

Texas A&M University
Department of Oceanography
College Station, Texas 77843

Research conducted through the
Texas A&M Research Foundation

A&M Project 286-13

THE SPACE OCEANOGRAPHY PROJECT

STATUS REPORT

1 January 1968

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Report prepared 1 January 1968

by

Luis R.A. Capurro
Project Supervisor

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INTRODUCTION

This present status report covers the period from September 1, 1967 to January 1, 1968. Due to the University holiday schedule there were only sixteen working days in December, 1967 and so it seemed reasonable to include the month of December in this particular report. The background information of this effort as well as the scientific objectives aimed at with the present research program were stated in the Status Report on SPACE OCEANOGRAPHY PROJECT for February 1966 - October 1966.

Most of the investigations programmed in this project depend on the information obtained from the flights made with the research aircraft NASA 926 Convair 240 and the recently instrumented NASA 927 P3A.

Due to the inability to obtain the necessary ground truth facilities no missions were flown during this period.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

Partially reduced apparent antenna temperature data taken during Mission #41 (February 24-25, 1967) by the MR 62 and MR 64 passive microwave radiometers on board the NASA 926 Convair 240 aircraft were received in December. Analysis of these data will begin soon by Jack Paris. These data will be compared with the data obtained by infrared and visible light sensors. Since no ground truth was collected during Mission #41, only qualitative comparisons will be made. The main objective of this particular study is to develop techniques to be used with the more accurate passive microwave data expected from the passive microwave radiometers scheduled for installation on board the NASA 927 P3A aircraft in August, 1968.

During the period covered by this report two position papers were prepared. Ground truth requirements necessary for successful utilization of aircraft and spacecraft remote sensing experiments were enumerated in one of these papers entitled, Ground Truth Requirements for Remote Sensing of Oceanographic Features by James E. Arnold, et al., pointed out that well-planned ground truth information was the basis of any useful results in determining the value of the remote sensing experiments.

Within the geographic area in which Texas A&M University is working, arrangements have been made to make maximum utilization of the R/V ALAMINOS for sea data and coastal stations for river discharge, temperature

and sediment content. From these sources we hope to gain a representative picture of the three dimensional structure of the ocean and the atmosphere within the test area.

In the second paper, Oceanographic Comment on APOLLO 501 Mission Photography by LCDR Don Walsh and James E. Arnold, the photography taken during the APOLLO 501 Mission was examined for oceanographic uses. It was pointed out that the recognizable surface features were the ice fields of the Antarctic and surface roughness given through the sun glint pattern. Ocean color itself was generally of uniform nature displaying none of the color gradations apparent in the GEMINI photographs. It was also apparent that a large percentage of the ocean surface was cloud covered, either by those in large scale atmospheric systems or by convection set up by the sea-air interaction processes. It is believed that the latter features may be used to some extent for examining the surface temperature field with careful interpretation. It is also important to have a knowledge of the cloud pattern behavior over various sea characteristics so that future remote sensing experiments may be effectively planned.

Ocean cloud cover can provide numerous complications in the sensing of the ocean surface by infrared methods. As was pointed out above, the ocean surface is cloud covered to a great extent. To complicate matters even more there are areas that appear cloud free from satellite altitudes but actually contain scattered oceanic cumulus. There are two obvious effects that propagate into the remote sensing

of the ocean surface. The first is that the color hue of the ocean surface changes, and the second is that infrared temperature data of the surface also contain cloud top pictures integrated together to produce a modified apparent surface temperature. It is apparent that this problem could provide serious difficulties from satellites at the height of the APOLLO Mission or from the more conventional weather observing satellites. Resolution at the GEMINI altitudes was sufficient to eliminate this problem.

Cloud photography taken on the over water portion of Mission #58 (August 30, 1967) from the Mississippi Delta to Tampa, Florida has been compared with satellite photography on the same day as well as with sea surface temperature patterns determined from commercial ship reports. It was found that the oceanic cumulus was most active in the region of warm water, as has been pointed out in a previous report, and that much of the small cumulus was not visible in the ESSA satellite photography.

