RVSouthern Surveyor

## S510/2005

Mapping benthic ecosystems on the deep continental shelf and slope in Australia's "South West Region" to understand evolution and biogeography and support implementation of the SW Regional Marine Plan and Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas.

## Itinerary

Leg 1
Departed Fremantle 0600 hrs, Friday 18th November 2005
Arrived Fremantle 1400 hrs, Wednesday 30th November 2005
Leg 2
Departed Fremantle 0800 hrs, Thursday 1st December 2005
Arrived Dampier 1200 hrs, Wednesday 14th December 2005

## Principal Investigator

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## Scientific Objectives

The aims of the project were: 1) to apply targeted field-based observation to develop, test, refine and validate multiple use management frameworks developed for the SW Region as part of Regional Marine Planning under Australia's Oceans Policy, and 2) explore and characterise marine ecosystems of the SW Region.

Ecosystem-based, integrated regional marine planning for the Australian marine environment depends on the identification of natural regions as planning units. Therefore, there are near-term requirements for regionalisation and mapping at a range of relatively fine scales throughout the Australian Marine Jurisdiction (AMJ). Given the vast size of the AMJ and the cost of marine surveys, Australia needs to develop the most efficient and cost-effective suite of methods for surveys, and to establish a national mapping program using an optimal methodology. It has been argued for some time that the most cost-efficient way to conduct such surveys will be by using multibeam acoustics (swath mapping) together with an optimally-designed, targeted program of geological and biological 'ground-truth' sampling. However, despite the already-demonstrated benefits of multibeam acoustics for mapping the physical seabed at fine resolution ( 10 s m ) over intermediate scales ( 10 s to 100 s of sq km), there are still technical and methodological issues to investigate before a multibeam-based, optimised method for predictive and reliable habitat assessment is fully developed.

The data for this project are being collected during two surveys. Survey 1 was completed in July/ August (SS07/2005) when all the survey sites were mapped using multibeam acoustics, surveyed with the towed, high-resolution video system and sampled with sediment grabs. This second survey ran a reciprocal course and collected the complementary benthic invertebrate epifauna and infauna using benthic sleds. Two sled designs were used: a robust, heavy design for rocky terrains and a light beamsled for sediment terrains. There was an emphasis of taxonomic effort on taxa that can be worked up to named species within 12 months (enabling comparison to preexisting data); taxa that will be highly informative to biogeographic analysis (e.g. with limited dispersal mechanisms); taxa amenable to CO1 gene analysis "Bar-coding"; and commercial species. Surrogate-based metrics of biodiversity will be investigated based on morphotypes, and there will be a focus on those taxa amenable to monitoring (e.g. by non-destructive photographic sampling for MPA performance assessment).

Sampling was targeted at nested spatial scales of habitat - terrains of sediment and rocky substrata comprising features (mostly canyons and sediments terraces of the continental slope), within depth zones, across latitudes - to determine how biodiversity is distributed at particular scales. At the highest level, samples are allocated to enable comparison of the benthic bioregions off the west and southwest coasts of Western Australia: the Northwest Province, Central Western Transition Zone, Central Western Province, South-western Transition Zone and Southern Province. To the extent possible, sampling targeted sites that may become candidate sites for MPAs, or suited to the establishment of scientific reference sites, and that would demonstrate the different outcomes from alternative conservations strategies.

The survey program (two voyages) will address four primary objectives:

1) test hypotheses on the evolution and biogeography of Australia's biodiversity, in particular relating to species composition, distribution patterns and taxonomic surrogacy
2) validate and refine CSIRO's optimised methodology for mapping deep water benthic ecosystems on the western continental margin and in sub-tropical locations to enhance its application to natural resource management at a national scale
3) document the benthic biodiversity and identify areas of high conservation values in the context of Commonwealth MPA declaration
4) validate, and permit refinement of, a marine bioregionalisation during the development of the SW Regional Marine Plan by the National Oceans Office

## Voyage Objectives

At depths of $100 \mathrm{~m}, 200 \mathrm{~m}, 400 \mathrm{~m}, 700 \mathrm{~m}$ and $\sim 1000 \mathrm{~m}$, and possibly a deeper site, in each survey area:

1. Collect benthic invertebrate epifauna and infauna using benthic sleds
2. Fill gaps in the sediment sampling program from SS07/2005
3. Fill gaps in the swath mapping program from SS07/2005

## Secondary objectives:

4. Collect water column acoustic backscatter at multiple frequencies

## Voyage Track

Outer shelf and upper slope (~100 and 400 m isobaths) between transects and focus survey areas, Fremantle to Fremantle via Albany, and Fremantle to Dampier.


A map showing the voyage track for SS10/22205. The Southern Surveyor departed from Fremantle at the start of leg 1 and travelled south to a position east of Albany before returning to Fremantle. Leg 2 departed from Fremantle and travelled north ending in Dampier.

## Results

## 1. Collect benthic invertebrate epifauna and infauna using benthic sleds

A total of 132 benthic sled samples covered virtually all planned stations at depths of $100 \mathrm{~m}, 200 \mathrm{~m}, 400 \mathrm{~m}, 700 \mathrm{~m}$ and 1000 m , and additional stations in focus areas. Separate targeting of hard and soft seabed terrain types was undertaken successfully in most areas. Macrofauna were sorted to the lowest possible taxonomic resolution on board by a team of specialist taxonomists. In total, approximately 1,750 taxa were photographed, catalogued and preserved. These included large collections of the priority taxa for the project: sponges ( $\sim 550$ putative species), cnidarians (e.g. anemones, corals) (~127), molluscs (~322), echinoderms ( $\sim 261$, including 110 brittlestar species), and crustaceans (378). Diversity was exceptionally high in some taxa, e.g. the brachyurans (true crabs) in which the $\sim 180$ taxa collected represented all the subtidal families except Atelecyclidaea and included a number of very rare deep-water groups, with several genera not recorded from Australia, and species that are either new records or new species. All material has been freighted to the relevant museum specialists in Australia and detailed taxonomic work is already underway on the priority groups.

