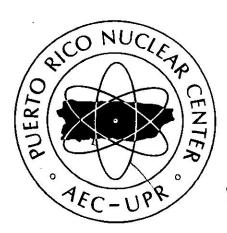
PUERTO RICO NUCLEAR CENTER

PUNTA HIGUERO POWER PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 1973-1974

Prepared for the Puerto Rico Water Resources Authority
By the Staff of Puerto Rico Nuclear Center of the
University of Puerto Rico
May 1974



OPERATED BY UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO UNDER CONTRACT NO. AT (40-1)-1833 FOR U S ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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PREFACE

This report stems from investigations being carried on by the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center. The studies were designed to provide data upon which to judge the suitability of a site for the construction of power generating facilities and to allow the determination of the impact of such construction and operation upon the environment. This report is the combined effort of the scientists, technicians and support staff of the Site Selection Survey Project:

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EFFILIENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS AND MONITORING PROGRAMS

PREOPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Surface Water

Physical and Chemical Parameters

Physical Parameters

Pta. Higuero commonly referred to as "Rincon" or the "BONUS Site" is the most westerly point on the Island of Puerto Rico (Fig. 1). Some environmental work has been done in the Pta. Higuero region related to the construction and operation of the BONUS-Reactor power plant. Data from independent studies in the Mona Passage are also available. The Puerto Rico Nuclear Center has been collecting and analyzing data from the immediate region of Pta. Higuera for about one year on a regular basis.

The nearshore currents have been measured on several occasions. The factors effecting nearshore currents such as winds, tides, bathymetry, and density structure of the water column have been studied and are being presented here.

a. Tides

The tidal excursion at Pta. Higuero is on the order of 30 cm and its period is semi-diurnal. The tides here were not measured, but can be calculated from the San Juan tidal data. Calculated tidal data (Fig. 2) are presented for the period 6/7/73 to 6/8/73 relating to currents covered in the following subsection. In addition, a plot of the tides for the month of June, 1973 is shown in Fig. 3 to cover a lunar cycle.

b. Currents

In general, the currents are toward the west, both north and south of Puerto Rico. The current, north of the

Fig. 1 - Funt: Higuero (Rincon), west coast of Puerto Rico. INCREASE M Judenderder Occ 4sec 90ft 9M 17)
PUNTA HIGUERO occ -18⁰20' . 375 km

DISTANCE (n.mi)

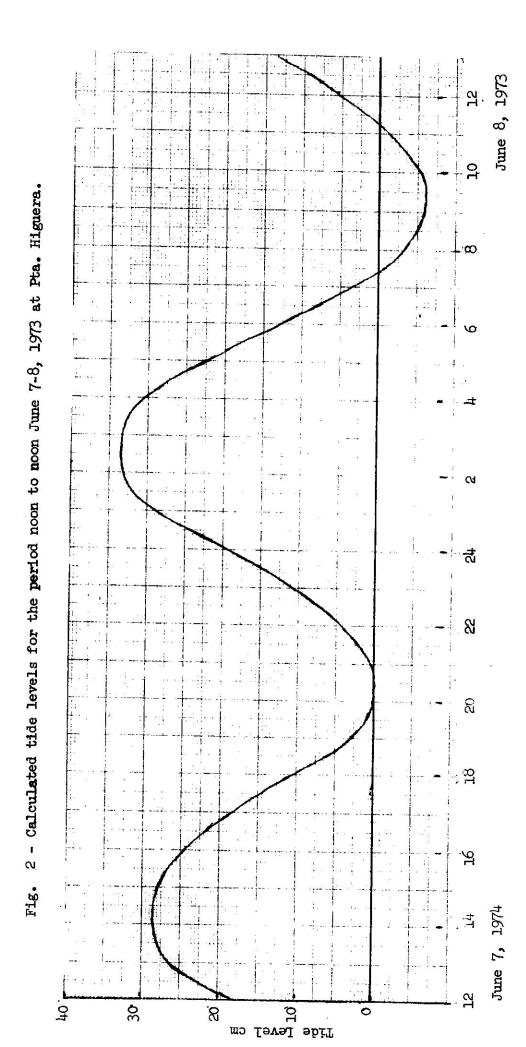
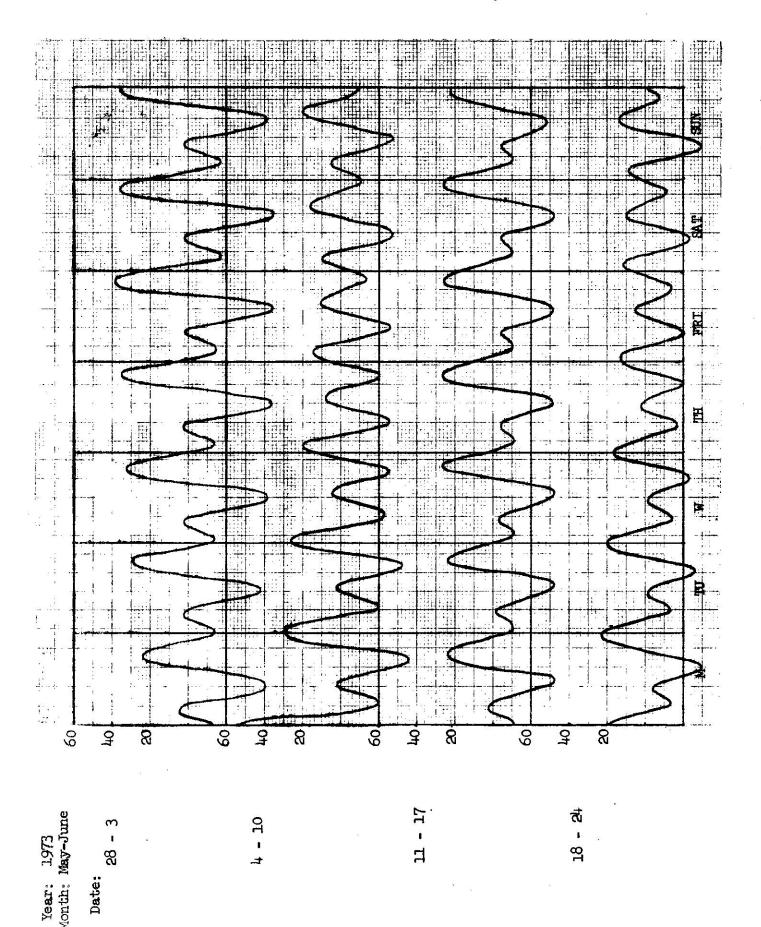


Fig. 3 - Calculated tides for Pta. Higuero for the period May 28 to June 24 to show the variation over a lunar cycle



island, eddies around Pta. Borinquen in Aguadilla Bay and westward north of Pta. Higuero. The current along the south coast turns northward through Mona Passage and is generally to the north along the west coast of Puerto Rico with numerous eddies and reversals in the nearshore waters because of a complex bottom topography, tides, wind fluctuations and surface runoff.