Examination of the weekly composite sea surface temperature maps compiled from commercial ship reports reveals that, a correlation between the sea surface currents and surface temperature distribution might be feasible. There appears to be time consistent weakening and intensifying of temperature gradients in areas where known currents exist in the Gulf of Mexico. The applicability of this to satellite observed synoptic temperature patterns is obvious. An effort is being made to find a period when reliable NIMBUS radiometric data relatively free from cloud

contamination exists to examine NIMBUS IR temperature patterns of the Gulf of Mexico for synoptic temperature patterns. At the same time cloud effects are also being studied and their distortion of the temperature pattern as determined from ship reports.

PROJECTED RESEARCH WORK

It is hoped that during the coming quarter the February cruise of the R/V ALAMINOS can be compared with the coming NIMBUS flight. It is our intention to compare cloud coverage obtained from all sky cameras and the sea surface temperature data taken on the ALAMINOS with the photographic and infrared data taken by the NIMBUS satellite. In this manner we hope to gain some idea of satellite observed temperature patterns in the Gulf of Mexico with those taken by the ship.

The examination will involve an attempt to determine the effect of ocean cumulus coverage on the satellite observed surface temperature features. The fine scale cloud features may be determined from the satellite photography. It is also planned to integrate the vertical temperature structure determined from the cruise data into an interpretation of the possible short term surface temperature changes as observed from the satellite.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

A. Personnel

The following personnel are presently employed, full or part-time, on the Space Oceanography Project, Project 286-13. Personnel assisting with the project but not supported through the budget are also indicated.

Arnold, James E.	Co-Investigator
*Bouma, Arnold, H.	Research Associate
Boykin, Rosemary E.	Technician II
Capurro, Luis R.A.	Principal Investigator
Cornelio, Hector	Technical Assistant II
*Franceschini, Guy F.	Co-Investigator
*Huebner, George L.	Associate Professor
*Ibert, Edward R.	Research Associate
*Leipper, Dale F.	Co-Investigator
Moyer, Vance E.	Co-Investigator
Paris, Jack F.	Research Assistant
Pehl, Corinne A.	Secretary
Thompson, A.H.	Co-Investigator
*Walsh, Don	Naval Officer

* Personnel assisting with the project but not supported through the budget.

B. Staff Travels and Meetings Attended

September 15 - October 7, 1967 - Dr. Luis R.A. Capurro attended meetings of the Upper Mantle Project in Zurich, Switzerland.

September 20, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper attended a meeting of the Gulf Universities Research Corporation (GURC) for the planning of the Gulf Science Year here in College Station, Texas.

September 23, 1967 - Dr. Vance E. Moyer represented Texas A&M University at a briefing of GURC and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at Clear Lake, Texas.

September 28, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper attended meeting of American Society for Oceanography in Houston, Texas.

September 29-30, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper attended a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Earth Sciences Curriculum Project in Denver, Colorado.

October 23, 1967 - Dr. Arnold H. Bouma attended GURC Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

October 25-27, 1967 - Dr. Arnold H. Bouma attended meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in San Antonio, Texas.

October 29 - November 4, 1967 - During this week LCDR Don Walsh was in Washington, D.C. on a trip sponsored by the Navy Office of Material. The purpose of the visit was to provide a series of technical briefings on SPOC for the Office of Naval Material and the Oceanographer of the Navy. In all, three presentations were made on the Space Oceanography Program work done here at A&M.

November 7, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper met with personnel of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries at Galveston, Texas for the coordination of future cruises with the Oceanography Department at Texas A&M.

November 19-21, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper and Mrs. Rosemary E. Boykin attended the Symposium on MANPOWER IN OCEANOGRAPHY held in Houston, Texas by the American Society for Oceanography. Dr. Leipper presided as President of the National Society.

November 19-22, 1967 - Dr. Edward R. Ibert and Dr. Arnold H. Bouma attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

December 3-5, 1967 - Dr. Dale F. Leipper participated in the annual seminar of the Link Foundation held in New York City, New York.

December 6-7, 1967 - Jack F. Paris attended Earth Resources Aircraft Program Scheduling Conference at MSC/NASA, Houston. Overflights have been tentatively planned for Mission #66 and #71 in February 1968 and May 1968.

December 18, 1967 - March 30, 1968 - Dr. Luis R.A. Capurro will be participating in cruises in the Southwest Atlantic and Weddell Sea to measure currents and to study origin of the Atlantic Bottom Water. These cruises are sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

December 19, 1967 - Dr. Edward R. Ibert traveled to Austin, Texas to participate in the Gulf Science Year Panel meeting.

