well as to estimate penaeid shrimp abundance and distribution which are essential for management of Alabama and nearshore FMZ Gulf of Mexico fisheries resources. State and federal agencies collaboratively coordinate the scheduling of cruise dates and the selection of stations to be sampled by each agency, which results in a coordinated and cost-efficient program.

Objectives

1. Conduct a summer trawl survey to generate shrimp, groundfish, and miscellaneous demersal invertebrate abundance and distribution data with a standard SEAMAP 40-ft trawl.
2. Sample at stations located east of the Mississippi River that are randomly selected from NMFS generated charts of SEAMAP station locations. Identify, enumerate, and determine taxon-specific weight of all organisms collected during trawl sampling as well as determine length and weight of selected individuals according to NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual.
3. Collect information on environmental parameters (salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, wind speed, wind direction, and barometric pressure) in conjunction with trawl sampling.
4. Code all data according to approved NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual guidelines, and enter data through the NMFS SEAMAP data entry system.
5. Submit data to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Methods

Four SEAMAP Groundfish stations were sampled in gulf statistical zones 10 and 11 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on July 12, 2014. A 40-foot trawl with 1.63 inch stretched mesh was lowered to depth at each site and the towline was set at a 5:1 cable length water depth ratio. Desired vessel speed while towing was 2.0 – 2.5 knots, and the trawl was towed for 30 minutes at each station.

Sample and data processing was conducted in accordance with the NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual guidelines, and data were entered and checked with the NMFS SEAMAP Data Entry Database. Atmospheric and hydrologic data were collected prior to each trawl.

Results

Alabama Marine Resources Division collected samples at four Shrimp/Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ. Stations located north of 29.7867° latitude, south of 30.2219° latitude, east of -88.1450° longitude, and west of -87.51902° longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols (Table 1). Stations E1102, E1104, E1005, and E1006 were sampled between 8:18 CDT and 17:04 CDT on 12 July, 2014. Environmental variables, effort, station locations and catch by station are summarized (Table 1). Alabama cruise 1402 was the first cruise in which new protocols were adopted to exclude secchi disk measurements provided beam transmission was collected using a CTD.

Pascagoula Station 77004 and 77005 represent trawl samples collected at E1006. The first trawl tow was prematurely stopped due to a snag, which ultimately resulted in losing the catch. Therefore, a CTD and trawl sample were collected for Pascagoula Station 77005 after the trawl was replaced and a suitable seabed was located.

Deviations

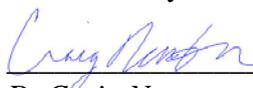
The unit of measure for the "depth" field value in CR771301-55 under the "Trawl" tab is fathoms. However, all depths were recorded in meters.

Two separate reports were generated for the Realtime data. The program "2012 Realtime.exe" encountered errors if Pascagoula Stations 77001 through 77005 were sequentially queried due to "Operational Code = Z, Hang Up" being applied to Pascagoula Station 77004. Therefore, one Realtime report was generated for Pascagoula Stations 77001 through 77003 and a second Realtime report was generated for Pascagoula Station 77005.

Cruise participants:

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel.

Submitted By:



D. Craig Newton
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Table 1. AMRD SEAMAP 2014 Summer shrimp/groundfish cruise report summary.

77 R/V Alabama Discovery

STA#	DATE		LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	D.O.			SALINITY			TEMPERATURE			TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
	MM/DD/YY	TIME					SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX			
77001	7/12/2014	8:23	30 10.13	88 10.66	11	15.7	6.6	5.6	5.1	30.11	35.58	35.62	25.59	21.85	21.30	2.70	30	29
77002	7/12/2014	10:24	30 01.05	88 08.71	11	25.5	6.7	6.6	5.5	28.18	36.25	36.01	29.10	24.42	22.05	2.50	30	26
77003	7/12/2014	13:32	29 46.91	87 46.91	10	34.9	6.4	6.8	6.2	31.89	36.11	36.19	30.05	25.46	22.81	2.40	30	17
77004	7/12/2014	15:40	29 52.28	87 31.14	10	38.0	6.7	6.2	5.0	30.24	35.79	35.76	29.78	22.90	20.54	0.60	30	0
77005	7/12/2014	16:34	29 51.81	87 30.74	10	38.0	6.7	6.2	5.1	30.24	35.80	35.73	29.71	23.47	20.61	2.30	30	37

Submitted by: D. Craig Newton
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