These two currents tend to meet at Pta. Higuero and turn westward, although the convergence has been observed to oscillate from south to north depending upon wind and tide conditions. The currents off Pta. Higuero have been measured on five different occasions.

1), 2) In the fall of 1972, the currents were measured using dye drops and aerial photography. Eight drops were made on the afternoon of Oct. 7, 1972 and photographed periodically for about two hours. The results are tabulated in the Appendix and shown in Fig. 4. There was a 4.5-5 m/sec. wind from the south and the beginning of a flood tide which caused the surface waters to move north at 15-30 cm/sec. The following morning, a similar drop pattern was repeated and followed photographically for about two hours Fig. 5. The same current trend was seen. The wind had been near calm, then picked up to 5-5.5 m/sec. as the drop began. The tide was high slack. The currents north of Pta. Higuero were sluggish, moving north and west converging with the north flowing west coast current. The offshore

Fig. 4 - Dye Study at Pt. Higuero Afternoon of 7-X-72.

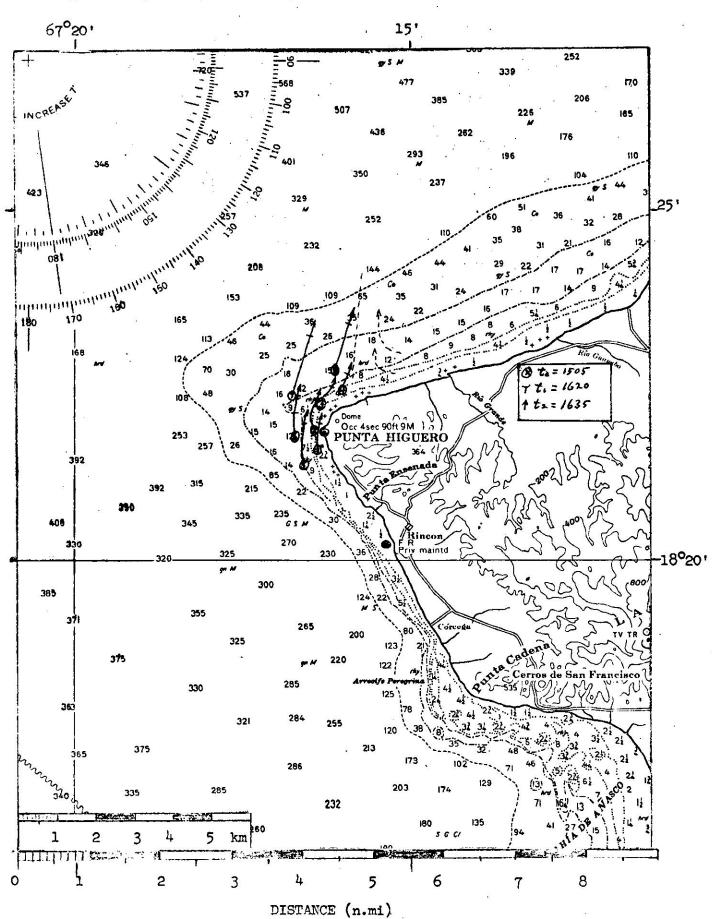
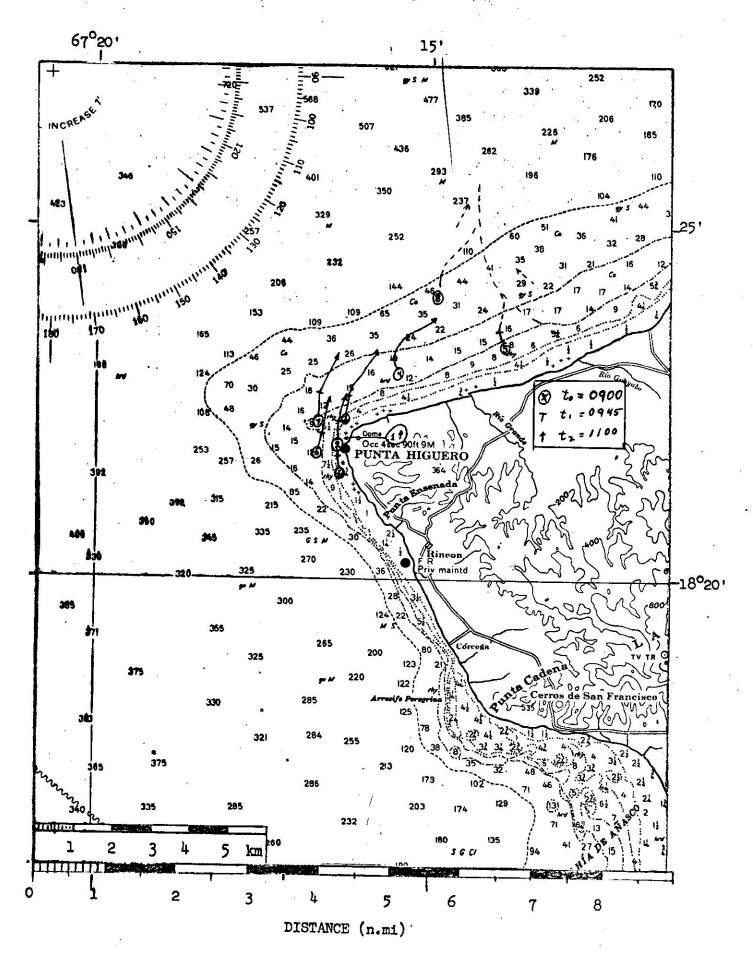


Fig. 5 - Dye Study at Pt. Higuero Morning of 8-X-72.