## 2. Fill gaps in the sediment sampling program from SS07/2005

Few sediment sample gaps existed in the program from the first voyage, but some additional samples were collected

## 3. Fill gaps in the swath mapping program from SS07/2005

Gap-filling data were collected successfully at target locations, including unsampled sections of the 100 and 400 m isobaths; map data were processed and products made on board to assist with the targeted sled sampling.

## 4. Collect water column acoustic backscatter at multiple frequencies

Samples were collected successfully from the entire voyage.

## Voyage Narrative

## Leg 1

## Friday 18th November

Following a very busy period of preparations alongside in Fremantle, Southern Surveyor departed for the beginning of a month-long survey off the coast of Western Australia at 0600 hours.

Calibrating the Sonardyne system was the first task (Op 1), and this took until about 1400 hours when Jeff Cordell departed the vessel by launch close to Fremantle. From there we headed out to begin sampling at the Two Rocks transect on the 100 m station. Safety induction, Muster Drill and a science briefing were completed on the way. Operation 2 was a benthic faunal sample using the new 'French beam trawl' at T4 100. A large catch was taken including large bryozoans and sponges.

Operation 3 was an unsuccessful beam trawl shot.

## Saturday 19th November

Operation 4 was a successful beam trawl sample from soft bottom in $400 \mathrm{~m} ; 91$ taxa were identified. Operation 5 used the Sherman sled for the first time to target hard bottom in 400 m but it overshot and took no catch. Operation 6 was a successful repeat
shot on hard bottom at T4 400. Operation 7 was a successful Sherman sample on hard bottom at T4 700; interestingly a lot of Solomosmila coral matrix was collected, although it didn't contain many animals. Operation 8 was targeted at soft bottom in 700 $m$ with the beam trawl, but overshot. A short tow resulted in major damage to the net framework and no catch, but no components were lost. Operation 9 was a Sherman tow on soft bottom at T4 1000; catch was small but representative. Operation 10 was a Sherman tow on rubbly bottom in 1000 m ; again a small but representative catch From here we moved in to complete the Transect 4 sampling with a sample at 200 m . Images showed a proliferation of large epifauna, so the Sherman sled was used. A large catch dominated by sponges and bryozoans resulted. We steamed south from here to the Perth Canyon where a target shot with the Sherman was completed at the outermost photo transect in about 480 m . A small representative catch resulted.

## Sunday 20th November

Steamed to Latitude site 13 off Bunbury and completed a beam traw sample at 400 m (Op 13) and a Sherman sample at 100 m (Op 14). Both produced good samples: the beam trawl a small but diverse catch including many crustaceans and echinoids; the Sherman tow a large catch dominated by sponges. Steamed south towards the Mentelle Latitude site 14.

## Monday 21st November

Took the first sample in 100 m with the Sherman and collected another large catch dominated by sponges and bryozoan rubble (Op 15, L14 100S). The beam trawl sample at 400 m was small due to insufficient wire out and poor bottom contact (Op 16); adequate but to repeat if possible. Steamed to D'Entrecasteaux Latitude site 15 and completed successful sampling at 400 m with the beam trawl (Op 17) 100 m with Sherman (Op 18). Commenced the long steam to the next site: L13 off Point Hillier.

## Tuesday 22nd November

Commenced sampling on the 400 m contour during the late morning with the beam trawl. Operation 19 was on L16 400 soft: the beam trawl was put down too early and pinned up fairly quickly. A small but diverse catch was taken; all components of the gear were recovered. A repeat with the Sherman at the same site (Op 20) provided a similar, complementary sample. After this the 100 m site, L16 100S was sampled with the Sherman (Op 21). This resulted in a small but adequate sample. Steamed to next survey area: Transect 6 off Albany. Commenced with a Sherman shot on T6 100 - a relatively hard ground, but just sand and rubble with moderately dense communities of erect epifauna. A six-minute tow (Op 22) produced a large sample that took until the end of the shift to process.

## Wednesday 23rd November

Operation 23 was at the T6 700 H site where the camera pinned up. We shot this at a down slope angle to avoid a pin up; a small catch yielded several rocks and 22 species. Operation 24 was a failed beam trawl at T6 400 S , and Operation 25 a repeat that yielded 40 species. The next sample at T6 200 S (Op 26) was a beam trawl that took a small catch of sponges and rubble with 43 species. Operation 27 was a beam trawl at T6 700 S that produced only a small catch. This was repeated in Operation 29 when a good catch was taken. In between, a shot on the Peanut (Op 28, T6 1000 H) yielded a large bag of dead coral. Operation 30 was an unsuccessful attempt to take a small sample from rich habitat at T7 $100 \mathrm{~S} / \mathrm{H}$. This was repeated in Operation 31 which yielded a modest but sufficient sample. A small but representative sample from T7 700

S taken by beam trawl during Operation 32 yielded 44 species. Operation 33 was an attempt to get the Sherman into the canyon adjacent to the transect line for a T7 400 H sample. Poor bottom contact resulted in a small sample containing only 12 species.

## Thursday 24th November

Operation 34 took a good sample by beam trawl from T7 400 S. A very large bag of coral and sponges yielding $\sim 90$ species was taken during Operation 35 from T7 200 S.

Operation 36 was a beam trawl at T7 1000 S which pinned up shortly after hitting the bottom but still took a catch containing 25 species. Operation 37 was aborted. The next shot, Operation 38 at T7 200 H, was an attempt to take a sample right at the shelf edge on harder bottom with a lot of sponges. Appears to have been slightly too shallow and is effectively a duplicate of Operation 35. Operation 39 was a surgical shot at hard looking bottom in 100 m - no photo data. Operation 40 used Sherman to have another attempt at sampling T7 400 H - over the canyon rim onto hard bottom.

