

November 14, 2002

Barry S. Drucker
Minerals Management Service
INTERMAR
381 Elden Street, MS 4030
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Dear Mr. Drucker:

This letter is the fifth Bi-Monthly Status Letter for Cooperative Agreement Number 1435-01-02-CA-85050, *Field Testing of a Physical/Biological Monitoring Methodology for Offshore Dredging and Mining Operations*.

Task 1: Biology: Robert Diaz and Janet Nestlerode report that all the benthic samples have been processed and biomass calculated to major taxa. Data will be analyzed next month. Analyses of the sediment profile images are about half complete. Videotapes from the video sled are being analyzed. Many juvenile fishes are seen in the videotape. Analysis will proceed and we hope to have preliminary results available before the end of the year. We anticipate performing the post-dredging surveys after the proposed May dredging phase.

Task 2: Shoreline and Beach Studies: Scott Hardaway and Donna Milligan report on the two separate efforts that are part of this task. The first is an update and review of recently published literature for the southeast Virginia coast which is continuing.

The second effort involves monitoring of the beach surveying. They are in the process of analyzing data from the field survey effort of August 2002 which involved the establishment of 27 cross-shore beach profiles at Sandbridge and an alongshore survey using the mobile surveying platform (ATV). They are planning a second alongshore survey for November 19th. This survey will provide the data for the pre-fill shore position. The plan includes an effort to survey farther north along the Dam Neck shoreline if access is provided on the day of the survey.

Task 3: Bottom Imagery and Bathymetry: Jesse McNinch and his students continue processing the nearshore survey data and will be integrating the nearshore sub-bottom and seafloor bathymetry with the shoreline surveys conducted in Task 2.

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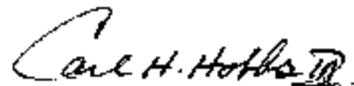
Bimonthly Status Letter, Nov 14, 2002

Task 4: Wave Studies: Jerome Maa reports that he has completed an analysis on the type of resolution the radar wave observation system should provide and what can be achieved. Based on that information, the hardware and software on A/D conversion was determined and a purchase order of the proper A/D hardware was issued. A short test program was developed to test the hard-disk capability and determine if it can meet the data transfer requirements. He also examined the possible post-processing and determined what kind of storage capability is needed and how we can best handle the massive quantity of data. Analysis on what kind of raw radar echoes we should use also been completed. Finally possible hardware has been identified. Dr. Maa will continue working on radar hardware through the next two months.

Task 5: Project Management. We have maintained communication with the Norfolk District of the Corps. Brian Rhinehart provided the tentative schedule with Weeks Marine starting to pump the 1,500,000 cubic yards of sand in mid December with a possible addition of 500,000 cubic yards in May 2003. We have asked the District to provide us with copies of the pre- and post-dredging surveys that Weeks Marine will perform as part of their contract. In conjunction with VIMS's Office of Sponsored Programs we continue to track expenses on the project.

Please contact any of us should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl H. Hobbs, III

Associate Professor and Project Manager

Copy: MMS: J. Kendall, W. Adcox, J. Rowland

VIMS: R. Diaz, J. Nestlerode, J. McNinch, S. Hardaway, D. Milligan, J. Maa,

C. Harris, M. Fonner