- currents were nearly twice as strong as in the nearshore region.
- 3) Current Meters October 30 November 2, 1972. Two current meters were anchored very near station PHI-4A (Fig. 1) at depths of 3 and 6 m. The tides (plotted from tide book - appendex) were semi-diurnal with highs at 0400-0700 and 1500-1800; lows from 0900-1200 and 2200-2400. The average range of the tide for this period was about 33 cm, and the average water level was about 21 cm. Maximum flood was about 0300 and 1300 with maximum ebb near 0800 and 1900. It is the convention to describe water currents by the direction they are traveling and wind by the direction they are from. However, in order to correlate wind and currents, both will be described by the direction they are traveling. The station log data in the Appendix retains the "from" convention for winds. The nearest source of wind data was Ramey AFB. The surface winds are plotted in the Appendix. The direction was to the west northwest at about 3.5 m/sec. The winds were generally strongest from 1000-1600 at about 5.4 m/sec. and about 1.3 m/sec. during the early morning hours. A combination of winds and tide should give the strongest currents about noon. However, the nearly

three days of continuous recordings (Appendix) showed that the strongest currents (46 cm/sec.) were about 0400 to the north at 3 m. The highest velocity at 6 m depth was 26 cm/sec. In general, the strongest currents were to the northeast. The 3 m currents oscillated between NE and S, while the 6 m currents were between E and SW: the average 3 m current was about 23 cm/sec. and the average of 6 m current was 14 cm/sec. The 3 m current was about 80% of the outer surface current measured October 7-8. There was a weak trend for the highest velocities (3 m) to the north to coincide with high slack tide. Lowest velocities (3 m) were to the south at low slack tide. The trend was less pronounced at 6 m. Currents at 3 m and 6 m were directly opposed on several occasions. One of these times was of maximum current when the surface wind at Ramey was calm. This trend was seen at several times. It may be that the winds to the west over Aguadilla Bay retard the north bound currents west of Pta. Higuero so that when the wind calms it allows high flow to the north.

4) Current Meters - January 17-19, 1973.

Current meters were suspended from an anchored buoy at station PHI-4A during the period of cruise PA-021.

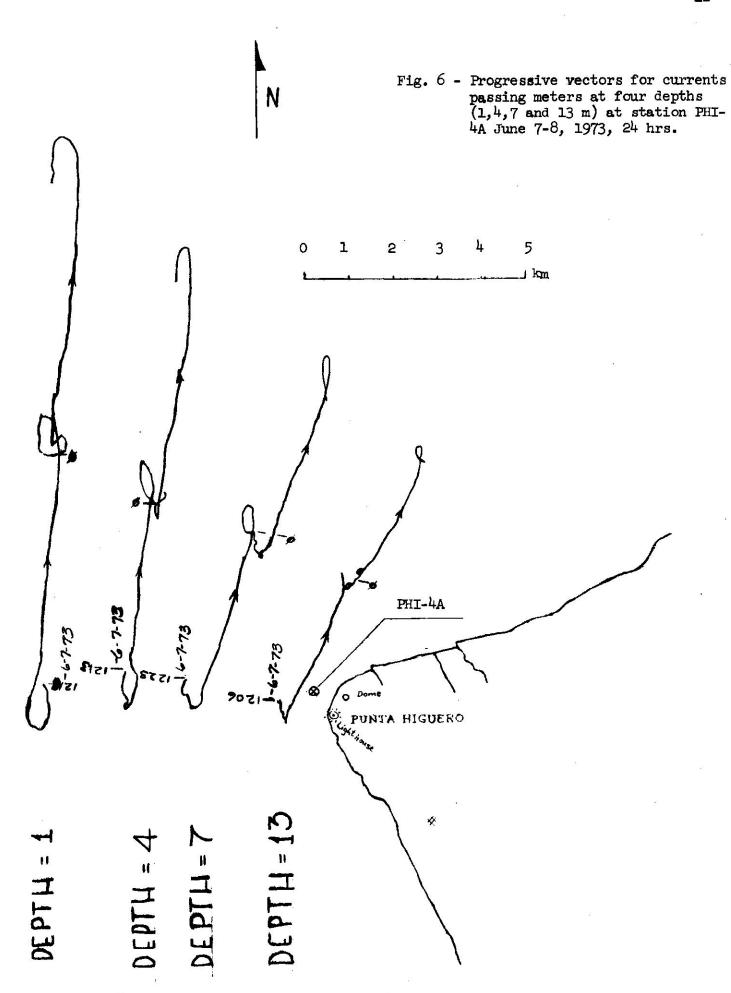
The tides were more extreme during this period than

during the Oct.-Nov., 1972 sampling periods. The maximum range was 76 cm with the average range 43 cm. The average water level was 15.5 cm. The period of maximum flood was 0500 and maximum ebb about 1200. The winds were generally to the west and northwest at velocities from 0 to 7.6 m/sec. Winds recorded on the ship, together with the Ramey AFB surface winds, are plotted along with current data in the Appendix and show only general correlation. There were several brief occasions when the wind was to the east during the sampling period. Average velocity and directions were 2.7 m/sec. to the west. Surface currents were variable from NNE through south around to NW. The average velocity and direction was 27 cm/sec. to the SE, the strongest currents were 46 cm/sec. to the NNE. The weakest surface currents were 15 cm/sec. to the south. No direction was available for the 3 m depth, but the velocity tended to follow the surface currents in pattern at about 15 cm/sec. or about 56% of the surface current value.

Great differences are seen in both the current velocity and direction between the surface and 6 m depths. The average velocity was 18 cm/sec. about 67% of the surface average. The direction was varied between NE and SE with the highest

velocities to the NE. Flows in opposing directions were frequent between surface and 6 m. Also, when surface currents were strong, bottom currents were weak and vice versa. There were periods when the surface currents appeared to be onshore coinciding with offshore currents at depth.

- 5) The currents at Pta. Higuero were measured for a 24 hour period, noon on June 7, to noon on June 8, 1973, at four depths with General Oceanics inclination meters. The data were recorded on film at 2 minute intervals. In computer reducing the data, every nine points were averaged to smooth the data and reduce computer and plotter time. The data are presented in three forms.
 - i) Currently velocity and direction are plotted separately against time. An independent plot is given for each depth and each day (Appendix).
 - ii) A progressive vector for each depth, combining velocity and direction, is shown in Fig. 6. The times are indicated. This approach treats the water passing the current meter as a point in motion which may not be exactly correct, but does give the reader a feel for the extent of water movement. The four depths are plotted on one page with a land reference drawn to scale.



iii) The current vectors were summed in 10° increments and plotted on a "compass rose".

