



Department of Environmental Protection

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GULF STATES MARINE
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TO: Ken Haddad
THROUGH: Mark Leiby
FROM: Kim Williams
DATE: September 27, 1996
SUBJECT: Cruise Report: R/V Suncoaster 96-2

NOV - 1 1996

Cruise 96-2 (SEAMAP spring ichthyoplankton cruise 96-2) on the R/V Suncoaster departed Bayboro Harbor on 11 September 1996. The purpose of this cruise was collection of hydrographic and ichthyoplankton data, as part of the state of Florida's participation in SEAMAP. This was the second of two cruises contracted for 1996. Scientific personnel included: Kim Williams (Chief Scientist), Mark Leiby, Connie Stevens, Frank McIntyre, and Robert McWilliams; all from FMRI-St. Petersburg. A total of 20 stations were planned. The stations were spaced along 30 minute latitude / longitude grids from 27°30'N to 25°30'N, at the southern extent and between 82°00'W and 84°30'W (see attached cruise track). These stations were selected to complement historical fall sampling as well as sampling done during the same period by the National Marine Fisheries Service vessel the R/V Oregon II, which operated to the north and the west of our stations.

Weather conditions were excellent. Nineteen of the twenty planned stations were completed. The last station was dropped to give extra time for chlorophyll experimentation. These extra experiments were conducted at the urging of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in hopes of resolving current questions about chlorophyll sampling methods. Sampling was successfully finished at 2029 hours on 14 September. In addition to our sampling, we obtained large quantities of offshore water to be used in the FMRI phytoplankton cultures, as well as for Dr. Gabe Vargo of USF.

The R/V Suncoaster docked in Bayboro Harbor at 1220 on 15 May 1996. The standard station Chlorophyll samples are being processed by Dr. Paul Carlson of FMRI-St. Pete. Most of the experimental chlorophyll samples are being processed by Kim Williams with the assistance of Dr. Carm Tomas, also of FMRI. Right bongo and neuston samples are being prepared for delivery to Mr. Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS, Pascagoula for shipment to the sorting center in Poland. Left bongo samples are being readied for delivery to Mr. Ken Stuck, Gulf Coast Research Lab, Biloxi, MS for

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archiving. All data has been entered into the SEAMAP DMS module except for chlorophyll values which are in the process of being compiled. Completion of data compilation is expected by the end of October, at which time it will be mailed to the appropriate personnel/agencies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

cc: Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator - Gulf Archives
Joanne Shultz, NMFS
Ken Savastano, Stennis Space Center
Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS
Steve Turner, NMFS

