



# Department of Environmental Protection

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GULF STATES MARINE  
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TO: Ken Haddad  
THROUGH: Mark Leiby  
FROM: Kim Williams  
DATE: May 28, 1997  
SUBJECT: Cruise Report: R/V Suncoaster 97-1

JUN 1 1997

Cruise SC97-1 (SEAMAP spring ichthyoplankton cruise 97-1) on the R/V Suncoaster departed Bayboro Harbor on 15 May 1997 at 1000 hours. The purpose of this cruise was collection of hydrographic and ichthyoplankton data, as part of the state of Florida's participation in SEAMAP. This was the first of two cruises contracted for 1997. Scientific personnel included: Kim Williams (Chief Scientist), Heather Patterson, Connie Stevens, Paul Thurman, and Keri Lestyk; all from FMRI-St. Petersburg. A total of 18 stations were planned. The stations were spaced along 30 minute latitude / longitude grids from 28°00'N to 24°00'N, at the southern extent and between 83°30'W and 85°30'W (see attached cruise track). These stations were selected to complement historical spring sampling as well as sampling done during the same period by the National Marine Fisheries Service vessel the R/V Oregon II, which operated to the north and the west of our stations.

Weather conditions were excellent, with the exception of one station. All of the eighteen planned stations were completed. Sampling was successfully finished at 1600 hours on 19 May. In addition to our sampling, we obtained large quantities of offshore water, to be used in the FMRI phytoplankton cultures, and a sample of a blue-green algae bloom we encountered. Dr. Carm Tomas has confirmed that the bloom was Trichodesmium, a potential precursor of red tide blooms.

The R/V Suncoaster docked in Bayboro Harbor at 1220 on 20 May 1997. The standard station Chlorophyll samples are being processed by Dr. Paul Carlson of FMRI-St. Pete. Right bongo and neuston samples are being prepared for delivery to Mr. Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS, Pascagoula for shipment to the sorting center in Poland. Left bongo samples are being readied for delivery to Mr. Ken Stuck, Gulf Coast Research Lab, Biloxi, MS for archiving. All data is being entered into the SEAMAP DMS module except for chlorophyll values which are in the process of being compiled. Completion of data compilation is expected by the end of June, at which time it will be mailed to the appropriate personnel/agencies.

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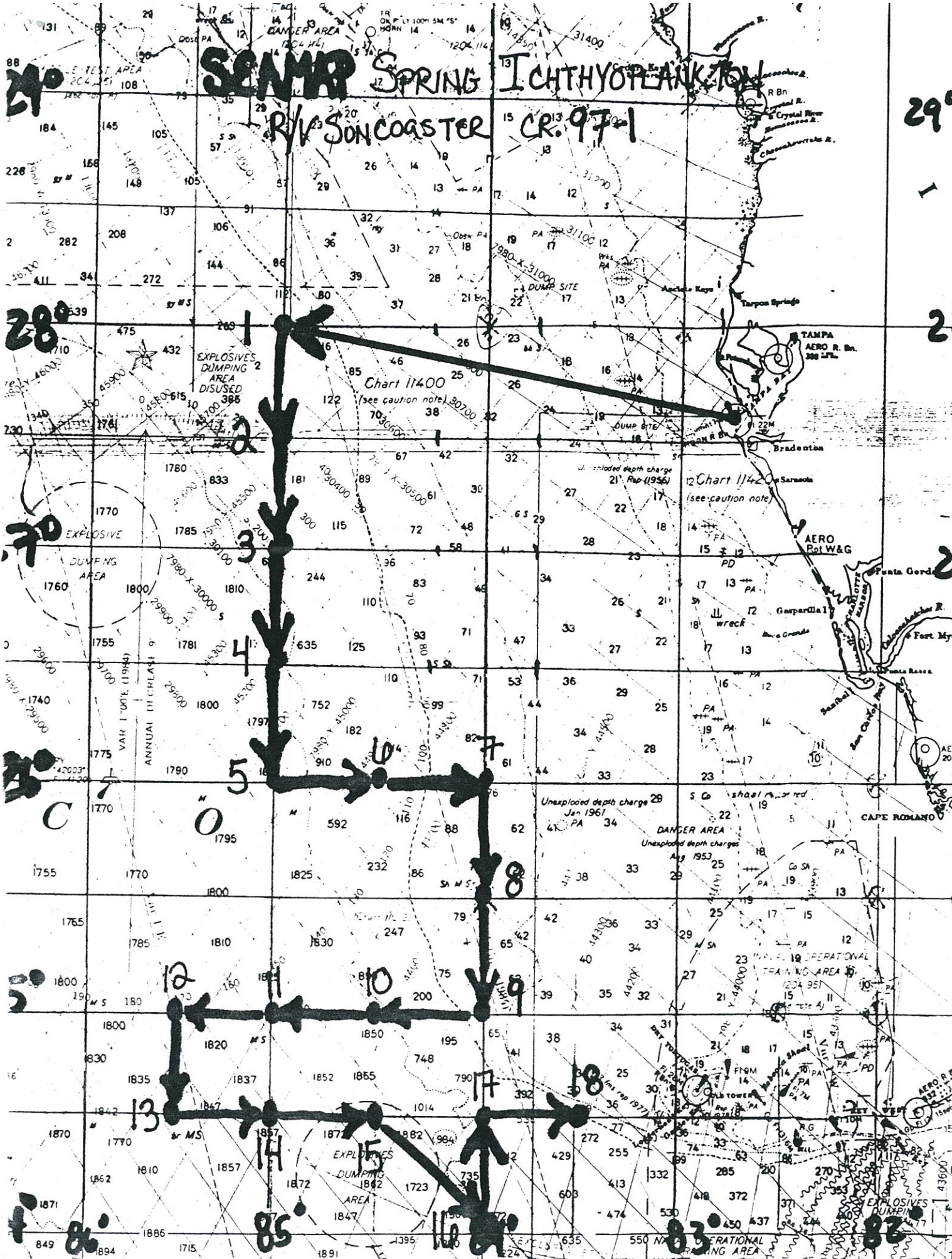
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RA  
BMD

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

cc: Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator - Gulf Archives  
Joanne Shultz, NMFS  
Ken Savastano, Stennis Space Center  
Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS  
Steve Turner, NMFS





**SEMPER SPRING**  
**R/V SONCOASTER CR. 97-1**  
**ICHTHYOPLANKTON**

24°

29°

28°

24°

27°

23°

26°

22°

25°

21°

24°

20°

85°

83°

82°