A separate plot for each day and each depth are given in the Appendix.

The currents during the period measured were strongest to the north. The changes in velocity and direction were periodic and appeared to be related to tide. The afternoon period of northward flow was faster and more erratic than the morning period, probably due to the influence of wind.

Surface velocities reached a high of 60 cm/sec. in the afternoon, but were more commonly 40-50 cm/sec. during the northward flow. During the slack periods between northward flows the currents were weak at about 10 cm/sec. generally southward, but the direction was sporatic.

In the progressive vector plot, a noticeable trend toward a right-hand twist to the current with depth exists. This appears to be a coriolis effect.

The RMV R.F. Palumbo was anchored about 150 m west of the current meters during the period of data collection releasing dye continuously and collecting surface weather data. The direction of flow as indicated by the dye release coincided well with the data from the surface current meter. The dye was not traceable for any great distance as it was dispersed and diffused within about 0.5 km of the

point of release. The release was photographed from an aircraft periodically during daylight hours.

Summary of Currents

on five occasions during three seasons with varying wind and tidal conditions. The currents are generally strongest to the north during flood tide. Weakest currents are during ebb tide to the south. Generally good mixing can be expected in the waters off Pta. Higuero with an ultimate offshore movement of surface water. The highest currents observed were 60 cm/sec. (1.2 kt) to the north. The northward flows were about 25-30 cm/sec. while southward currents were 10-20 cm/sec. At 28 cm/sec. a body of water would flow about 4 km in a 4 hour period typical of flood tide currents at Pta. Higuero. The data also shows that there may be periods of nearly four hours when very little water movement occurs.

water enough offshore so that the build-up of heated water during slack periods would not seriously effect biologically sensitive regions. In addition, the discharge velocity should be sufficient to cause rapid initial mixing (150-300 cm/sec.). An alternative would be a diffuser discharge.

Current Measurements

Current measurements will continue at Pta. Higuero generally on a quarterly basis. The period of sampling

will increase up to about one week at a time and the points of current meter locations expanded to better define the currents in the region of convergence off Pta. Higuero. Dye releases and aerial photography coincidental with current meter measurements will be used to determine flow past a point, path of a point in motion and mixing characteristics of the body of water.

c. Bathymetry

The Puerto Rico Nuclear Center has undertaken no detailed bathymetry of the Pta. Higuero region to date beyond that done during benthic sampling. The C&G.S. chart 901 (Fig. 1) has been found to be adequate for most work. The narrowest shelf (400 m) on the island of Puerto Rico is just south of Pta. Higuero in the region of Corcega. The narrow shelf gradually widens to about 5000 m off the point, then turns east and narrows to about 3000 m north of Pta. Higuero. Now that a recording depth sounder is available on the RMV Sultana, detailed bathymetry is planned for the region. The bottom traces will be correlated with photographs taken by swimmers.

d. Temperature and Salinity

Hydrographic cruises have been made to Pta. Higuero quarterly since January, 1973 except for the fall quarter of 1973. Temperature and salinity were measured at 70 depths on each cruise. Three stations on each of the

transects 2-6 (Fig. 1) were sampled each time collecting data from the surface to 10, 100 and 300 m for A,B, and C stations respectively. Fifteen surface samples were measured for temperature and salinity.

Temperatures are measured using oceanographic reversing thermometers with readings good to ± .03 °C. Salinity samples are returned to the laboratory and determined with an induction salinometer to an accuracy of ± .005 °/oo•

The data for the four cruises (PA-021, PA-027, PA-033, and PA-036) are found in the Appendix along with the plots of temperature, salinity and sigma-t versus depth. Sigma-t, σ t, is a measure of the water density, ρ t

$$\sigma t = (Pt - 1) \times 10^3$$
 (1)

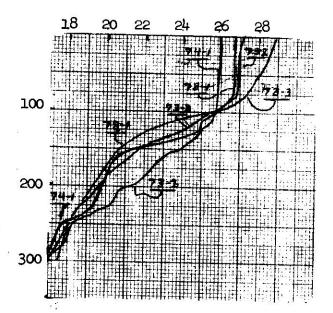
Sigma-t indicates the stability of the water column.

A small sigma-t gradient with depth indicates a well mixed or unstable zone; whereas, a high gradient is indicative of a very stable portion of the water column. The near surface mixing zone varies from 50 m in the summer to about 130 m in the winter as shown in Fig. 7 by seasonal bathythermograph, BT, plots. The BT recorded temperature with depth as it was lowered and retrieved at the 300 m stations. The BT data for all cruises are in the Appendix.

1) Temperature

It can be seen from Fig. 7 that there is very little seasonal change in temperature below about 200 m. The mixing zone is the deepest and the surface temperature is the lowest in the winter season with surface warming in the spring. The

Fig. 7 - Corrected bathythermograph traces from PHI-3C for the sampling quarters: 73-1, 73-2, 73-3 and 74-1.



shallowest mixing zone and the highest surface temperatures occur in the summer followed by a return to winter conditions through the fall. The winter-summer surface temperature difference is about 2.5 °C, 25-28.5 °C. Some of the BT traces show a sharp break in the temperature gradient at about 225 m which indicates a shear zone between two layers of water. The shear zone is 30 to 50 m thick.

Surface temperatures vary by less than 0.5 °C in any one quarter sampling and relate as well to time of day as to their lateral distribution (Fig. 8) except for the spring cruise PA-027 when a tongue of warm water appeared north and east of Pta. Higuero to include stations 4B, 5B, 5C and 6C (Fig. 9). At least part of this difference can be explained by the fact that transects PHI-2 and 3 were sampled a day after PHI-4, 5 and 6 when the air temperature was about 3 °C lower than the first day, 27 versus 30.

Table 1 gives an "average" temperature for the depths measured plus the range over the year. The wide range near the surface is due to seasonal changes. A wide range is seen at the 150 m depth also and is due to high gradient, thermocline, at this depth and the fact that the depth of the thermocline (Fig.10) changes from station to station. The range narrows below 200 m and one finds greater differences between stations in any one sampling period than between seasons.

