

# **SEAMAP Fall 2009 Shrimp & Groundfish Survey Cruise Report**

Prepared by  
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R/V A.E. Verrill, Cruise 0904

## **Introduction**

SEAMAP fall Shrimp and Groundfish cruises are conducted to provide fishery-independent monitoring, assessment, shrimp abundance and location information essential to management of Alabama and nearshore FMZ Gulf of Mexico fisheries resources in a coordinated and cost-efficient program. Fishery-independent information is collected without direct reliance on statistics reported by commercial or recreational fishermen.

## **Objectives**

1. Conduct a fall trawl survey to collect information on shrimp and groundfish abundances and distribution with a standard SEAMAP 40-ft trawl.
2. Select stations from NMFS generated charts of SEAMAP station locations east of the Mississippi River for random sampling. All species are identified, weighed and counted. Selected species are sexed and measured according to NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual.
3. Collect information on environmental parameters (salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, wind speed and direction, wave height) 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**

The vessel that participated in the Alabama Fall Shrimp and Groundfish Survey was the A.E.Verrill. Four stations were sampled in gulf statistical zone 11 on the October 28, 2009. A 40-foot trawl with 1.58 inch stretched mesh was lowered into position at the selected site and towline was set at a 5:1 cable length water depth ratio. Trawl towing was conducted at or near 3 knots for a minimum 10 minutes after lockdown, and towed across a fathom strata. Direction of tows was south to north or north to south. Sample workup and data processing was conducted in accordance with the NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual guidelines. Data was entered and checked with the NMFS SEAMAP Data Entry Database. Environmental data were collected in conjunction with each trawl. Temperature and dissolved oxygen, salinity, and turbidity values were measured

with a CTD.

### **Results**

Alabama collected samples at four fall Shrimp and Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ (between latitudes 30° 09' and 30° 16' and longitudes -88° 16' and - 88° 23') (Table 1). A.E. Verrill sustained damage during tropical storm Ida and was confined to trips within Mobile Bay on November 12, 2009. The following stations for the Alabama fall cruise were not sampled; ED06, EN12, EN14 and EN16.

### **Deviations**

There were no significant deviations to SEAMAP protocols.

### **Cruise participants:**

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel collected samples.

Submitted By:

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*John F. Mareska*  
*SEAMAP Field Party Chief*

**Table 1. AMRD SEAMAP 2009 fall shrimp & groundfish cruise report summary.**

STA#	DATE		LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	D.O			SALINITY			TEMPERATUR			FIN CATCH	CRUS CATCH	OTHR CATCH	MIN FISHED	TAXON COUNT
	MM/DD/YY	TIME					SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX					
23	A.E. Verrill																			
23001	10/28/2009	1047	30 13.14	88 16.33	11	6	7.1	6.2	4.5	25.6	29.8	32.7	21.5	22.1	24.8	24.520	1.508	0.580	21	37
23002	10/28/2009	1249	30 13.65	88 17.31	11	3	7.4	7.4	6.9	25.1	25.9	28.1	21.6	21.7	22.1	9.867	0.102	13.474	11	29
23003	10/28/2009	1413	30 11.53	88 23.32	11	6	7.7	7.4	6.3	19.3	25.3	32.5	20.5	21.4	23.8	17.769	0.308	3.145	10	33
23004	10/28/2009	1552	30 09.81	88 19.46	11	10	7.8	6.7	4.9	24.7	28.1	33.1	21.6	22.3	24.9	77.125	8.081	0.413	31	47

**Submitted by: John F Mareska**  
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