## Friday 25th November

Operation 41 T7 1000 S was a repeat beam trawl shot on the deep station for another modest but valuable catch. A repeat of this using Sherman during Operation 42 (T7 1000 S) took a very small catch, but containing 17 species. That shot concluded work on Transect 7. We steamed to the Albany Transect 6 and sampled soft bottom in 1000 m (T6 1000 S) with the Sherman (Op 43) and beam trawl (Op 48). Two repeat shots were also done on the Peanut (T6 1000 H) (Ops 44 and 49). In between we did LADCP drops over the Peanut and the adjacent soft ground (Ops 45 and 46 respectively), and sampled hard ground at 200 m with the Sherman (Op 47).

## Saturday 26th November

Work was concluded at the Albany transect in the early hours with a sample from soft bottom in 100 m (T6 100 S), after which an overnight steam took us back to Point Hillier, Latitude site L16, where we started work with a deep Sherman at L16 1000 S (Op 51). Some additional transects were run over the offshore platform feature before sampling recommenced with a beam trawl over the L16 1000 S site (Op 52). Neither gear took a good sample. Due to the lack of photo data on this feature we did a camera drift (Op 53) that provided a few average quality images, but interesting insights into the substratum.

## Sunday 27th November

Operation 54 was another unsuccessful attempt to get a sample from the top of the platform with the beam trawl. From here we moved into 100 m and needed two shots with the Sherman (Ops 55,56) to get an adequate sample from L16 100 S. Operation 57 was a good Sherman sample from L16 200 S - which included the giant sponge. From here we steamed to on to site L15 D'Entrecasteaux.

## Monday 28th November

At L15 we moved into 50 m depth to get sediment samples comparable with those taken in Eastern Bass Strait. Attempted five (Ops 58-62) but it was all hard bottom and only small rocky samples were taken. We continued steaming back towards L14 Mentelle where we stopped to back fill a beam trawl sample in 400 m depth. Operation 63 at L14 400 S provided a small sample, while a further repeat (Op 64) was unsuccessful. We also attempted to take 50 m grab samples (Ops 65, 66) but again encountered only rocky ground and no good samples were taken. Continued steaming north towards Bunbury.

## Tuesday 29th November

At Bunbury we took the opportunity to get a replicate beam trawl sample in 400 m on the way through. Operation 67 at L13 400 S took a large catch containing many brittle stars. From here we steamed north to complete Leg 1 of the survey at the Perth Canyon. Operation 68 was a beam trawl in 400 m along a camera transect, and Operation 69 a Sherman along a camera transect in 200 m. These were followed by a series of deep tows: Operation 70, a Sherman in 1000 m at a site in the base of the canyon, and Operation 71 a beam trawl at the same site.

## Wednesday 30th November

Operation 72 was a Sherman tow targeted at a deeper part of the canyon floor in 1600 m, but this returned few animals in a large sample of mud. The final biological sample was Operation 73, a repeat beam trawl sample from the 1000 m site. The remaining time before leaving was spent doing an LADCP drop at the 1600 m site (Op 74). Commenced steaming to meet the pilot at 1015 hours, and were alongside in Fremantle at 1400 hours.

## Leg 2

## Thursday 1st December

Departed 0800 hours from Fremantle and steamed north in good weather to the first sampling site at Lancelin L11. A beam trawl (Op 75) was targeted at soft ground in 400 m and yielded a good catch dominated by crustaceans (bugs) and a high number of fishes. The next Sherman (Op 76) was targeted at 100 m depth and yielded 4 bins of coarse shell/bryozoan hash. Swath mapped the 100 m contour to the Jurien L10 and T3 site and deployed a plankton tow (Op 77) for no phylosoma.

## Friday 2nd December

The 400 m low backscatter L9 site beam trawl (Op 78) yielded a good diverse catch $(3.5 \mathrm{~kg})$ with 60 specimens retained. Operation 80, a Sherman sled targeted on high backscatter at 400 m with 29 specimens retained. Operation 82 targeted a Sherman sled on the reef at the 90 m site retaining a large catch dominated by sponges (49 kg ) with 106 specimens retained. Off the reef in 100 m a Sherman sled (Op 83) retained a large catch of coarse shell and bryozoan material ( 52 kg ) with 64 specimens retained. Of note was the need to deviate the operation due to a fishing vessel.

Steamed to the Abrolhos transect site with a back log of material to process underway. At the Abrolhos 1000 m soft site a beam trawl (Op 84) retained a large catch of fish and some very large spicules ( $300-500 \mathrm{~mm}$ long) as well as numerous chrinoids ( 54 invertebrate specimens retained). Operation 85 at the 700 m soft beam trawl site retained a smaller but diverse catch $(2.7 \mathrm{~kg})$ dominated by fish and crustaceans.

## Saturday 3rd December

At the Abrolhos L9 site a 700 m hard (Op 87) and 400 m hard (Op 88) Sherman tow yielded good catches. These were followed by soft beam trawls at 400 m (Op 90) and 200 m (Op 91) targeted at corresponding video tows. These tows retained a large number of large crustaceans (bugs) and eels respectively. During the evening a problem with the winches delayed progress. A targeted Sherman sled (Op 92) at the 85 m hard reef site yielded 2-3 tonnes of large biogenic rocks and shell fragments. This catch took a long time to sort and at this point we
steamed to Geraldton to drop off Julia Phillips and pick up John Keesing. On returning we targeted a 100 m soft Sherman site (Op 93) that retained a small bin of biogenic rocks and two bins of fines. Of note was a large basket starfish

## Sunday 4th December

Operation 95 targeted a Sherman sled on high backscatter terrain at 400 m on route to the Kalbarri site (L8). At the Kalbarri 100 m site the Sherman was shot away (Op 96) on low backscatter after a delay with the hydraulics. The sled in 110 m of water produced a good catch of two bins coarse whole dead shells with numerous urchins, crabs and live shells (83 specimens were retained). The shot indicated a lower energy environment compared to the Abrolhos 100 m tows. A beam trawl on 400 m soft (Op 98) retained a high proportion of fishes and seapens which were observed on the video of the site (Voyage1, Op 95), 17 invertebrate species and 15 fish species were retained.