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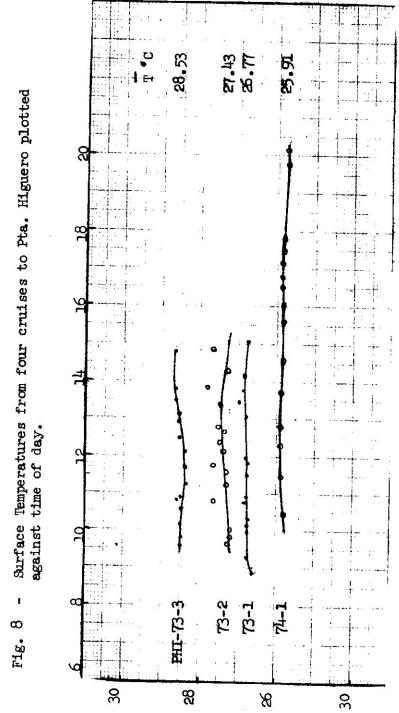


TABLE 1
Temperatures at Pta. Higuero, averaged with depth and ranges for the year1973-74

Temperature, °C

De pth	Average			Range		20 4 1 94902	
		<u> </u>		s		ΔΤ	0/3
0	27.2(5)	25.8	_	28.7		2.9	
25	27.2(0)	25.9	_	28.5	¥	2.6	
5 0	27.2(0)	25.9	-	28.5		2.6	
100	25.9(0)	25.0	_	26.8		1.8	
150	22.0(5)	20.7	-	23.4		2.7	
200	19.8(5)	19.3	n=n	20.4		1.1	
250	17.9(0)	17.6	-	18.2		. 6	
3 00	16.9(5)	16.7	-	17.2		•5	

Fig. 10 - Temperature, Average, and Range for the year 1973-74 plotted against depth for Pta. Higuero

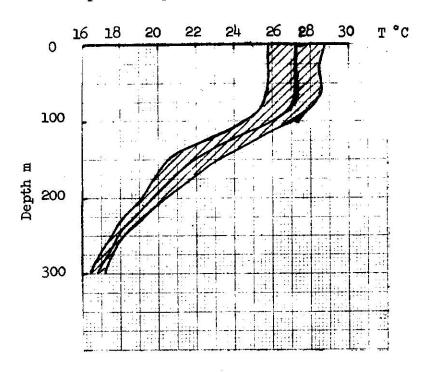
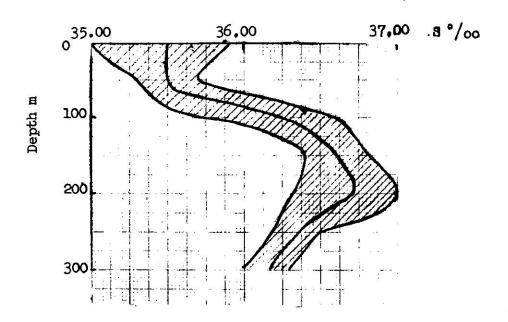


Fig. 11 - Salinity, Average, and Range for the year 1973-74 plotted against depth for Pta. Higuero



2) Salinity

The salinity of the surface waters of Pta. Higuero varied from 35.00 °/oo in summer and winter to 35.90 °/00 in the spring, reflecting the heavy runoff from June to November and the relatively dry season, December through May. averages and ranges of salinities with depth are listed in Table 2 and plotted in Fig. 11. The average salinity is constant at 35.5 $^{\circ}/_{00}$ in the mixing zone (50 m) then increases rapidly to about 36.5 °/ $_{00}$ at 130 m. A further increase to 36.7 °/ $_{00}$ is seen at 200 m with lower salinities to 300 m (36.2 °/oo). Salinities at 200 m have been measured as high as $37.00 \circ / 00$. This is usually at the deep stations north of Pta. Higuero. The high salinity water between 100 and 250 m originates in the tropical Atlantic and flows westward north and south of Puerto Rico. Mixing in the Mona Passage probably accounts for the generally lower salinities at 200 m south of Pta. Higuero.

Density

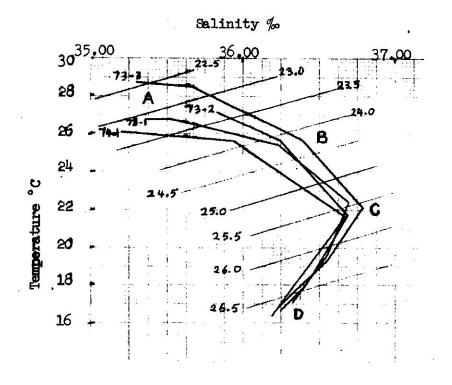
As mentioned above, the stability of the water column is determined by density differences. Density expressed as sigma-t (Equation 1) is a function of temperature, salinity, and to a lesser extent, pressure.

A plot of temperature versus salinity is shown in Fig. 12.

TABLE 2
Salinities for Pta. Higuero, averaged with depth and ranges for year 1973-74

		Range				
	s °/	W	sp	Δ s°/°°		
0	35.5	35 . 0 -	35.9	.9		
25	35•5	35.1 -	35.8	.7		
5 0	35•5	35.3 -	35.7	.4		
100	36.2	35.7 -	36.6	•9		
150	36.6	36.4 -	36.8	.4		
200	36.7	36.3 -	37.0	•7		
25 0,	36.4	36.2 -	36.5	•3		
300	36.2	36.0	- 36.3	•3		

Fig. 12 - T-S diagram showing visually averaged temperatures and salinities for four sampling quarters at Pt. Higuero. Diagonal lines show the density factor. Sigma-t.



Each line is the average of the data collected at the "C" stations for each cruise.

The greatest seasonal density difference is in the surface waters denoted by "A" on Fig. 12.

A much lower sigma-t is seen in the summer data,

(73-3) where ot = 22.4. Even though the temperatures and salinities do differ for the winter and spring data, sigma-t does not change appreciably,

23.1 - 23.3. This dry season-wet season difference in sigma-t probably accounts for most of the difference seen in the monthly mean tide levels.

The monthly mean tide levels are generally low in the winter-spring (dry season) and high in the summer-fall (wet season). The difference in sigma-t decreases with depth from "B" to "C" and is nearly uniform throughout the year below "C".

