

7th Quarterly Report
of Progress on Interagency Agreement AA550-1A7-35
Biological Baseline Studies
Mid-Atlantic OCS

Between

Northeast Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U. S. Department of Commerce

and

Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of Interior

For the Period
17 Dec. 1978 - 16 Mar. 1979

26 March 1979

Report No. SHL79-16 (Mar. 79)

SUMMARY

Program management and task activities included submission to BLM of final report outlines and all data from the Pathobiology and Finfish tasks, and the Ichthyoplankton draft final report.

The Finfish Spawning Season final report was reviewed inhouse. Data management involved reformatting of Ichthyoplankton data, as well as correcting the Pathobiology citation file and splitting this file into several subsets. Arrangements have now been made for transfer of all data to NODC.

A. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

R. Reid

Considerable progress was made during the seventh quarter of NOAA studies for BLM. Activities included:

- Meetings were held between the program coordinator and manager, ADP and Pathobiology staffs to discuss ways of selectively retrieving material from the 2,500 citation file to aid in producing an interpretive final report. The file has now been broken into infectious vs non-infectious categories for fish, crustacean and molluscan taxa. An outline of the final report was approved by the COAR, and report preparation has begun.
- A computer listing of all citations was submitted to BLM, with an explanatory text, to fulfill Pathobiology's data reporting requirement.
- A draft of the Ichthyoplankton task's final report was completed, reviewed inhouse and sent to BLM for comments.
- Discussions were held with NODC culminating in their agreeing to accept the bulk of the Ichthyoplankton data without reformatting. These data will be transferred shortly, along with the reformatted R/V Dolphin and vertical migration data.

- A draft of the Finfish task's final report on spawning cycles for 15 New York Bight species was completed, reviewed by the program coordinator and manager, and returned to the author for minor revisions.
- An outline of the Finfish overall final report, with examples of proposed graphic outputs, was submitted to the COAR. Computer listings for all of this task's data were also supplied. An extension to November 1979 of the final report deadline was requested and granted.

B. DATA MANAGEMENT

A. Pacheco

- Ichthyoplankton data of R/V Dolphin and vertical migration surveys were punched, corrected, reformatted for NODC, collated and copied onto tape. The tape is now available from NECC.
- The marine disease registry was updated, incorporating corrections received from reviewers. A meeting was held to determine subsets useful for preparation of the interpretive report. A program was developed for generating a keyword dictionary as well as a program for keyword listings by accession number. Subsets of accessions by infectious, noninfectious and major taxonomic groups were forwarded to our Oxford laboratory. Errors have been detected in the file and are now being corrected.

C. TASK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Fisheries

T. Azarovitz

During the seventh quarter, reports for subtasks 2AB-2AE were completed. Subtask 2AE is being reviewed internally before submission to BLM. Subtasks 2AB-2AD were forwarded to Mr. Eiji Imamura.

An outline of the final report was prepared after consultation with Mr. Imamura and was sent to BLM. In addition, a request for a time extension has been submitted to and approved by Mr. Imamura.

Programmers are currently developing the computer software necessary to produce the graphical presentations required to complete our obligations for subtask 2AF. The final report will be based upon the graphics. The computer software is scheduled to be completed in June and the final report is scheduled to be submitted by November 1979. No slippage of this schedule is anticipated.

2. Ichthyoplankton

W. Smith

We completed a draft final report, which was circulated to program coordinator and manager, the chief of the Northeast Fisheries Center's Marine Ecosystems Division, and to BLM. The 260-page report contains sections on distribution/abundance of fish eggs and larvae based on the series of cruises conducted between 1965 and 1976. An overview of the fishery in general, seasonality of spawning, and hydrography of the Middle Atlantic Bight is given. An analysis of larval community assemblages and recurrent groups is presented, as is information on vertical migrations for larvae of eight abundant species. The report's discussion includes inter-survey comparisons and highlights most significant results.

NODC agreed to accept without reformatting our data on 1973-76 semiannual Middle Atlantic and 1974-76 New York Bight surveys. The task's remaining data are ready for transfer, so that requirement of the Interagency Agreement will soon be met.

3. Pathobiology

R. Murchelano

During the past quarter, we 1) continued updating and correcting the list of 2,500 marine pathology citations; 2) shipped the completed listings to BLM, accompanied by an explanatory text; 3) worked with the Sandy Hook ADP unit in splitting the citations into six classes based on three taxonomic groupings and infectious vs noninfectious etiology; 4) received BLM approval of an outline for our final report; and 5) began analysis of the six citation categories and preparation of the final report.