APPENDIX A

SPOC Data Bank

- GEMINI III - XII Missions, 70 mm Color Transparencies - Full set
- Mission #26, Flight 1, Mississippi Delta, 70 mm Reconofax IV (IR), Positive Imagery, Roll #1, July 6, 1966. CONFIDENTIAL
- Mission #26, Flights 2 & 3, Mississippi Delta, 70 mm Reconofax IV (IR), Positive Imagery, Roll #2, July 6, 1966. CONFIDENTIAL
- Mission #26, Flights 1, 2 & 3, Mississippi Delta, 35 mm AAS-5 (UV), Positive Imagery, July 6, 1966. CONFIDENTIAL
- Mission #26, Mississippi Delta, Nikon Plus-X, Data Panel, July 6, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #26, Mississippi Delta, RC-8, Black & White Photography, 1200 Contact prints, July 6, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #34, Flights 6 & 7, Mississippi Delta and Timbalier Bay, RC-8, Plus X, Roll #1, Positive Print (transparency), October 17, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #34, Flights 6 & 7, Mississippi Delta and Timbalier Bay, Nikon Data Panel, Plus X, Roll #6, October 17, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #34, Flight 7, Mississippi Delta, Microwave Radiometry, October 17, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #35, Site 32, Weslaco, Texas, Approximately 30 foot section of Roll #1, from #8443, on S0-271. RC-8 Color Ektachrome IR Film, Duplicate Positives. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #37, Flight 1, Timbalier Bay & Haze Investigation over Mississippi Delta, RC-8 Color Ektachrome IR Film, Positive Transparencies, Roll #1, 2, & 3, December 14, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED
- Mission #37, Flight 1, AAS-5 (UV), 35 mm, Positive Imagery, December 14, 1966. CONFIDENTIAL

Mission #37, Flight 1, Nikon Plus X, Data Panel, December 14, 1966.
UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #37, Flight 2, Mississippi Delta, Nikon Data Panel, Plus X,
35 mm, Rolls 1 & 2, December 14, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, Nikon Data Panel, Plus X, 35 mm,
Duplicate Positive Transparencies, 24-25 February 1967.
UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, AAS-5, (UV), 35 mm, 24-25 February 1967.
CONFIDENTIAL

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, Reconofax IV, (IR), Positive Imagery,
Rolls 1, 2 & 3, 24 February 1967. CONFIDENTIAL

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, Microwave Radiometry, 24 February
1967. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, Microwave Radiometer Data, Antenna
Temperatures, 24 February 1967. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #41, Mississippi Delta, RC-8, Color Ektachrome IR, Positive
Transparencies, Rolls 1-10, 24 February 1967. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #50, Mississippi Delta, Nikon Data Panel, Plus X, 35 mm,
Duplicate Positive Transparencies, 12-16 June 1967.
UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #50, Mississippi Delta, Multi-Band Camera, Duplicate Positive
Transparencies, 12 June 1967. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #50, Mississippi Delta, Reconofax IV, IR Imagery, Duplicate
Positive Transparencies, 12 June 1967. CONFIDENTIAL

Mission #58, Mississippi Delta, RS-7 Camera, Duplicate Positive
Transparency, 30 August 1967. CONFIDENTIAL

T-38 Aircraft High Altitude Photography

Mission #34, Timbalier Bay Area, 70 mm Color Transparencies, taken at
50,000 feet, October 17, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED

Mission #37, Mississippi Delta and Timbalier Bay Area, 70 mm Color
and Color IR Transparencies, taken at 50,000 feet,
December 14, 1966. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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for
SPACE OCEANOGRAPHY PROJECT

National Aeronautics and Space
Administration

- 3 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Space Science and Applications
Washington, D.C. 20546
Attn: Code SAR
- 1 Mr. Norman Foster, Manager
Earth Resources Aircraft Program
Code TF-2
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
- 1 Mr. Jim Morrison
Code I
NASA Headquarters
Washington, D.C. 20546
- 5 Mr. Frank Goodson
Code BM-5
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
- 5 Mr. Sid Whitley
Data Manager
Mission and Data Planning Center
Code TF-2
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
- 1 Mr. Harold Toy
Flight Research Projects Branch
Code CC-51
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058

