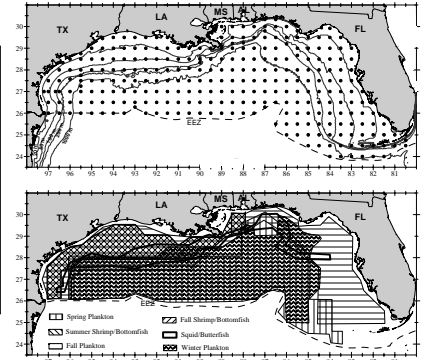
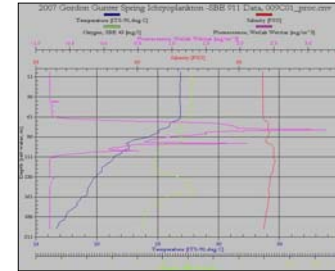
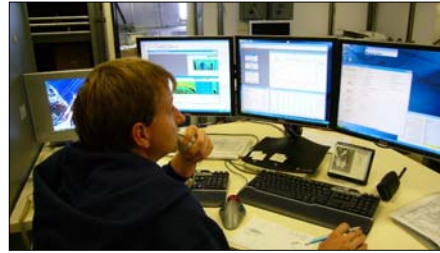


Building a comprehensive database on the early life stages of fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico

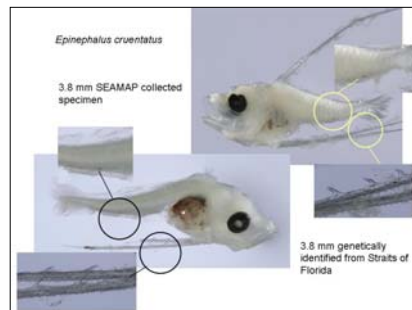
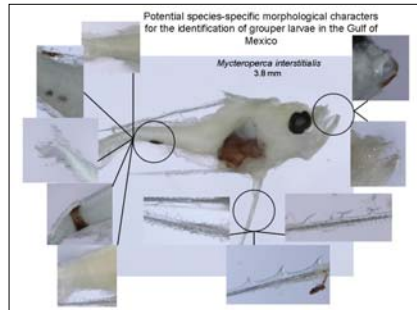
Investigators: Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz Joanne.Lyczkowski-Shultz@noaa.gov (228 762-4591),
 William J. Richards, Mark McDuff, and David S. Hanisko
 NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC

Project Goal: Improve our ability to provide and disseminate the most accurate and up-to-date data on the early life history of fishes collected during Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) surveys in the Gulf of Mexico



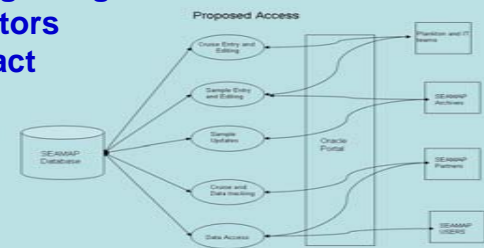
Objective 1: Re-examine larvae of selected taxa from the 25+ year time series of SEAMAP collections utilizing new taxonomic information and identification tools.

Year 1 Accomplishments: Completed detailed examination of over 300 SEAMAP collected and 200 genetically identified grouper larvae (Univ. of Miami RSMAS) allowing an evaluation of new and traditional morphological characters that is yielding the first species specific data on distributions of young grouper in the GOM. Results will be presented at AFS Larval Fish Conference in July.



Objective 2: Establish a single, coherent, and taxonomically updatable SEAMAP ichthyoplankton database containing all associated collection, station and environmental data and observations.

Year 1 Accomplishments (in part): Documentation of survey designs and collection methodologies for SEAMAP Spring Plankton surveys (1982 to present) completed. MS Labs Oracle DBA began establishing infrastructure to serve data to users. Oracle Portal product installed and in-house demo site established. Preliminary design of database structures completed and scripts to ingest data from historical database and data entry system are being designed. Initial datasets were provided to NGLI investigators forecasting the ecological impact of hurricanes.



Opportunities for Collaboration: Ecosystem modeling; environmental impact and forecast models; GIS products; opportunities for data collection during SEAMAP surveys