## Monday 5th December

Operation 99 was a beam trawl at Kalbarri on 200 m soft terrain at the top of a shelf edge slump and resulted in a catch dominated by sponges (166 kg ) with 93 specimens retained. Operation 100 was a plankton tow followed by a Sherman sled tow at L8 400 and another (Op 102) at L8 100.

On route to Zuytdorp a large algal bloom was observed on the surface with extensive brown slicks covering many nautical miles. A representative sample was collected to be filtered. At Zuytdorp 100 m a shallow Sherman sled tow L7 (Op 104) yielded a large bag ( 500 kg ) of sponges and limestone rubble. The steam out to the 400 m site confirmed the unusual dark circular seabed backscatter marks in 190 m . A small ( 5 kg ) catch of fish and crustaceans were obtained from the 400 m soft beam trawl (Op 105). On the steam back to the 100 m site the pock marks at 190 m were investigated with the swath, CTD and sediment samplers. A delay in sampling occurred due to excess wire run off the sediment winch.

## Tuesday 6th December

The beam trawl at 100 m soft yielded a high catch of sponge and limestone rubble. A large fan sponge was a notable addition to the collection. There was a long steam (8 hrs) to the Shark Bay site (L6). The swath showed that the reef edge which had characterized the 100 m swath from Jurien was decreased and a more sand wave dominated terrain was evident at the L6 site. A shallow tow yielded a familiar limestone rubble and shell hash with a few sponges. Steamed out to the 400 m site and a few marks appeared on the echo sounder and TOPAS characteristic (?) of gas seeps.

## Wednesday 7th December

A Sherman tow targeted on the features (Op 115) yielded a small catch ( $<5 \mathrm{~kg}$ ) of gorgonians, sponges and shell hash. At the L6 100 m soft site two beam trawls (Op 115 and Operation 118) retained a small catch ( $<5 \mathrm{~kg}$ ) of a diverse range of fishes, sponges and crustaceans. After a 6 hr steam the Carnarvon L5 100 hard site was chosen based on the swath mapper backscatter. The Sherman retained a small ( 5 kg ) but diverse catch of animals dominated by sponges. Two beam trawls (Op121 and 122) in deeper water $(400 \mathrm{~m})$ yielded small catches $(<5 \mathrm{~kg})$ dominated by fish and crustaceans. Strong winds continued from the south at 20 to 30 knots. The combination of running TOPAZ (sub bottom profiler) and the swath mapper proved useful in detecting emerging subcrop.

## Thursday 8th December

The last station at Carnarvon L5 was a beam trawl (Op 124) targeted on soft terrain in 100 m that produced a small and diverse catch with a high number of fish. After a short steam to Red Bluff (L4) the Sherman (Op 126) was targeted on hard 100 m terrain that retained a number of biogenic rocks. At 400 m two beam trawls (Ops 128 and 130) yielded small catches ( $<2 \mathrm{~kg}$ ) dominated by bugs, fish and crustaceans. The fines bag proved to contain a high diversity of organisms. The 100 m soft site was characterized by a small macrofauna catch dominated by crustaceans and fish and 240 kg of fines to be sieved.

## Friday 9th December

The beam trawl (Op 135) on sand waves at Point Cloates (L3) yielded a large catch of sponges ( 165 kg ) and rubble with very high species diversity. At the 400 m soft beam trawl site (Op 137) a small catch ( 2.4 kg ) was retained from a soft seafloor. On returning to the 100 m site the Sherman (Op139) was targeted on high backscatter and retained 30 kg . On route to Ningaloo, hard ground at 400 m was targeted yielding 14 kg of mainly rocks and crayfish. Arrived at the southern T1 Ningaloo site at 2100 hrs where a beam trawl (Op 141) at 100 m retained 4 kg of diverse fauna and 136 kg of fines (mud). This contrasted with the 1000 m beam trawl (Op 142) that hooked up and only retained a small catch and 3 bins of mud.

## Saturday 10th December

At the Ningaloo south site (T1) we continued to sample the 100 m and 150 m high backscatter sites (Ops 143 \& 144) for large catches of sponge dominated fauna. The beam trawl was targeted at the 200 (Op 146), 400 (Op 148, 151), 700 (Op 149) and 1000 m (Op 150) soft sites. All these sites were dominated by fine mud that was retained in the fines bag and was difficult to remove and sieve. At 200 m the fauna retained was 21 kg and diverse; the first 400 m site was repeated and the second beam trawl retained 13 kg dominated by bugs and holothurians. At the 700 m site 3 kg of fauna were retained dominated by fish with only 0.5 bins of fine mud. The 1000 m site retained a good catch ( 11 kg ) dominated by holothurians with 2 bins of fine mud.

## Sunday 11th December

A swath transect to the south was run through the morning to allow processing of the catch. The 200 m hard beam tow was targeted on the camera tow of voyage $1(155 \mathrm{~m}$ to 165 m$)$ and retained 73 kg sponges, 26 kg rubble and 8 kg fauna. At the 700 m soft site two beam trawls (Op 154 and 159) were targeted as the first pinned up with 10 bins of mud whilst the second retained a good catch of 4 kg of fish and crustacean dominated catch. Two beam trawls targeted at the 100 m hard site running north to south retained small catches. The 400 m beam trawl (Op 157) retained a good catch of a fish and crustacean dominated catch whilst two 1000 m beam trawls (Op 158 and 160) suffered net damage and retained poor catches.

