SEAMAP Summer 2015 Shrimp/Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by
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R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1501

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

Five SEAMAP Groundfish stations were sampled in gulf statistical zone10 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on June 29, 2015. 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 five Shrimp/Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ (figure 1). Stations located north of 29.67° latitude, south of 30.2125° latitude, east of -87.785° longitude, and west of -87.411667° longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols. Stations E1001, E1002, E1005, E1006, and E1007 were sampled between 9:25 CDT and 17:34 CDT on 29 June, 2015. Environmental variables, effort, station locations and catch by station are summarized (Table 1). No interactions with protected species occurred during this cruise.

Deviations

The unit of measure for the "depth" field value in CR771501-55 under the "Trawl" tab is fathoms. However, all depths were recorded in meters.

Diodora cayenesis (keyhole limpet) from station E1005 was measured as disc length (longitudinal with keyhole and axis with longest diameter). Taxa entered as *Pilumnus* at station E1005 is *Pilmnus gemmatus* (ITIS TSN = 98820) due to the *Pilmnus gemmatus* not being listed in the SpeciesAlias.csv file used to populate taxa in FSCS. Similarly, *Trachycaris restricta* (ITIS TSN = 96923) was entered as Hippolytidae, I*ridopagurus caribbensis* (ITIS TSN = 97869) was entered as Iridopagurus, and *Ophiolimna littoralis* (ITIS TSN = 157585) in the catch data of E1006.

Cruise participants:

Craig Newton, Field Party Chief, Alabama Marine Resources
Diana Marchant, Watch Leader, Alabama Marine Resources
Will Tarver, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources
Austin Wilson, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources
Gracie Barnes, Watch Stander, University of West Florida
Nicky Barber, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources
Emily Seale, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources
Jessica Marchant, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources
Joel Borden, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources

Submitted By:

D. Craig Newton
SEAMAP *Field Party Chief*

Figure 1. Locations of each SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish station sampled by Alabama Marine Resources Division during cruise 1501.

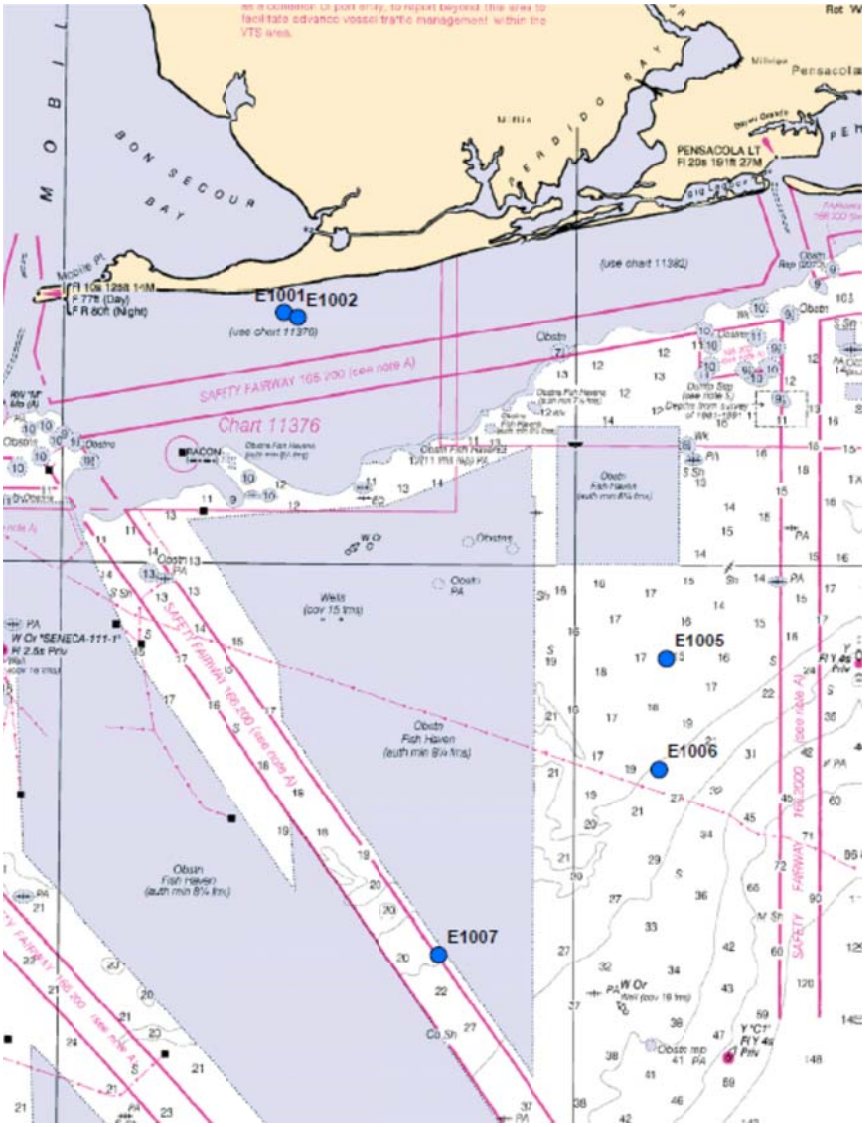

Table 1. Station summary report for each SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish station sampled by Alabama Marine Resources Division during cruise 1501.

STA#	DATE MM/DD/YY	TIME	LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	D.O. SUR	D.O. MID	D.O. MAX	SALINITY SUR	SALINITY MID	SALINITY MAX	TEMPERATURE SUR	TEMPERATURE MID	TEMPERATURE MAX	TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
77001	6/29/2015	9:34	30 12.71	87 47.36	10	11.5	5.8	5.7	4.7	34.84	34.84	35.04	29.92	26.90	26.63	2.66	30	21
77002	6/29/2015	10:37	30 12.42	87 46.46	10	11.4	6.1	5.9	4.6	34.70	34.80	35.11	26.97	26.91	26.38	2.64	30	27
77003	6/29/2015	13:08	29 55.21	87 25.37	10	30.3	6.4	6.0	5.8	26.17	35.56	35.94	29.26	27.24	22.90	2.73	30	30
77004	6/29/2015	14:41	29 49.58	87 25.16	10	38.4	6.4	6.1	5.9	25.61	35.29	36.30	29.26	27.01	21.19	2.44	30	44
77005	6/29/2015	17:04	29 40.18	87 38.05	10	38.5	6.7	6.3	5.0	24.34	35.13	36.03	29.61	27.38	22.65	2.60	30	29

Submitted by: **D. Craig Newton**
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