Temperature and salinity measurements will continue on a quarterly basis at Pta. Higuero to determine seasonal variation, and will be expanded to better explain mixing processes which occur in the convergence of the west coast current and the north coast current. More detailed nearshore temperatures will also be taken. The region has been scanned on three occasions with an aerial infrared camera (9/73, 11/73, 3/74). The surface temperature distribution patterns from the scans are being worked up.

e. Marine Geology and Sediment Transport

No PRNC input.

f. Chemical Parameters

Dissolved oxygen O_2 , and reactive phosphate, PO_4^{ξ} , were determined at the same time and depths that temperature and salinity were on all cruises to Pta. Higuero as part of the regular hydrographic work. All of the data are listed and plotted in the Appendix. Dissolved oxygen is given in ml/L, mg/L (commonly called ppm even though it is incorrect), and percent saturation. Reactive phosphate is given in ug-at. PO_4^{ξ}/L .

1) Dissolved Oxygen

The amount of dissolved oxygen in sea water was determined by the standard Winkler titration In addition, oxygens on the PHI-74-1 cruise were measured with a YSI probe on the same samples that were titrated. A comparison of the two methods is plotted in Fig. 13. The agreement is fairly good, however, the titrated values are consistently higher than the probe values. Since the titrated values are at or near saturation in the surface waters, they appear to be more reliable. oxygen concentrations were near saturation in the surface waters (6.7-7.0 mg O2/L). Some supersaturation was noted at 25 to 50 m due to photosynthesis (103%). A typical plot of oxygen versus depth is shown in Fig. 14. Below about 100 m, the concentration of O2 decreased to a minimum of 5.75 mg O2/L, 70% saturation, at 300 m. The lowest

surface 0_2 was no lower than 95% saturation and may have been due to the BOD of surface runoff.

2) Reactive Phosphate

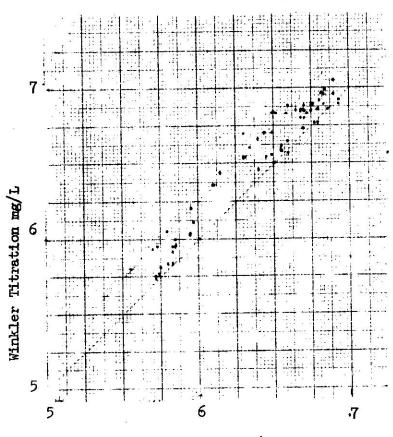
Reactive phosphate was determined by the Murphy and Riley molybdate complex method using a Beckman DU spectrophotometer. Phosphate can be determined rapidly with good accuracy. There exists a good relationship between phosphate and nitrate in sea water (1:14) so that phosphate can be used as a nutrient indicator.

Phosphate is very low in most surface waters of the Caribbean except near very highly populated regions. Surface values characteristically run 0.05±.05 ug-at. POH/L from surface to 100 m. A slight increase in POH/L occurs at 150 m, followed by a steady increase to about .50 ug-at. POH/L at 300 m. A typical plot is seen in Fig. 14.

Phosphate is withdrawn from the surface waters during photosynthesis, incorporated in biota which sinks and decomposes using up oxygen and releasing nutrients into the water column. The turn-over rate of the near surface nutrients is fairly rapid to allow what little productivity there is to occur, probably a matter of hours or a few days at most. The distribution of phosphate in the surface waters seems to be spotty as in plankton. Probably low phosphate conditions exists where productivity is active.

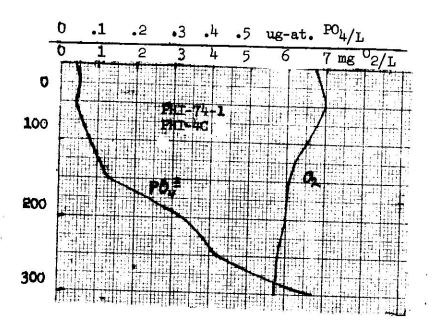
The chemical parameters of dissolved oxygen and reactive phosphate will continue to be sampled as part of the quarterly hydrographic work with attention given to diurnal changes and possible sources of nutrients or BOD from terrestrial sources.

Fig. 13 - A comparison of the Winkler titration and the YSI oxygen probe for 70 samples at Pta. Higuero, 1/15/74.



YSI Probe mg/L

Fig. 14 - Dissolved oxygen and reactive phosphate profiles typical of the Pta. Higuero region, 1/15/74, PHT-4C



b. PLANKTON SURVEY AT THE PUNTA HIGUERO SITE. I. Standing stock estimates of the major taxonomic groups.

By Marsh J. Youngbluth

INTRODUCTION

The following report provides quantitative estimates of the biomass and number of zooplankton collected in the surface waters near the coast. The data represent one part of an environmental survey conducted by the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center in the vicinity of the proposed site for fossil power plants at Punta Higuero. Samples were gathered on 5 days during 1973 - 17 January, 2 May, 14 August, 3 December, and 11 December.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field Procedure

Plankton were collected with 1/2-meter diameter, cylinder-cone shaped nylon nets of two mesh sizes (64 and 202 microns). These nets were designed to reduce clogging error (Smith, Counts and Clutter 1968). The larger mesh netting retains most of the macrozooplankton. The smaller mesh captures the larger microzooplankton and phytoplankton. Nets of finer porosity are impractical to use in coastal areas since the mesh clogs very quickly.

All samples were gathered in a standard manner. The nets were towed from a 17 ft. skiff in a circular path through the upper 2 meters. The speed of the vessel was about 3 knots (determined with a Sims yacht speedometer). The smaller mesh net was hauled for 5 minutes, the larger

for 10 minutes. After each tow, before the cod end was removed, the nets were thoroughly washed by sea water with the aid of a battery powered pump (12 volt, Jabsco water-puppy). Samples were preserved in 4% sea water-formalin buffered to pH 7.6. All samples were gathered during the daylight hours. The volume of water filtered through a net was estimated with a flowmeter (General Oceanics, Model 2030) suspended off-center in the mouth of the net.

One tow was made with each net at every station except in the area adjacent to the proposed site for the power plant (station 2) where triplicate tows were made with the coarser net. These replicate samples were used to determine the range of variability between successive tows and to provide more reliable estimates of the organisms present. The stations were situated in such a way as to sample within and around the area where thermal alteration is likely to occur (see Fig. 1). Station 1 to the north is upcurrent from the proposed site and should depict a plankton community unaffected by a pollution source. Plankton populations in areas downcurrent, station 3, and offshore, stations 4 and 5, may show pollution related stresses.