## Monday 13th December

Operation 161 was targeted at the 1000 m site with the Sherman and retained no catch and as this was the third tow on this site is was abandoned. Operation 162 was a targeted beam trawl at 100 m soft and retained a small but diverse catch. In contrast the third attempt at the 100 m site beam trawl (Op 162) targeted more to the west retained a large catch $>100 \mathrm{~kg}$ of sponge dominated fauna. Operation 163 beam trawl on high backscatter at 150 m retained a 1.5 tonne catch of limestone
rubble. Two beam trawls targeted at 400 m soft (Op 165 and 166) with the second retaining a good fauna catch with 1 bin of mud in the fines and a broken beam. The last operation (Op 168) at Ningaloo was targeted on soft terrain in 1250 m depth and only retained a small catch and 500 kg of mud and a broken beam.

## Tuesday 14th December

We steamed to Barrow Island site 21 S for 9 hours collecting acoustic data along the 100 m contour. Good examples of seabed backscatter were collected from the Simrad EK500, EM300 and TOPAZ systems. Operation 169, a Sherman sled tow, was targeted on 100 m high backscatter at the Barrow Island site retained 1.5 tonnes of mud, rubble and boulders with little fauna. Operation 170 was a beam trawl targeted on low backscatter and retained 54 kg of fauna dominated by sponges and crustaceans. Two beam trawls (Ops 171 and 172) were targeted at the 400 m site as the first trawl appeared to have fished upside down. The second catch retained 4 kg dominated by fish, crustaceans and echinoderms. We steamed back to the 100 m contour collecting acoustic data on route to Dampier whilst processing the remaining catches.

## Wednesday 15th December

Cleaning, packing and data back ups occurred on the steam to Dampier with some concerns raised over the effect that temperature may have on the DNA of collected samples. The biological samples preserved in ethanol were organized to be kept cool on the steaming leg to Darwin with a wet canvas. The vessel docked at Dampier at 1200 hours.

## Summary

Voyage SS102005 was a technical and scientific success with all objectives met. Its greatest achievements were the successful collection of an extensive range of benthic epifauna, in good condition, from a variety of seabed types that were often challenging to sample effectively, and the thorough initial taxonomic processing (including photographic inventory) while on board. This level of processing will accelerate the subsequent museum-based taxonomic work, and was possible only with the broad range of specialist knowledge provided at sea by teams from Australia's major museums. Seabed maps and imagery collected on Voyage 1 (SS0705) were used to precisely target the benthic sled sampling, with acoustic tracking of the sleds enabling collections to be accurately georeferenced in relation to seabed types and features.

Collectively, these data and the multiscale mapping data taken during Voyage 1 will provide the first view of the structure of the deep ocean seascape off Western Australia, and knowledge of the composition, distribution and evolution of many components of its benthic invertebrate biodiversity. Together with a high quality data set on fishes collected in 1991, these data will make a large contribution to developing, testing, refining and validating multiple use management frameworks developed for the SW Region as part of Regional Marine Planning and inform the design of a representative system of marine protected areas. In addition, the data will provide information on species distributions in relation to habitats - fine scale features of geomorphology and substratum

- to assist in determining whether reliable physical surrogates for invertebrate biodiversity distributions exist at the scales of Province, depth and feature type.


## Personnel

Scientific Contingent Leg 1

| Alan Williams | CMAR | Chief Scientist |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mark Lewis | CMAR | Gear operations |
| Don McKenzie | CMAR | Voyage manager/ Gear operations/ SST |
| Bernadette Heaney | CMAR | NF computing support/ SST |
| Andrea Cortese | GA | Swath mapping |
| Peter Dunn | CMAR | NF electronics support |
| Karen Gowlett-Holmes | CMAR | Invertebrate taxonomy coordination |
| Penny Berents | AM | Invertebrate taxonomy coordination |
| Corey Whisson | WAM | Invertebrate taxonomy |
| Jane Fromont | WAM | Sponges |
| Jerome Mallefet | MV | Echinoderms |
| Tim O'Hara | MV | Echinoderms |
| Robin Wilson | MV | Polychaetes |
| Anna Syme | MV | Invertebrate taxonomy |

Scientific Contingent Leg 2

| Rudy Kloser | CMAR | Chief Scientist |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mark Lewis | CMAR | Gear operations |
| Don McKenzie | CMAR | Voyage manager/ Gear operations/ SST |
| Hiski Kippo | CMAR | NF computing support/ SST |
| Andrea Cortese | GA | Swath mapping |
| Lindsay MacDonald | CMAR | NF electronics support/ SST |
| Gary Poore | MV | Decapods |
| Karen Gowlett-Holmes | CMAR | Invertebrate taxonomy coordination |
| Steve Keable | AM | Invertebrate taxonomy |
| Mark Salotti | WAM | Sponges |
| Julia Phillips | CMAR | Invertebrate taxonomy |
| John Keesing | WAM | Echinoderms |
| Shirley Slack-Smith | MV | Invertebrate taxonomy |
| Anna McCallum | MV | Invertebrate taxonomy |

(GA - Geoscience Australia; WAM - Western Australian Museum; MV - Museum
Victoria; AM - Australian Musuem; SST - System Support Technician)

Marine Crew

| lan Taylor | Master |
| :--- | :--- |
| Samantha Durnian | Chief Officer |
| Drew Meinke | 2nd Officer |
| John Morton | Chief Engineer |
| Dave Jonker | 1st Engineer |
| Seamus Elder | 2nd Engineer |
| Graham McDougall | Bosun |
| Pat Chamberlain | I.R. |
| Karl Cooke | I.R. |
| Peter Dallas May | I.R. |
| George Cook | Greaser |
| Richard Smith | Chief Steward |
| Peter Williams | Chief Cook |
| Alan Sessions | 2nd Cook |
| Martin De Bavay | Extra I.R. |

