

Report on 20th Month Activities  
Interagency Agreement AA550-IA7-35  
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 January - 16 February 1979

February 21, 1979

Report No. SHL79-12 (February 1979)

#### A. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1. We received the COAR's approval of an outline for the Pathobiology final report, with the recommendation that the chapter on pollutant effects should emphasize hydrocarbons and heavy metals.

2. A computer listing of the 2,500 disease citations collected by the Pathobiology task was submitted to BLM, along with an explanatory text, to fulfill that task's data report requirement.

3. A draft of the Ichthyoplankton task's final report was completed, reviewed inhouse and sent to BLM for comments.

4. We were informed that the Ichthyoplankton data holdings at Narragansett are acceptable to NODC without reformatting. Tapes of all Ichthyoplankton data will be sent to NODC shortly.

5. A draft of the Finfish task's final report on spawning cycles for 15 New York Bight species was completed, and internal review was begun by the program manager.

#### B. DATA MANAGEMENT

1. Ichthyoplankton -- Information of R/V Dolphin and vertical migration surveys has been reformatted, collated and copied onto a tape. The tape is ready to be picked up from the NECC and will be forwarded soon.

2. The disease registry has been printed and programs completed for delivering subsets of the file to aid in writing the narrative. Breakouts by infectious and non-infectious categories are complete and that for taxonomic groups is ready to be run.

## C. TASK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 1. Fisheries:

During the latest reporting period, the reports for Subtasks 2AB-2AD were completed. These reports have been bound and will be forwarded to Mr. Eiji Imamura at an early date.

After meeting with Mr. Imamura on January 9, an outline of the final report, along with a request for a time extension, was written and forwarded to BLM. The final report will include graphical and illustrative presentations, fulfilling the requirements of Subtask 2AF, and narrative sections (for each of 22 species) that will interpret the data presented.

A draft final report on Subtask 2AE, concerning delineation of spawning season of 15 New York Bight species, was completed and submitted to the program manager to begin review.

### 2. Ichthyoplankton:

We completed a draft version of our final report, which was reviewed by the program coordinator and program manager and then submitted to BLM. The report was concurrently sent to Dr. Ken Sherman, Chief of our Marine Ecosystems Division, for further evaluation.

We had several communications with NODC concerning the transfer of data on our 1973-76 semiannual Middle Atlantic Bight and 1974-76 monthly New York Bight surveys. NODC will accept these data (presently in MARMAP format at our Narragansett lab) without reformatting. Tapes of the data, plus files held at Sandy Hook concerning 1965-66 seasonal MAB surveys and 1972-75 diel migration studies, will soon be supplied to NODC.

### 3. Pathobiology:

BLM's comments on our final report outline were received; the outline is acceptable, with the recommendation that Chapter VI, on effects of pollutants on disease in fish and shellfish, should emphasize hydrocarbons and heavy metals. We began preparation of the final report by working with the Sandy Hook ADP unit on ways of separating the data into categories such as infectious vs non-infectious disease, and incidence in fish/crustaceans/molluscs.

A listing of the 2,500 marine disease citations collected, split into infectious and non-infectious groupings, was sent to BLM. We also supplied a short text describing and documenting this final data report.