

SEAMAP Winter 2010 Shrimp & Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by
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R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1001

Introduction

SEAMAP winter 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 winter trawl survey to collect information on shrimp and groundfish abundances and distribution with a standard SEAMAP 40-ft trawl. Collect information on environmental parameters in conjunction with trawl sampling.
2. Select stations from NMFS generated coordinates of SEAMAP station locations east of the Mississippi River for random sampling.
3. Code all data according to approved NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual guidelines, and enter data through the NMFS SEAMAP data entry system.
4. Submit data to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Methods

The vessel that participated in the Alabama Winter Shrimp and Groundfish Survey was the R/V Alabama Discovery. A 42-foot semi-balloon trawl with 1.63 inch stretched mesh was lowered into position at the selected sites and towline was set at a 5:1 cable length water depth ratio. Trawling was conducted between 2 - 3 knots for 30 minutes after lockdown.

Sample workup and data processing was conducted in accordance with the NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual guidelines. All specimens were identified, counted and species-specific weights were derived. Selected species were measured and individual weights were obtained according to NMFS SEAMAP Operations Manual. Data was entered and checked with the NMFS SEAMAP data entry system. Environmental data collected were salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, barometric pressure, wave height, wind speed and direction. Water transparency was measured with a Secchi disk at day stations. Temperature and dissolved oxygen, salinity, and transmissivity values were measured with a CTD.

Results

This cruise marked the beginning in a change in the sampling protocol. Tows are now conducted for 30 minutes instead of across a fathom stratum for an unspecified amount of time. Stations were selected at random rather than stratified by depth stratum. Alabama collected samples at six winter Shrimp and Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ (between latitudes 30° 10' and 29° 54' and longitudes -88° 25' and -87° 48') (Table 1). Three day stations and one night station were sampled in gulf statistical zone 11 and two night stations in gulf statistical zone 10 on the February 20, 2010.

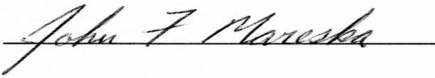
Deviations

There were no significant deviations to SEAMAP protocols. A vessel code was not issued to the new vessel (R/V Alabama Discovery) at the time of the cruise and thus the old code 23 was used. This was noted for every station during this cruise and will need to be changed in the data when a new code is issued.

Cruise participants:

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel collected samples.

Submitted By:



John F. Mareska
SEAMAP Field Party Chief

Table 1. AMRD SEAMAP 2010 winter shrimp & groundfish cruise report summary.

STA#	DATE		LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX			D.O			SALINITY			TEMPERATUR			FIN CATCH	CRUS CATCH	OTHR CATCH	TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
	MM/DD/YY	TIME				DEPTH	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID						
23	R/V Alabama Discovery																						
23001	2/20/2010	0925	30 10.54	88 21.18	11	8.5	9.4	6.8	6.0	22.5	35.1	34.9	12.3	15.9	16.6	10.918	0.711	0.848	2.69	30	29		
23002	2/20/2010	1141	30 00.67	88 25.21	11	15	8.4	6.7	4.0	30.4	34.8	36.1	13.3	15.8	18.4	91.237	1.138	0.0	2.49	30	24		
23003	2/20/2010	1406	30 07.90	88 22.91	11	10.1	9.4	6.7	4.9	25.9	34.7	35.4	13.4	15.5	17.2	11.393	0.360	0.515	2.31	30	28		
23004	2/20/2010	1807	29 54.52	87 48.75	10	17.9	9.1	6.8	5.2	30.5	34.6	35.7	13.97	16.2	18.0	30.098	0.243	0.084	2.54	30	27		
23005	2/20/2010	2044	30 03.22	87 54.61	10	9.7	8.9	7.0	6.2	27.3	34.3	34.9	13.3	16.0	16.9	5.635	0.156	0.561	2.16	30	23		
23006	2/20/2010	2221	30 05.35	88 00.52	11	11.3	9.4	6.3	5.4	26.5	34.8	35.6	12.9	16.7	17.6	23.607	0.468	0.331	2.36	30	28		

Submitted by: John F Mareska
Date submitted: March 3, 2010