

SEAMAP Fall 2013 Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by:
Craig Newton
Alabama Marine Resources Division
P.O. Box 189
Dauphin Island, Al. 36528

R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1303

Introduction

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) Fall Groundfish cruises are annually conducted during October and November of each year. The goal of SEAMAP Groundfish program is to produce fishery-independent monitoring and assessment data 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 fall 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 stations were sampled in gulf statistical zones 10 and 11 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on November 22, 2013. 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 SEAMAP Groundfish stations in the territorial sea and adjacent EEZ of Florida and Alabama. Stations located north of 29° 56.500' latitude, south of 30° 18.100' latitude, east of -88° 09.500' longitude, and west of -87° 15.150' longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols (Table 1). Each of the four SEAMAP Groundfish stations (E1101, E1003, E1002, and E1001) were sampled during daylight hours on November 22, 2013. Environmental variables, effort, station locations and catch by station are summarized (Table 1).

Deviations

Historically, AMRD has used a 30 cm diameter secchi disk with alternating black and white quadrants during SEAMAP groundfish. Recent coordination, however, indicated a 50 cm white secchi disk should be used during SEAMAP groundfish. Therefore, the 50 cm white secchi disk was deployed for the first time during the 2013 SEAMAP Fall Groundfish cruise conducted by AMRD. Current, wind, and swells during the Fall 2013 SEAMAP Groundfish cruise prevented obtaining an accurate measurement using the 50 cm secchi disk. Therefore, measurements with the 30 cm secchi disc were injected into CR771303-55.mdb.

Cruise participants:

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel.

Submitted By:



D. Craig Newton

SEAMAP Field Party Chief

Table 1. AMRD SEAMAP 2013 Summer shrimp/groundfish cruise report summary.

77 R/V Alabama Discovery

STA#	DATE MM/DD/YY	TIME	LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	SUR	D.O.			SALINITY			TEMPERATURE			TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
								MID	MAX		SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX			
77001	11/22/2013	10:14	29 56.51	88 09.43	11	31.7	6.3	6.4	6.3	35.40	35.40	35.36	21.95	21.92	21.83	2.53	30	17	
77002	11/22/2013	12:21	30 01.76	87 56.23	10	23.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	35.05	35.05	35.05	21.05	21.00	20.97	2.74	30	19	
77003	11/22/2013	14:30	30 07.29	87 34.16	10	27.5	6.7	6.7	6.6	34.47	34.51	34.62	20.49	20.46	20.46	2.36	30	25	
77004	11/22/2013	16:39	30 18.10	87 15.49	10	13.7	6.8	6.8	6.9	33.95	33.95	33.95	19.53	19.53	19.54	2.61	30	19	

Submitted by: D. Craig Newton

Date submitted: December 3, 2013
