

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Steidinger
THROUGH: Mark Leiby, Joe Kimmel, Alan Huff, Allen Nelson
FROM: Jack Gartner
DATE: 15 June 1991
SUBJECT: Cruise Report: SEAMAP 91-1

Cruise 9105 (SEAMAP cruise 91-1) of the R/V Hernan Cortez II departed Bayboro Harbor on 6 May 1991. The purpose of the cruise was collection of hydrographic and ichthyoplankton data as part of the State of Florida's participation in SEAMAP. This was the first of two cruises contracted for 1991. Scientific personnel included: Jack Gartner (Chief Scientist), Amy Petri, Lee Houchin, Becky Hendren and Mike Costello, all from FMRI-St. Pete. A total of 20 stations was planned. The stations were spaced along a 30 minute latitude/longitude grid primarily along the western edge of the West Florida Shelf from 24°30'N 29°00'N (see attached cruise track). Thirteen of these stations along the shelf edge were selected by the National Marine Fisheries Service to complement data being obtained at the same time by the N.M.F.S. research vessel R/V Oregon II, which operated to the north and west of our stations.

Hydrographic sampling included surface chlorophylls, salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen from surface, mid-depth and bottom samples, water transparency and water color. Transparency and color were determined only during the day, the other hydrographic data were collected at each station. Additional thermal data were collected from expendable bathythermograph probes (XBT's) launched at each station. Weather conditions, including wave height, cloud coverage (daytime only) and wind direction and speed were also noted at each station. Ichthyoplankton were collected from each station at the surface using a neuston net (0.947mm mesh) and from throughout the water column (maximum depth 200m) with a bongo net (0.333mm mesh).

Our original departure date was planned for 3 May 1991. Due to some unexpected personnel problems, departure was delayed until the 6th. Because of scheduling constraints we were unable to utilize the vessel beyond the 10th. As a result, it was necessary to drop 7 stations from the collection program. These are noted on the attached cruise track. We were able to complete all 13 stations requested by the N.M.F.S.. Weather conditions throughout the cruise were fair to good.

Sampling was completed in the early morning of the 10th of May and the Hernan docked in Bayboro Harbor mid-morning of the 10th. Chlorophyll samples are being processed by Paul Carlson and Herman Arnold, FMRI-St. Pete, and salinity samples have been sent to Dr. Warren Stuntz at the N.M.F.S. lab in Pascagoula, MS. Right bongo and neuston samples are being prepared for delivery to Mr. Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS, while left bongo

samples are being readied for delivery to Mr. Ken Stuck, Gulf Coast Research Lab, Biloxi, MS for archiving. Field data sheet transcription is now computerized using the new SEAMAP Data Base Management System and will be started this week. The completed files will then be uploaded to the computer systems of the appropriate personnel/agencies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

cc: Steve Loesch
Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator-Gulf
Archives