<u>Iaboratory</u> <u>Procedure</u>

Within 24 hours after samples were collected the pH was checked and adjusted, if necessary, to 7.6. If a sample contained a noticeable conglomerate of phytoplankton or detritus, the zooplankton were separated by gently filtering such material through 202 micron mesh netting.

Before estimates of biomass and numbers were made, all organisms larger than 1 centimeter, usually hydrozoan medusae, ctenophores, or scyphozoans, were removed.

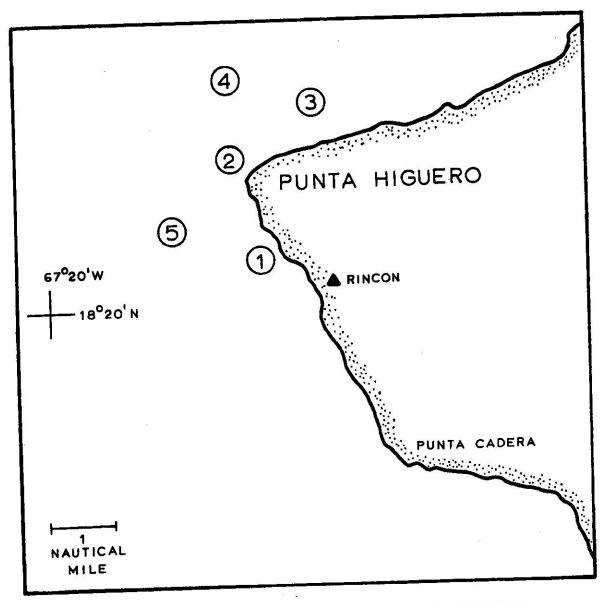


Fig. 1. The locations at Punta Higuero where zooplankton were collected.

Bicmass was calculated as wet volume (Ahlstrom and Thraikill 1962). This method was employed to measure biomass because it is quick and does not damage the organisms. Conversion factors for wet volume to wet weight or dry weight have been determined from other studies of zooplankton along the south coast of Puerto Rico (see Youngbluth 1974). These factors are cited in a footnote on Table 1.

The number of organisms in the coarse net catches was estimated by volumetric subsampling with replacement (Brinton 1962). Three aliquots from each sample were counted unless otherwise noted. The choice of which organisms are counted and identified to species needs some clarification. Plankton tows collect many different kinds of organisms. It is extremely difficult and time consuming to identify all organisms to the species level. Fortunately, this is not necessary to detect changes in the abundance of the plankton community. Usually the more abundant of the most numerous organism is given primary attention. In the plankton copepods are usually numerically dominant. In this report the majority of these animals have been identified to species. Quantitative estimates of their relative abundances will be the subject of a later report. other fauna have been grouped into two categories, being identified by life history and taxonomic position. Dilutions were made so that about 200-400 organisms were categorized into major taxonomic groups.

All biomass and enumeration data were standardized to a per cubic meter basis or multiple thereof. Data were initially reduced

TABLE 1. Total biomass of zooplankton $(m1/m^3)^*$

Offshore Tows Stations	hc 5c	1 1	,038 .02 ⁴	-033	1	- 055
rw cs	30	1		.011	840.	190
Nearshore Tows Stations	10	i.	.146	,00°	1.	.156
Nears	S	.219	680.	,050	Ĩ	.248
Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	203	.241	780.	590:	,	.183
re Replic	202	.279	.105	. 640.	1	6ħZ*
Near sho.	201	.135	0.7 ^t	· 10;		.313
	DATE	170173	20573	C1/OZ	140063	31273

 \ast Conversion factors adjusting wet volume to wet weight and dry weight are 0.54 and 0.059, respectively.

with hand calculators (Hewlett Packard Model 35) and, more recently, with a larger computer (PDP-10). See Appendix A for a listing of the program.

RESULTS

A total of 46 samples were collected from five sites around Punta Higuero. Variations in the biomass and number of zooplankton from 27 coarse net tows are presented in this paper. An earlier report (Youngbluth 1973a) discussed the zooplankton caught in coarse and fine net tows during January 1973. For the sake of completeness all data from coarse mesh tows taken at Punta Higuero in 1973 are included in this report. Because of time and manpower limitations no further attention will be given to microzooplankton from the fine mesh tows for some time.

The range of variation for those subsamples that were counted three times was always within the range expected for subsamples drawn from a Poisson distribution. Thus, counts were made on organisms drawn from randomly dispersed populations. Previous testing and continual checks on the subsampling technique indicate that there is no significant variation between replicate counts or counters. Thus three counts per sample are now made less frequently.

The magnitude of variation among the replicate, inshore, and offshore tows and between inshore and offshore tows during each collection period was summarized by dividing the highest total number of organisms by the lowest within each set. Among the replicate nearshore tows the factors were 2.5, 1.4, 1.9, and 1.2 for January, May, August and December. These variations are similar to those observed at Quebrada de Toro,
Punta Manati, and Tortuguero (see Youngbluth 1973b). Among the nearshore tows the differences were 3.4, 3.1 and 6.0 for May, August and
December. The ratio among offshore samples during May was 2.3. Thus
it appears that there is usually more variation between tows from
different stations than from replicate tows at the same station.
Variation in terms of total numbers between tows at different stations
must therefore be greater than 2.5 to be significant.

Zooplankton biomass was usually greater near the coast. The largest concentrations were found just off the tip of Punta Higuero at station 2. Volumes in this area were 4 to 5 times higher in January and December (Table 1). In terms of numbers per m³ 6 to 10 times more zooplankton were present in December (Table 2).

Holoplanktonic fauna dominated the catches composing 58 to 97% of the total numbers nearshore and 61 to 84% offshore. Numbers per m³ are listed in Table 3. During January and December copepods accounted for about 80% of the zooplankton in either area (Table 4). In May and August copepods composed around 60% of the zooplankton. Chaetognaths were abundant in January and May (Table 5). Larvaceans, Oikopleura spp. and Fritillaria spp. were proportionately most numerous in May and December (Table 6). Cladocerans, Evadne spp., were not conspicuous at any time of the year. Pteropods, mostly Cressis spp. and coiled forms, were an order of magnitude more dense in December than in other months (Table 7).

