

# SEAMAP Summer 2016 Shrimp/Groundfish Survey Cruise Report

Prepared by  
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R/V Alabama Discovery, Cruise 1601

## 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

Four SEAMAP Groundfish stations were sampled in gulf statistical zone 11 aboard R/V Alabama Discovery on June 24, 2016. 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 Shrimp/Groundfish stations in Alabama's territorial sea and the adjacent EEZ (figure 1). Stations located north of N30°5.749" latitude, south of N30°13.800" latitude, east of W88 °27.499" longitude, and west of W88 °10.849" longitude were sampled according to SEAMAP Groundfish protocols. Stations E1103, E1105, E1107, and E1102 were sampled between 11:30 GMT and 17:59 GMT on 24 June, 2016. 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.

## Cruise participants:

Craig Newton, Field Party Chief, Alabama Marine Resources  
Diana Marchant, Designated Protected Species Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources  
Lauren Jakubowski, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources  
Evan Harrell, Watch Stander, Alabama Marine Resources  
Rebecca Moore, Watch Stander, University of West Florida

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.

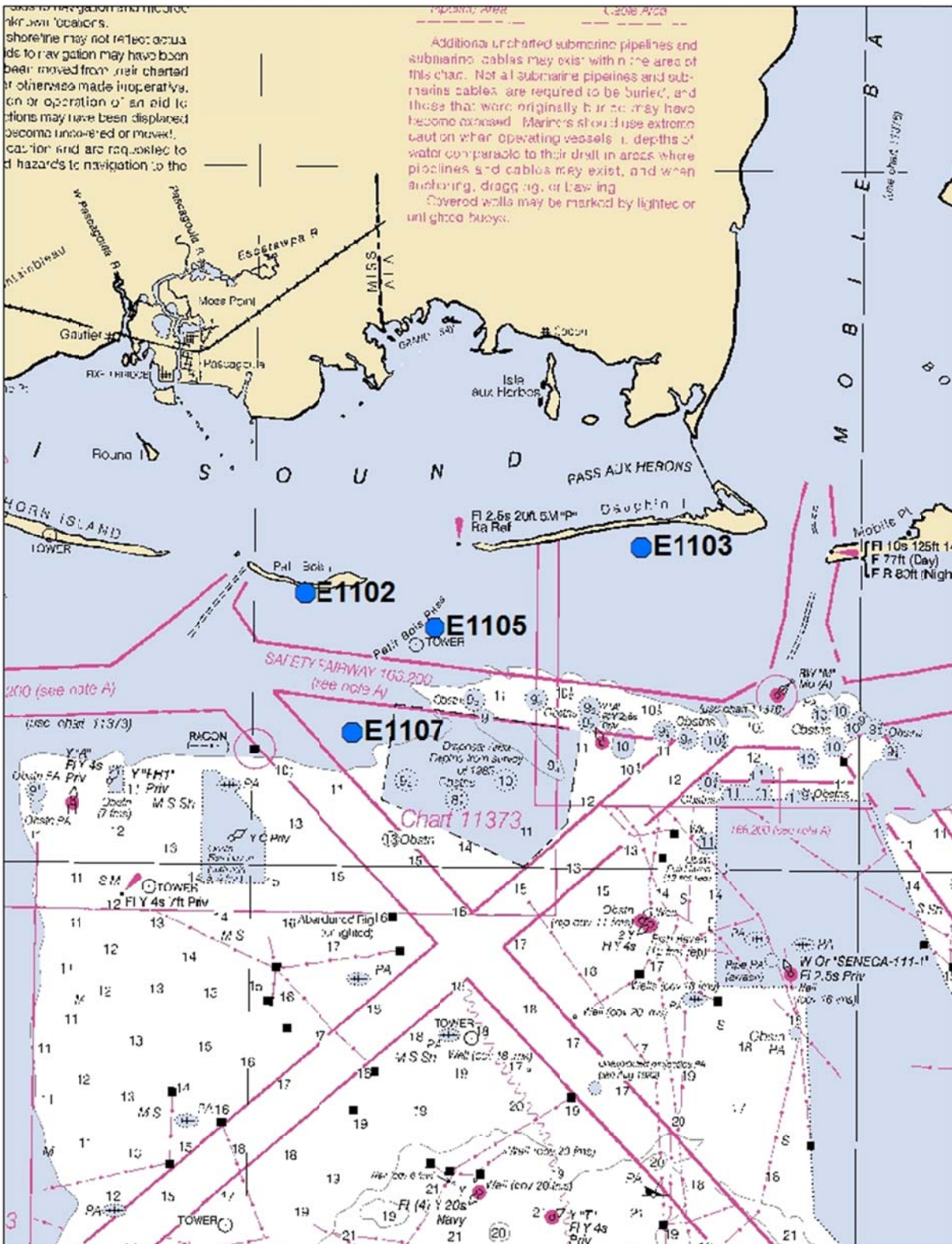


Table 1. Station summary report for each SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish station sampled by Alabama Marine Resources Division during cruise 1601.

STA#	DATE		LAT	LONG	STAT ZONE	MAX DEPTH	D.O.			SALINITY			TEMPERATURE			TOW SPEED	MINUTES FISHED	TAXON COUNT
	MM/DD/YY	TIME					SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX	SUR	MID	MAX			
77001	6/24/2016	11:46	30 13.85	88 11.10	11	11.1	5.9	6.1	5.1	25.69	26.24	33.36	29.09	29.11	25.38	2.34	30	28
77002	6/24/2016	14:16	30 10.26	88 20.72	11	15.7	7.2	5.5	2.5	26.83	31.44	35.04	29.07	27.73	23.42	2.25	30	28
77003	6/24/2016	16:01	30 11.70	88 27.60	11	12.3	6.6	6.0	4.7	29.02	30.56	31.86	29.49	27.68	26.32	2.28	30	19
77004	6/24/2016	17:29	30 05.64	88 25.15	11	18.3	7.3	3.2	1.7	27.83	35.11	35.68	29.17	23.64	22.58	2.27	30	16

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Submitted by: D. Craig Newton  
 Date submitted: August 4, 2016

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