

NOV 01 1997



# Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles  
GovernorFlorida Marine Research Institute  
100 Eighth Avenue S.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5095Virginia B. Wetherell  
Secretary

**TO:** Ken Haddad  
**THROUGH:** Mark Leiby  
**FROM:** Kim Williams  
**DATE:** October 30, 1997  
**SUBJECT:** Cruise Report: R/V Suncoaster 97-2

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Cruise SC97-2 (SEAMAP fall ichthyoplankton cruise 97-2) on the R/V Suncoaster departed Bayboro Harbor on 2 October 1997 at 0900 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 second 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 20 stations were planned. The stations were spaced along 30 minute latitude / longitude grids from 27°00'N to 25°30'N, at the southern extent and between 82°00'W and 84°30'W (see attached cruise track). These stations were selected to complement historical fall 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 at the beginning of the cruise, but deteriorated on the last two days. All of the twenty planned stations were occupied, but due to weather conditions, only CTD data and water samples were taken at the last station. Sampling was successfully finished at 0954 hours on 6 October. In addition to our sampling, we obtained large quantities of offshore water, to be used in the FMRI phytoplankton cultures. We also collected surface and chlorophyll maximum samples at every station for red tide analysis.

The R/V Suncoaster docked in Bayboro Harbor at 0215 on 7 October 1997. The standard station Chlorophyll samples are being processed by Dr. Paul Carlson of FMRI-St. Pete. Right bongo and neuston samples have been transferred to ethanol and were delivered to Mr. Alonzo Hamilton, NMFS, Pascagoula on 16 October for shipment to the sorting center in Poland. Left bongo samples were delivered to Mr. Ken Stuck, Gulf Coast Research Lab, Ocean Springs, MS on 7 October for archiving. All data has been entered into the SEAMAP DMS module except for chlorophyll values which are in the process of being analyzed. During the processing and entering of the cruise data

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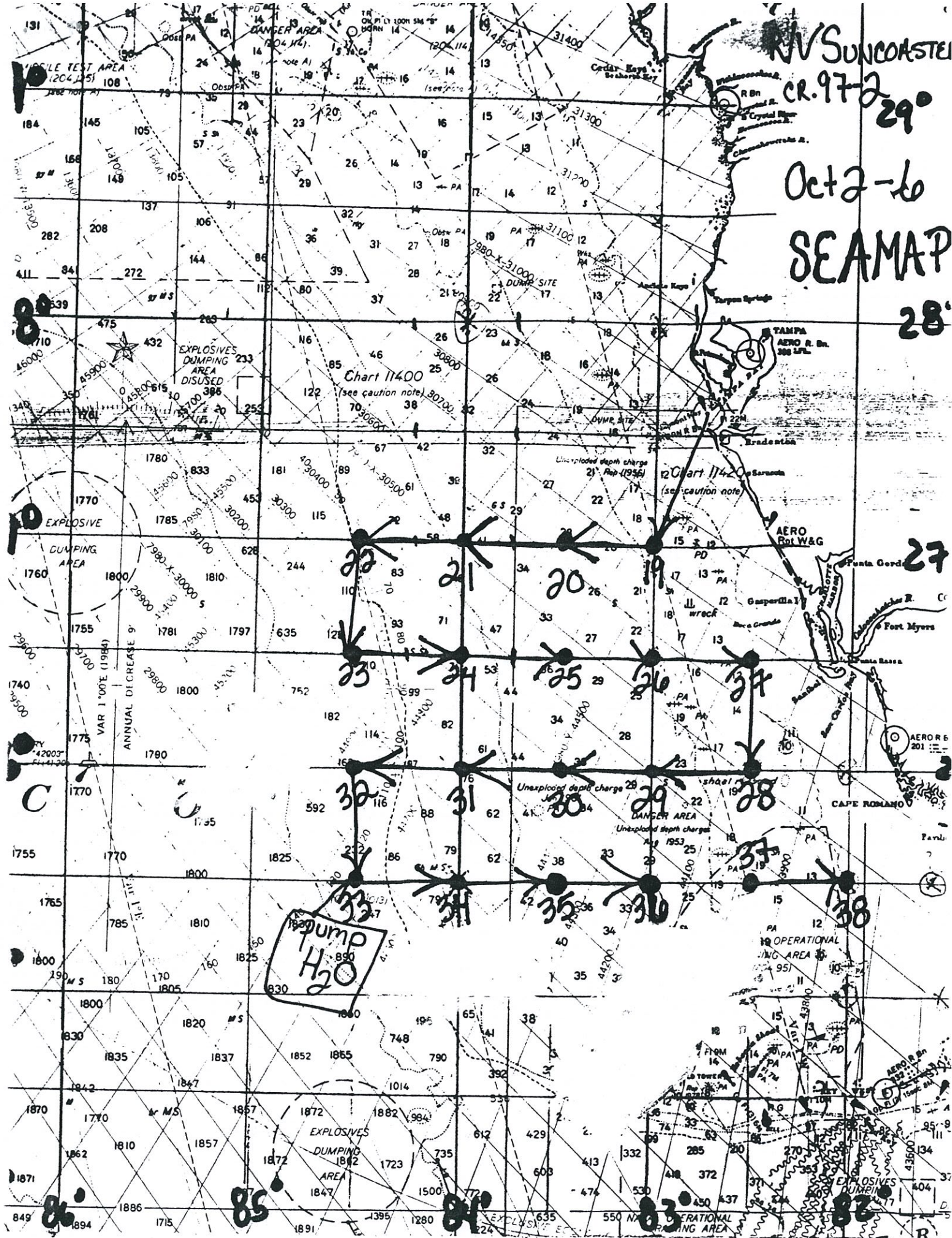
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several unrecoverable data errors were found in the CTD files. SEABIRD, the manufacturer, was contacted. The problems were located and fixed, but several stations worth of data were lost due to an electrical short in the boat's conductor cable. Completion of data compilation is expected by the end of November, at which time it will be mailed to the appropriate personnel/agencies.

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

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





RV SUNCOAST  
CR. 97-2  
29°

Oct 2-6  
SEAMAP  
28°

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Pump  
H<sub>2</sub>O

OPERATIONAL  
DUMPING AREA

EXPLOSIVES  
DUMPING  
AREA