SEAMAP Fall 2014 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 1403

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

Five stations were sampled in gulf statistical zones 10 and 11 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on October 23, 2014. 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 SEAMAP Groundfish stations in the territorial sea and adjacent EEZ of Alabama. Stations located north of 29° 48.400' latitude, south of 30° 12.550' latitude, east of -88° 11.148' longitude, and west of -87° 59.700' longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols (Table 1). Each of the four SEAMAP Groundfish stations (E1101, E1003, E1104, E1105, and E1106) were sampled during daylight hours on October 23, 2014. Environmental variables, effort, station locations and catch by station are summarized (Table 1).

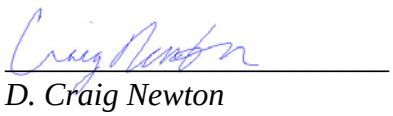
Deviations

Traditionally, AMRD personnel have processed the catch during previous groundfish cruises aboard the vessel when the sea conditions allowed for proper calibration of the Marel scales. During the 1403 cruise, however, the sea state was not conducive for proper calibration of the motion compensated scales. Therefore, all samples were stored on ice and transported to the Marine Resources Division laboratory located on Dauphin Island, AL.

Cruise participants:

Alabama Marine Resources Division personnel.

Submitted By:



D. Craig Newton
SEAMAP *Field Party Chief*

Table 1. AMRD SEAMAP 2014 Fall groundfish cruise report summary.
77 R/V Alabama Discovery

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	10/23/2014	11:14	30 12.60	88 09.23	11	12.3	6.6	6.0	3.5	27.84	32.14	34.05	23.66	25.02	26.52	2.57	30	22
77002	10/23/2014	13:42	30 04.77	87 59.37	10	20.9	6.2	6.2	6.5	33.65	33.65	34.07	25.38	25.38	25.12	2.57	30	18
77003	10/23/2014	15:28	29 59.47	88 10.74	11	28.5	6.5	6.4	4.1	32.88	33.30	35.61	25.03	25.16	26.80	2.59	30	28
77004	10/23/2014	17:11	29 55.17	88 03.41	11	32.6	6.5	6.4	5.2	34.37	34.53	35.77	25.59	25.80	27.25	2.51	30	32
77005	10/23/2014	18:50	29 48.37	88 .3.87	11	34.0	6.4	6.4	5.8	34.20	34.27	35.52	25.55	25.65	26.85	1.92	30	49

Submitted by: **D. Craig Newton**
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