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## Alan Williams and Rudy Kloser

## Chief Scientists

Table 1: A summary of the number of operations at "areas" conducted during SS10/2005.
Site coding for "latitude sites", "transects" and "focus study" areas are also included.

| Area |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ס } \\ & \frac{0}{\sigma} \\ & \stackrel{0}{0} \\ & \tilde{0} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \pm \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0} \\ & \stackrel{0}{D} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | $\stackrel{\ominus}{\ominus}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \pm \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & \vdots \\ & \frac{\square}{\square} \\ & \frac{\square}{C} \\ & \frac{\sigma}{0} \end{aligned}$ | qe• |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & \sum_{0}^{\prime} \\ & \text { O} \\ & \text { O} \\ & \text { C } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Barrow Island | L1 |  |  | 3 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 5 |
| Ningaloo North | L2 | T2 | F | 11 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 5 |  | 17 |
| Ningaloo South | L2 | T1 | F | 7 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 2 |  | 11 |
| Point Cloates | L3 |  |  | 2 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |  | 7 |
| Red Bluff | L4 |  |  | 4 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 8 |
| Carnarvon | L5 |  |  | 3 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 7 |
| Shark Bay | L6 |  |  | 3 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |  | 8 |
| Zuytdorp | L7 |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |  | 8 |
| Kalbarri | L8 |  |  | 2 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 3 |  | 7 |
| Abrolhos | L9 | T3 |  | 4 |  |  | 1 | 2 |  | 5 |  | 12 |
| Jurien Bay | L10 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |
| Lancelin | L11 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 3 |
| Two Rocks | L12 | T4 |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  | 10 |
| Perth Canyon |  |  | F | 3 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 4 |  | 8 |
| Perth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| Mentelle | L14 |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 6 |
| Bunbury | L13 |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 3 |
| D'Entrecasteaux | L15 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 5 | 1 |  | 7 |
| Pt Hillier | L16 | T5 |  | 3 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 6 |  | 10 |
| Albany | L17 | T6 | F | 6 |  |  | 2 |  |  | 8 |  | 16 |
| Bald Island | L18 | T7 |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  | 13 |
| Total number ops/gear |  |  |  | 69 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 63 | 1 | 173 |


| End tow position |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Longitude（E） | Latitude（S） |
| - | - |
| 115.2411 | -31.7184 |
| 114.9660 | -31.6231 |
| 114.9660 | -31.6231 |
| 114.9790 | -31.6103 |
| 114.9710 | -31.6173 |
| 114.8460 | -31.6851 |
| 114.8490 | -31.6825 |
| 114.7560 | -31.7261 |
| 114.7930 | -31.7357 |
| 115.0030 | -31.6285 |
| 115.0130 | -31.9230 |
| 114.5750 | -33.0020 |
| 114.8130 | -33.0378 |
| 114.7350 | -33.9837 |
| 114.4410 | -34.0158 |
| 115.3480 | -35.0707 |
| 115.4990 | -34.8839 |
| 117.2070 | -35.3817 |
| 117.1920 | -35.3822 |
| 117.2200 | -35.3526 |
| 118.2900 | -35.3366 |
| 118.3060 | -35.4012 |
| 118.2950 | -35.3698 |
| 118.2930 | -35.3708 |
| 118.3290 | -35.3447 |
| 118.3210 | -35.3774 |
| 118.3440 | -35.4365 |
| 118.3220 | -35.3753 |
| 18.6320 | -35.1787 |
| 118.6330 | -35.1778 |
| 118.6750 | -35.2279 |
| 118.5890 | -35.2292 |
| 18.6690 | -35.2040 |
| 118.6500 | -35.1875 |
| 118.7090 | -35.2810 |
|  | - |

## Area





 | $\lambda$ |
| :--- |
| $\stackrel{\lambda}{0}$ |
| $\frac{0}{4}$ |

 $\underset{2}{\lambda}$
$\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0}$

$\frac{0}{4}$ | $\underset{2}{c}$ |
| :--- |
| $\stackrel{0}{0}$ |
| $\stackrel{0}{4}$ |







## 


 9／11／2005 9／11／2005 19／11／2005 20／11／2005 1／11／2005 1／11／2005 1／11／2005 $22 / 11 / 2005$
$22 / 11 / 2005$ 22／11／2005 22／11／2005 23／11／2005 23／11／2005 23／11／2005 23／11／2005 3／11／2005 $23 / 11 / 2005$
$23 / 11 / 2005$ 23／11／2005 23／11／2005 24／11／2005 $24 / 11 / 2005$
$24 / 11 / 2005$ $24 / 11 / 2005$
$24 / 11 / 2005$

