

SEAMAP 2009 Winter Plankton Survey Cruise Report Tommy Munro Cruise 0901

Introduction

USM/GCRL participated in the winter SEAMAP plankton survey in early March 2009 (cruise 0901). Eight standard grid stations were occupied.

Objectives

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 a sdes file. Surveys will be made from a chartered USM/GCRL vessel.

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 a sdes file.

Results

USM/GCRL conducted the winter plankton cruise (CR.0901) March 3 to March 5. Eight stations were sampled in depths ranging from 23 to 1383 m. All sampling was conducted using SEAMAP protocols and standard gear. Samples collected were given to the NMFS for shipment to the polish sorting center.

STATION DATA

Stations	Date	Time	Lat.	Long.	Depth (m)
B177	3/3/09	08:10	3000.05	8800.01	23
B176	3/3/09	12:22	2929.99	8800.01	45
B322	3/3/09	1440	2914.96	8759.99	253
B1	3/4/09	0735	2900.13	8800.01	1383
B180	3/4/09	1154	2900.01	8829.99	331
B323	3/4/09	1433	2915.00	8829.97	86
B179	3/5/09	0610	2930.01	8830.00	48
B178	3/5/09	1021	3000.04	8830.01	26

Deviations

None

Cruise participants

Bruce Comyns - USM/GCRL
Gary Gray - USM/GCRL
Cijii Marshall - USM Hattiesburg

Submitted By:
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