

SEAMAP Winter 2011 Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by
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R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1101

Introduction

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) Winter Groundfish cruises are annually conducted during January and February. The goal of SEAMAP Groundfish cruises is to produce fishery-independent monitoring and assessment of species-specific distributions and abundances 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 Winter trawl survey to generate invertebrate and groundfish 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

Six stations were sampled in gulf statistical zones 10 and 11 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on February 15, 2011. 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 seven Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ. Stations located north of 30° 05.2' latitude, south of 30° 10.5' latitude, east of -88° 33.4' longitude, and west of -87° 52.2' longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols (Table 1). Stations E1101, E1102, E1103, E1104, E1008, and E1007 were sampled between 09:07 on February 15, 2011. Stations E1008, E1007 and E1104 were sampled after sunset, while the remaining three stations were sampled during daylight hours. Station E1101 was resampled after the initial sample was deemed "Not Representative" due to an unacceptable proportion of the catch slipping through the loosely tied cod-end. Environmental variables, effort, station locations and catch by station are summarized (Table 1).

Deviations

The R/V Alabama Discovery has been issued the vessel code "77"; however, data collections during the SEAMAP Winter Groundfish cruise were conducted using vessel code "23". The update has not been implemented in the NMFS SEAMAP data entry system. Data, therefore, will subsequently be ingested using vessel code "23".

The angle shark, *Squatina dumeril*, caught at E1007 was quickly processed and released to ensure survival. However, fork length was measured rather than total length. The default FSCS measurement code for this species is total length, but fork length was determined and ingested into SDES.

Cruise participants:

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel.

Submitted By:



D. Craig Newton

SEAMAP Field Party Chief

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

23 R/V Alabama Discovery

STA#	DATE MM/DD/YY	TIME	LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	D.O.			SALINITY			TEMPERATURE			FIN CATCH	CRUS CATCH	OTHER CATCH	TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
							SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX						
77001	2/15/2011	0907	30 10.15	88 20.82	11	13	8.80	7.90	7.40	29.6	34.6	34.9	11.5	13.6	14.0	-	-	-	2.4	30	-
77002	2/15/2011	1005	30 08.92	88 21.19	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.161	0.694	2.29	2.4	30	36
77003	2/15/2011	1208	30 10.04	88 33.51	11	13	8.90	8.00	7.70	30.3	33.6	34.6	11.7	12.7	13.4	3.114	0.331	16.762	2.37	30	26
77004	2/15/2011	1457	30 07.84	88 22.63	11	17	8.70	8.40	7.30	31.1	34.5	35.4	12.5	13.4	14.5	5.2	0.156	2.589	2.5	30	26
77005	2/15/2011	1756	30 06.67	87 52.10	10	17	8.50	8.10	7.40	31.1	34.1	35.0	13.7	13.2	14.1	16.176	0.18	2.146	2.38	30	23
77006	2/15/2011	1956	30 07.66	87 55.71	10	14	8.70	8.10	7.00	31.0	33.9	35.4	13.0	13.2	14.9	8.681	0.097	4.035	1.7	30	24
77007	2/15/2011	2222	30 05.52	88 01.80	11	20	8.80	7.30	6.90	29.3	35.3	35.7	13.0	14.8	15.6	30.167	0/729	3.201	2.3	30	33

Submitted by: D. Craig Newton
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