

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT-FY 2003
For the Period July 1 - September 30, 2003

Submitted by: Norman Bartoo, Acting Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

Title of Accomplishment or Milestone: Produce ichthyoplankton data report for STAR 2000 survey of the ETP.

Ambrose, D. A., R. L. Charter, H. G. Moser, B. S. MacCall, W. Watson. 2002. Ichthyoplankton and station data for surface (Manta) and oblique (Bongo) plankton tows taken during a survey in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean July 28 - December 9, 2000. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo., NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-342. 130 pp.

Current Status: Report completed and distributed.

Background Information: This report provides ichthyoplankton, juvenile/adult fish, and associated station and tow data from surface and water column plankton samples collected during the 2000 Southwest Fisheries Science Center *Stenella* Abundance Research (STAR00) survey to the eastern tropical Pacific. It is the eighth in a series of reports that presents these data for all Southwest Fisheries Science Center marine mammal surveys in the eastern tropical Pacific from 1987 to the present.

Purpose of Activity: A primary objective was to examine the distributions and abundances of ETP fish larvae to aid in defining the relationship between environmental variables and population trends in ETP dolphin stocks.

Description of Accomplishment and Significant Results: This report summarized the results of 193 Manta net collections (6391 individual larval fish specimens in 164 taxa) and 167 Bongo net collections (149,688 individual specimens in 269 taxa).

Significance of Accomplishment: Extended the time series of biological monitoring of the ETP.

Problems: None

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