SKYLAB AND ERTS-1 INVESTIGATIONS
OF COASTAL LAND USE AND WATER PROPERTIES

V. Klemas, D. Bartlett
College of Marine Studies
University of Delaware

R. Rogers
Bendix Aerospace Division
Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 17, 1974
Report on Significant Results
NASA ERTS-1 CONTRACT NAS5-21837
NASA SKYLAB CONTRACT NAS1-12304
UN 362 SR 9654

Prepared for
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
GREENBELT, MD 20771

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
U.S. Department of Commerce
Springfield, VA 22151

Prices Subject to Change
**Significant Results**

ERTS-1 multispectral scanner and Skylab's S-190A, S-190B and S-192 data products were evaluated for their utility in studying current circulation, suspended sediment concentrations and pollution dispersal in Delaware Bay and in mapping coastal vegetation and land-use. S-192 digital tapes have thus far not been used extensively because of noise problems.

Imagery from the ERTS-1 MSS, S-190A and S-190B cameras shows considerable detail in water structure, circulation, suspended sediment distribution and within waste disposal plumes in shelf waters. These data products were also used in differentiating and mapping twelve coastal vegetation and land-use classes, including:

1. Built-up and urban
2. Spartina alterniflora (Salt Marsh Cord Grass)
3. Spartina patens (Salt Marsh Hay)
4. Phragmites communis (Reed Grass)
5. Shallow water and exposed mud
6. Deep water
7. Forest
8. Tended grass
9. Plowed fields
10. Planted fields
11. Exposed sand-beach
12. Dunes and beach grass

The spatial resolution of the S-190A multispectral facility appears to be about 30 to 70 meters while that of the S-190B Earth Terrain Camera is about 10-30 meters. Such resolution, along with good cartographic quality, indicates a considerable potential for mapping coastal land-use and monitoring water properties in estuaries and on the continental shelf. The ERTS-1 MSS has a resolution of about 70-100 meters. Moreover, its regular 18-day cycle permits observation of important changes, including the environmental impact of coastal zone development on coastal vegetation and ecology.