



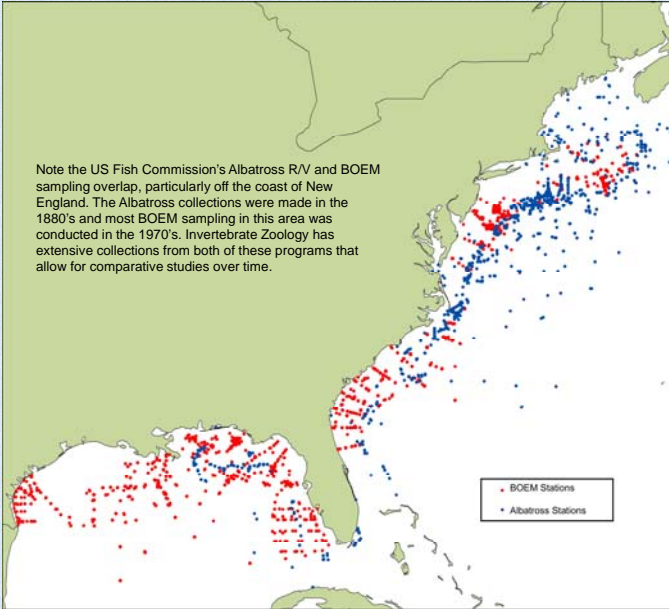
The Importance of Archived Programmatic Collections: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Department Invertebrate Zoology Collaboration Insures Long-Term Access to Specimens and Associated Data



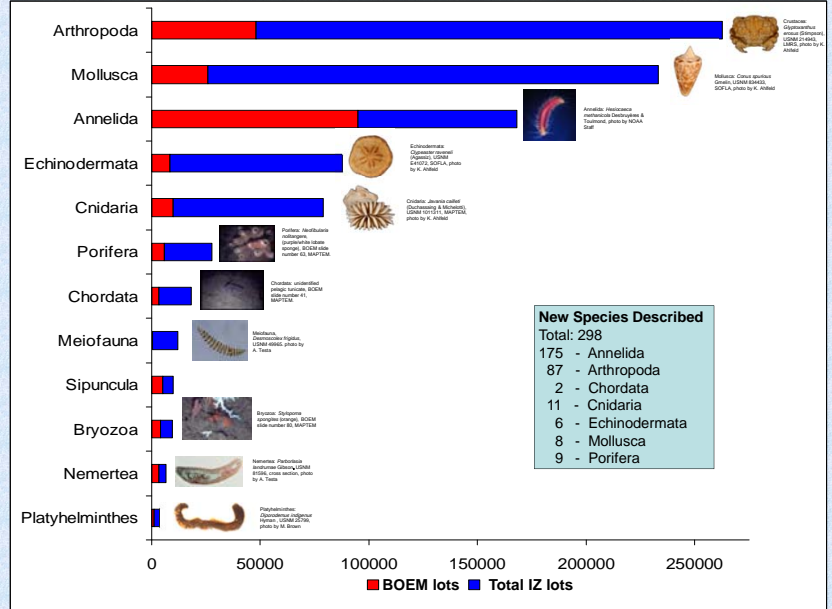
WHY ARE THE SMITHSONIAN'S BOEM COLLECTIONS IMPORTANT?

- Taxonomic and geographic redundancy is an important strength in archived natural history collections - such redundancy permits innovative uses of archived collections that can not be supported by limited or restricted holdings.
- Geographic data associated with the collection is extensive.
- They establish a snapshot of US coastal habitats and biological communities at a specific time and place which can serve as a reference in the event of environmental change.
- Re-sampling of the same habitats over time can provide useful data for tracking climatic change, habitat degradation and species population range shifts. For example, these comparisons can be made between the US Fish Commission's Albatross R/V collections from the 1880's and the BOEM collections from the 1970's - 1990's.
- Extensive sampling areas and sampling in unique deepwater habitats increase the chances of discovering previously undescribed species.

Programmatic Collections Support Studies that Compare Changes in Biodiversity over Time



BOEM Specimens are a Significant Component of the Invertebrate Zoology Collection Almost 300 New Species Have Been Described From BOEM Collections



RESEARCH USES OF THE BOEM COLLECTION

- Allows investigation of predator/prey or host/parasite relationships.
- The collection and associated data can be used to identify and track disease causing organisms, introduced species and coastal pollution effects.
- Data useful for Census of Life Study and environmental impact studies. Local governments can use the data to help in decisions regarding the animal life in their coastal waters.
- Long-term storage of vouchers allows for confirmation of identification many years later by other researchers.
- Archived specimens are available to other scientists for use in comparative taxonomic investigation.

Examples of information stored in our catalog include geographic information, photos and publications.



Suncoaster R/V, photo by USF



photos by K. Ahlfeld



OBIS



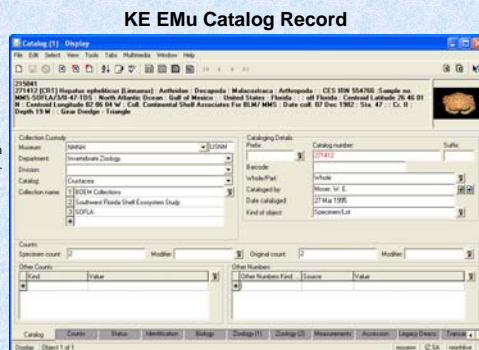
<http://invertebrates.si.edu>



Specimen collected for BOEM, archived at the Smithsonian USNM 271412, photo by K. Reed



BOEM project staff catalog specimens, photo by IZ Staff



KE EMU is a commonly used, museum-wide database application.

Information in our database is available to the public through our website and other information portals



<http://www.gbif.net>