Ad Hoc Spacecraft Oceanography
Advisory Group

- 10 Project Manager
Spacecraft Oceanography Project
Naval Oceanographic Office
c/o Naval Research Laboratory
Building 58, Room 205
Washington, D.C. 20390
- 1 Dr. Charles L. Osterberg
Marine Biologist
Environmental Sciences Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545
- 1 Dr. Paul M. Maughan
Special Assistant to the Assistant
Director for Biological Research
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Department of the Interior
18th and C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
- 1 Mr. Duane G. Robbins
Naval Air Systems Command
Code AIR 53831
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20360
- 1 Mr. Frank J. Silva
Water Supply & Sea Resources Prog.
Bureau of Disease Prevention &
Environmental Control
National Center for Urban and
Industrial Health
Public Health Service
Dept. of Health, Education &
Welfare
Room 320, Woodmont Building
8120 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

- 1 Mr. John E. McLean
Operations Officer, Water Resources
Studies
Comprehensive Planning & Programs
Federal Water Pollution Control
Administration
Department of the Interior
Room 1006, Indiana Building
633 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
- 1 Mr. Robert W. Popham
National Environmental Satellite
Center
Department of Commerce, Code S.2
FOB #4, Room 0226
Washington, D.C. 20233
- 1 Dr. Joshua I. Tracey
Deputy Chief
Office of Marine Geology & Hydrology
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
Room 4225, GSA Building
Washington, D.C. 20242
- 1 Dr. William B. McLean
Technical Director (Code 01)
Naval Weapons Center
China Lake, California 93555
- 1 Dr. S. Russell Keim
Executive Secretary
Committee on Ocean Engineering
National Academy of Engineering
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20418
- 1 Dr. Gifford C. Ewing
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543
- 1 Professor John D. Isaacs
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California
LaJolla, California 92106
- 1 Lt. Cmdr. Robert J. Feely, USN
Navy Space Systems Activity
Headquarters Space Systems Div.
Air Force Unit Post Office
Los Angeles, California 90045
- 1 Dr. William E. Benson
Head, Earth Sciences Section
Division of Environmental Sciences
National Science Foundation
1800 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20550
- 1 Cmdr. David D. Heerwagen, USN
Office of Naval Research
Code 461 - Air Programs Branch
Department of Navy
Washington, D.C. 20360
- 1 Dr. Sidney R. Galler
Assistant Secretary for Science
Smithsonian Institution
Room 213
10th and Jefferson Drive, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20560
- 1 Mr. Thorndike Saville, Jr.
Chief, Research Division
U.S. Army Coastal Engineering
Research Center
5201 Little Falls Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
- 1 Mr. Ambrose O. Poulin
U.S. Army Cold Regions Research &
Engineering Laboratory
P.O. Box 282
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755
- 1 Cmdr. Robertson P. Dinsmore
Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Oceanographic Unit
U.S. Coast Guard
Building 159-E, Washington Navy
Yard Annex
Washington, D.C. 20390

1 Dr. Wayne C. Hall
Associate Director of Research
Code 7000
Naval Research Laboratory
Washington, D.C. 20390

3 Commander
U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office
Washington D.C. 20390
Attn: Library (Code 1640)

Remote Sensor Investigator Teams

- 1 Dr. Ronald J.P. Lyon
Chairman, Infrared Team
Geophysics Department
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California 94305
- 1 Dr. Richard K. Moore
University of Kansas
Center of Research in Engineering
Science
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
- 1 Dr. Frank T. Barath
183-701
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, California 91103
- 1 Mr. William R. Hemphill
Room 1123, Crystal Plaza
2221 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Other U.S. Government Agencies

- 10 Defense Documentation Center
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22313
- 1 Dr. James Zaitzeff
NAVOCEANO Liaison Scientist
Code TE-2
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
- 1 Dr. Joseph Lintz, Jr.
Geology-Geography Department
Mackay School of Mines
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada 89507
- 6 Mr. Feenan D. Jennings
Physical Oceanography Programs
Ocean Science & Technology Group
Naval Research Laboratory
Office of Naval Research
Code: 408/416
Washington, D.C. 20360
- 1 Ing. Victor Dezerega
Seccion Meteorologia
Universidad de Chile
Cassilla 2777
Santiago, Chile
- 1 Dr. Charles C. Bates
Scientific and Technical Director
U.S. Naval Oceanography Office
Washington, D.C. 20390