| Op | Date (local) | Time (24 hr local) | Gear | Site | Soft / Hard (1) | Area | Start tow position |  | Start | End tow | osition | Finish <br> Depth (m) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Longitude (E) | Latitude (S) | Depth (m) | Longitude (E) | Latitude (S) |  |
| 39 | 24/11/2005 | 21:36 | Sled - Sherman | T7 100 | Hard | Bald Island | 118.6230 | -35.1791 | 99 | 118.6210 | -35.1799 | 97 |
| 40 | 24/11/2005 | 23:09 | Sled - Sherman | T7 400 | Hard | Bald Island | 118.5940 | -35.2273 | 398 | 118.5870 | -35.2301 | 554 |
| 41 | 25/11/2005 | 1:31 | Beam Trawl | T7 1000 | Soft | Bald Island | 118.7230 | -35.2713 | 978 | 118.7190 | -35.2829 | 980 |
| 42 | 25/11/2005 | 4:08 | Sled - Sherman | T7 1000 | Soft | Bald Island | 118.7200 | -35.2698 | 973 | 118.7190 | -35.2881 | 999 |
| 43 | 25/11/2005 | 11:50 | Sled - Sherman | T6 1000 | Soft | Albany | 118.3740 | -35.4176 | 1019 | 118.3660 | -35.4327 | 1031 |
| 44 | 25/11/2005 | 10:01 | Sled - Sherman | T6 1000 | Hard | Albany | 118.3500 | -35.4341 | 900 | 118.3510 | -35.4374 | 915 |
| 45 | 25/11/2005 | 13:33 | CTD - LADCP | T6 1000 | - | Albany | 118.3500 | -35.4365 | 910 | - | - | - |
| 46 | 25/11/2005 | 15:03 | CTD - LADCP | T6 1000 | - | Albany | 118.3660 | -35.4314 | 1024 | - | - | - |
| 47 | 25/11/2005 | 16:58 | Sled - Sherman | T6 200 | Hard | Albany | 118.2990 | -35.3546 | 179 | 118.2960 | -35.3558 | 179 |
| 48 | 25/11/2005 | 19:10 | Beam trawl | T6 1000 | Soft | Albany | 118.3730 | -35.4183 | 1011 | 118.3680 | -35.4260 | 1021 |
| 49 | 25/11/2005 | 21:01 | Sled - Sherman | T6 1000 | Hard | Albany | 118.3480 | -35.4310 | 925 | 118.3510 | -35.4368 | 913 |
| 50 | 26/11/2005 | 0:42 | Sled - Sherman | T6 100 | Soft | Albany | 118.3770 | -35.3061 | 95 | 118.3720 | -35.3079 | 95 |
| 51 | 26/11/2005 | 13:06 | Sled - Sherman | L16 1000 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2130 | -35.5238 | 1074 | 117.2380 | -35.5337 | 1080 |
| 52 | 26/11/2005 | 21:07 | Beam trawl | L16 1000 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2030 | -35.5194 | 1073 | 117.2170 | -35.5252 | 1076 |
| 53 | 26/11/2005 | 23:43 | Camera drop | L16 1000 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2270 | -35.5262 | 1133 | 117.2180 | -35.5248 | 1079 |
| 54 | 27/11/2005 | 3:27 | Beam trawl | L16 1000 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2110 | -35.5227 | 1075 | 117.2300 | -35.5261 | 1110 |
| 55 | 27/11/2005 | 10:05 | Sled - Sherman | L16 100 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2150 | -35.3552 | 91 | 117.2170 | -35.3559 | 94 |
| 56 | 27/11/2005 | 10:43 | Sled - Sherman | L16 100 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.2160 | -35.3553 | 92 | 117.2200 | -35.3547 | 91 |
| 57 | 27/11/2005 | 11:28 | Sled - Sherman | L16 200 | Soft | Pt Hillier | 117.1970 | -35.3735 | 195 | 117.2040 | -35.3734 | 196 |
| 58 | 28/11/2005 | - | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | D'Entrecasteaux | 115.5400 | -34.8258 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 59 | 28/11/2005 | - | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | D'Entrecasteaux | 115.5520 | -34.8188 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 60 | 28/11/2005 | 2:47 | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | D'Entrecasteaux | 115.5530 | -34.8179 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 61 | 28/11/2005 | 2:58 | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | D'Entrecasteaux | 115.5520 | -34.8188 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 62 | 28/11/2005 | 3:05 | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | D'Entrecasteaux | 115.5520 | -34.8188 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 63 | 28/11/2005 | 11:49 | Beam Trawl | L14 400 | Soft | Mentelle | 114.4400 | -34.0177 | 514 | 114.4390 | -34.0197 | 528 |
| 64 | 28/11/2005 | 13:02 | Beam Trawl | L14 400 | Soft | Mentelle | 114.4390 | -34.0213 | 529 | 114.4430 | -34.0113 | 467 |
| 65 | 28/11/2005 | 16:42 | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | Mentelle | 114.8480 | -34.0464 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 66 | 28/11/2005 | 16:51 | Sediment Grab | L15 50 | - | Mentelle | 114.8490 | -34.0461 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 67 | 29/11/2005 | 1:19 | Beam Trawl | L13 400 | Soft | Bunbury | 114.5700 | -33.0097 | 423 | 114.5820 | -32.9937 | 397 |
| 68 | 29/11/2005 | 9:36 | Beam Trawl | PC 400 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.1830 | -31.9924 | 508 | 115.1780 | -32.0020 | 478 |
| 69 | 29/11/2005 | 11:31 | Sled - Sherman | PC 200 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.2020 | -31.9210 | 194 | 115.1960 | -31.9241 | 232 |
| 70 | 29/11/2005 | 12:54 | Sled - Sherman | PC 1000 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.1050 | -31.9658 | 920 | 115.1290 | -31.9431 | 1135 |
| 71 | 29/11/2005 | 22:35 | Beam Trawl | PC 1000 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.1000 | -31.9715 | 848 | 115.1140 | -31.9552 | 1050 |
| 72 | 30/11/2005 | 2:31 | Sled - Sherman | PC 1500 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.0390 | -31.9872 | 1577 | 115.0370 | -32.0038 | 1584 |
| 73 | 30/11/2005 | 6:14 | Beam Trawl | PC 1000 | Soft | Perth Canyon | 115.1050 | -31.9650 | 928 | 115.1180 | -31.9497 | 1170 |
| 74 | 30/11/2005 | 8:46 | CTD - LADCP | PC 1500 | - | Perth Canyon | 115.0390 | -31.9944 | 1591 | - | - | - |
| 75 | 1/12/2005 | 17:16 | Beam Trawl | L11 400 | Soft | Lancelin | 114.8250 | -31.0125 | 394 | 114.8230 | -31.0046 | 393 |
| 76 | 1/12/2005 | 19:36 | Sled - Sherman | L11 100 | Soft | Lancelin | 114.9330 | -30.9913 | 100 | 114.9310 | -30.9860 | 100 |
| 77 | 1/12/2005 | 21:08 | Plankton Net | L11 | - | Lancelin | 114.8740 | -30.8302 | 100 | 114.8760 | -30.8204 | 100 |