User Agencies

- 2 Dr. William T. Pecora, Director
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
GSA Building
Washington, D.C. 20242
- 2 Dr. Arch Park
Agricultural Research Service O.A.
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Research Laboratories

- 2 Department of Meteorology & Oceanography
U.S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California 93940
- 1 Chairman, Department of Meteorology & Oceanography
New York University
New York, New York 10453
- 1 Great Lakes Research Division
Institute of Science & Technology
University of Michigan
Attn: Dr. John C. Ayers
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- 1 Director
Chesapeake Bay Institute
John Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
- 1 Director, Marine Laboratory
University of Miami
#1 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, Florida 33149
- 1 Director
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
LaJolla, California 92037
- 1 Allan Hancock Foundation
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, California 90007
- 1 Head, Department of Oceanography
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331
- 1 Applied Physics Laboratory
University of Washington
1013 NE Fortieth Street
Seattle, Washington 98105
- 1 Dr. N.J. Walker
Coastal Studies
Institute
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
- 1 Head, Department of Oceanography
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105
- 1 Geophysical Institute of the
University of Alaska
College, Alaska 99735
- 1 Department of Geology & Geophysics
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
- 1 Department of Oceanography
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
- 1 Head, Department of Oceanography
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
- 1 Dr. Dewitt C. Van Siclen,
Chairman
Department of Geology
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77004
- 1 Dr. John A. Knauss, Dean
Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
- 1 Dr. Donald K. Wohlschlag, Director
Institue of Marine Sciences
The University of Texas
Port Aransas, Texas 78373
- 1 Dr. Robert A. Ragotzkie
Department of Meteorology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

- 1 Mr. Al Conrod
 Experimental Astronomy Laboratory
 Building N51-311
 265 Massachusetts Avenue
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
- 1 Director
 Lamont Geological Observatory
 Columbia University
 Palisades, New York 92038
- 1 Dr. G. Williams, Jr.
 Institute of Atmospheric Science
 Computer Center
 University of Miami
 Coral Gables, Florida 33124
- 1 Dr. Robert E. Stevenson
 Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
 Biological Laboratory
 Fort Crockett
 Galveston, Texas 77550
- 1 A.R. Barringer Research Ltd.
 304 Carlingview Drive
 Rexdale, Ontario, Canada
- 1 Dr. E.D. McAlister
 Applied Oceanographic Group
 Scripps Institution of Oceanography
 LaJolla, California 92038
- 1 Head
 Department of Coastal Engineering
 University of Florida
 Gainesville, Florida 32601
- 1 International Hydrographic Bureau
 Avenue President J.F. Kennedy
 Monte Carlo
 Principality of Monaco
- 1 Capt. W. Mackinley
 Servicio de Meteorologia Maritima
 Servicio de Hidrografia Naval
 Avenida Montes de Oca 2124
 Buenos Aires, Argentina, S. America
- 1 Jcse M. Rivas S.
 Dirección General de Faros e
 Hidrografia (Oceanografia)
 Ave Coyoacan #131
 Mexico 13, D.F.
- 1 Ing. Guillermo P. Salas
 Director Del Instituto de Geologia
 CD. Universitaria
 Mexico 20, D.F.
- 1 Secretaria de Recursos
 Hidraulicos
 Ing. Fortunato Martinez Farias
 Dirección Gral. de Plaveación
 Reforma 69-120. Piso
 Mexico 1, D.F.
- 1 Lic. Carlos Elizondo
 Secretaria Particular de
 Comunicaciones
 Centro SCOP
 Mexico, D.F.
- 1 Ing. Hector Alonso
 Rodano No. 14 - 1^{er} Piso
 Comision Federal de Electricidad
 Mexico 5, D.F.
- 1 Servicio de Hidrografia Naval
 Departamento de Oceanografia
 Avenida Montes de Oca 2124
 Buenos Aires, Argentina,
 South America
- Contractors to SPOC
- 1 Mr. Reece Jensen
 Philco Corporation
 WDL Division
 Palo Alto, California 94301
- 1 Illinois Institute of Technology
 Research
 Astro Sciences Center
 10 West 35th Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60616