| Start | End tow position |  | Finish |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Depth (m) | Longitude (E) | Latitude (S) | Depth (m) |
| 414 | 114.3980 | -29.8739 | 401 |
| 370 | 114.4010 | -29.8697 | 316 |
| 408 | 114.3670 | -29.8502 | 427 |
| 408 | - | - | - |
| 85 | 114.4360 | -29.8038 | 92 |
| 113 | 114.4320 | -29.8091 | 114 |
| 1000 | 113.6300 | -29.0781 | 1037 |
| 704 | 113.7220 | -29.0252 | 700 |
| 737 | 113.7220 | -29.0367 | 728 |
| 678 | 113.6920 | -28.9718 | 686 |
| 419 | 113.7850 | -29.0230 | 439 |
| 420 | - | - | - |
| 389 | 113.7690 | -28.9967 | 407 |
| 180 | 113.7880 | -28.9964 | 183 |
| 86 | 113.8350 | -28.9744 | 85 |
| 112 | 113.8440 | -28.9964 | 114 |
| 107 | 113.8020 | -28.9486 | 107 |
| 431 | 113.4250 | -28.5010 | 416 |
| 123 | 113.2990 | -27.8126 | 112 |
| 435 | - | - | - |
| 417 | 113.0880 | -27.9441 | 428 |
| 252 | 113.1440 | -27.9337 | 253 |
| 455 | - | - | - |
| 480 | 113.0420 | -27.9278 | 469 |
| 96 | 113.3120 | -27.8183 | 98 |
| 100 | - | - | - |
| 97 | 113.1000 | -27.0490 | 97 |
| 414 | 112.7620 | -27.1466 | 405 |
| 409 | - | - | - |
| 193 | - | - | - |
| 194 | - | - | - |
| 194 | - | - | - |
| 106 | 113.0800 | -27.0480 | 106 |
| 100 | - | - | - |
| 100 | 112.8290 | -25.9073 | 100 |
| 404 | 112.2460 | -25.9381 | 407 |
| 419 | - | - | - |
| 120 | 112.6810 | -25.9330 | 120 |
| 100 | 112.8270 | -25.9064 | 95 |



 Time
(24 hr local)




๗





| Finish |
| :--- |
| Depth (m) |
| 105 |
| 324 |
| 1056 |
| 732 |
| 1036 |
| 1014 |
| 107 |
| 132 |
| 114 |
| 382 |
| 366 |
| - |
| 1295 |
| 93 |
| 100 |
| 411 |
| 408 |


| Start tow position |  | Start | End tow position |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Longitude (E) | Latitude (S) | Depth (m) | Longitude (E) | Latitude (S) |
| 113.8430 | -21.9627 | 105 | 113.8420 | -21.9662 |
| 113.7930 | -21.9702 | 356 | 113.7910 | -21.9792 |
| 113.7230 | -21.9374 | 1051 | 113.7140 | -21.9459 |
| 113.7610 | -21.9690 | 726 | 113.7540 | -21.9784 |
| 113.7260 | -21.9375 | 1050 | 113.7190 | -21.9501 |
| 113.7250 | -21.9448 | 1029 | 113.7150 | -21.9573 |
| 113.8370 | -21.9781 | 106 | 113.8350 | -21.9838 |
| 113.8410 | -21.9438 | 134 | 113.8380 | -21.9515 |
| 113.8450 | -21.9615 | 104 | 113.8370 | -21.9679 |
| 113.7910 | -21.9702 | 373 | 113.7850 | -21.9801 |
| 113.7920 | -21.9689 | 373 | 113.7860 | -21.9787 |
| 113.7960 | -21.9563 | 526 | - | - |
| 113.6050 | -21.9178 | 1260 | 113.5830 | -21.9197 |
| 114.8920 | -21.0316 | 93 | 114.8880 | -21.0344 |
| 114.9070 | -20.9847 | 101 | 114.9090 | -20.9945 |
| 114.3810 | -21.0063 | 399 | 114.3700 | -20.9957 |
| 114.3810 | -21.0067 | 399 | 114.3750 | -21.0007 |
| 114.3653 | -20.9913 | 400 | - | - |


| Soft / Hard (1) | Area |
| :--- | :--- |
| Hard | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Hard | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Hard | Ningaloo North |
| Hard | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
|  | Ningaloo North |
| Soft | Ningaloo North |
| Hard | Barrow Island |
| Soft | Barrow Island |
| Soft | Barrow Island |
| Soft | Barrow Island |
| - | Barrow Island |




| Op | Date (local) | Time ( 24 hr local) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 156 | 11/12/2005 | 14:10 |
| 157 | 11/12/2005 | 16:18 |
| 158 | 11/12/2005 | 17:40 |
| 159 | 11/12/2005 | 20:52 |
| 160 | 11/12/2005 | 23:06 |
| 161 | 12/12/2005 | 1:54 |
| 162 | 12/12/2005 | 4:56 |
| 163 | 12/12/2005 | 6:06 |
| 164 | 12/12/2005 | 8:16 |
| 165 | 12/12/2005 | 9:50 |
| 166 | 12/12/2005 | 11:08 |
| 167 | 12/12/2005 | 12:43 |
| 168 | 12/12/2005 | 17:33 |
| 169 | 13/12/2005 | 8:24 |
| 170 | 13/12/2005 | 10:10 |
| 171 | 13/12/2005 | 14:08 |
| 172 | 13/12/2005 | 15:54 |
| 173 | 13/12/2005 | 16:37 |