The abundance of meroplanktonic organisms was low and concentrations averaging 30 individuals per m³ were common in May, August and December (Table 8). About half this amount was recorded in January. Brachyuran

TABLE 2. Total number of zooplankton per m³

	Nearsho	ore Repl	Nearshore Replicate Tows	Near	Nearshore Tows	Tows	Offshore Trus	e Tows
		Stations	മ്വ		Stations	18	Stations	ions
DATE	20.1	202	203	2	10	30	54	50
170173	498	1260	916	116	ı	1	ı	Ī
20573	1024	918	1305	1082	475	319	176	1,11
140873	019	. 688	929	529	64	172	· 248	! .
31273	ı	ı	t	i	ı	2094	. 1	ı
111273	7396	7568	6349	7105	11.78	1179	1206	1

TABLE 3. Total number of holoplankton per m3

e Tows Ions	53	t	327	ŧ	ī	1	
Offshore Tows Stations	D4.	í	108	770	I	1025	
S2 № 1	30	•	259	011	1675	1078	
Nearshore Tows Stations	pq	1	362	88	I	1088	
Nears	S	887	066	726		6812	
Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	203	939	1220	845	ı	6023	
re Repli	202	1245	825	. 262	î	7202	
Nearsho	2C1	478	426	525	310	7210	
	DATE	170173	20573	140873	31273	111273	

TABLE 4. Total number of copepods per m³

	Nears	hore Repli Stations	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Neg	Nearshore Tows Stations	Tow s	Offshore Tows Stations	e Tows lons	
DATE	201	202	203	8	2	30	740	50	
170173	144	1761	883	828	ī		1	1	
20573	716	716	1026	820	280	232	77	172	
140873	485	280	. 505	424	88	88	595	ï	
31273	Ī	ı	ı	1	t	1533	ı	1	
111273	6782	6989	5532	6395	845	943	936	I	

TABLE 5. Total number of chaetognaths per 10 m³

	Near sho	Nearshore Replicate Tows	cate Tows	Near sh	Nearshore Tows Stations	ಬ	Offshore Tows Stations	ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω
DATE	2C1	202	203	28	1 C	30	7†C	25
170173	316	869	227	477 †	ſ		ı	1
20573	669	332	732	588	284	8	55	53
140873	127	. 89	102	83	72	6	333	r
31273	1	ì	ı	Ī	ı	101		1
111273	604	766	311	572	196	153	123	1

TABLE 6. Total number of larvaceans per 10 m3

	Nearsh	ore Replic Stations	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Near	Nearshore Tows Stations	W.S.	Offshore Tows Stations	. Tows
DATE	501	202	203	ß	27	30	1 [†] C	50
170173	V 10	V 10	141	74	Ĭ	1	ı	
20573	1039	638	906	% 1	339	04	202	382
140873	< 10	V	120	01/1	a	6	304	i
31273	•	ı	31	1	I	547	1	I
111273	409	832	1712	786	1189	599	495	1
	į							

TABLE 7. Total number of pteropods per 10 m3

	Nearsho	re Replic	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Nears	Nearshore Tows Stations	S Mc	Offshore Tows Stations	Tows
DA TE	201	202	203	8	ης	3¢	1tC	50
170173	27	124	156	102	1	1	ı	ï
20573	339	115	. 562	250	187	132	1 1	118
140873	277	17	204	991	80	194	485	t
31273	ı	i	ı	1	1	541	T	1
111273	2754	1764	21.78	2033	1000	553	234	1

TABLE 8. Total number of meroplankton per m^3

	Nearsh	ore Replic	Nearshore Replicate Tows	Near	Nearshore Tows	l'ow s	Offshore Tows	Tows
		TOTOPOR	21		Stations	<u>s</u> 1	Stations	ons
DATE	201	202	203	SC	IC	30	77	50
170173	7 10	~ 10	₹	15	1	ı		ı
20573	65	38	34	34	33	7	V 10	15
140873	09	19	99	84	7 10	87	34	ī
31273	ì	ı	1	1	Ĺ	29	ī	ı
111273	55	~ 10	38	32	83	2	17	

erab larvae were abundant in May $(\bar{x}/10^3 = 30, \text{Table 9})$. Barnacle larvae were preponderant in August $(\bar{x}/10^3 = 123, \text{Table 10})$. Caridean shrimp larvae were most numerous in May and August, particularly near the coast $(\bar{x}/10^3 = 82, \text{Table 11})$.

Other holoplankton and meroplankton observed included: tretomphalus stage of a foraminiferan (probably <u>Tretomphalus bulloides</u>), myodocopid ostracods, hyperid amphipods, ctenophores, siphonophores, hydromedusae, salps, and the larvae of polychaetes, echinoderms, lamellibranchs, and isopods. These groups occurred in densities of less than 5 individuals per m³.

Fish eggs often ranked as the second most abundant planktonic form. Fish larvae were much less numerous. The largest densities of fish eggs and larvae occurred in December ($\bar{x}/m^3 = 64$, Tables 12 and 13). Some of the fish eggs are football-shaped, resembling the anchovetta egg. It is not known at this time which fish groups are represented by most of the eggs.

The 38 copepod and 8 chaetognath species identified are listed in Table 14.

DISCUSSION

The zooplankton community in the Punta Higuero area is dominated numerically by copepods. There are at least 38 species. The majority are small (1-3 mm), herbivorous populations common to tropical and coastal oceanic regions (Bjornberg 1971). The chaetognath species identified are conspicuous in the mixed layer of the Atlantic and Caribbean (Suarez-Caabro 1955, Pierce and Wass 1962, Alvariño 1969).

.TABLE 9. Total number of brachyuran larvae per 10 m^3

	Nearsh	ore Replic	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Near	Nearshore Tows Stations	S WS	Offshore Tows Stations	e Tows ions
DATE	SCI	202	203	Š	10	30	740	50
170173	27	610	28	18	t	i	i	1
20573	63	63	34	75	35	35	< 10	50
140873	34	4 10	. 4 10	11	41 0	#	58	ī
31273		1	I.	ī	ī	29	ı	i
111273	V 10	4 10	7.10	X 10	18	91	13	

TABLE 10. Total number of cirripede nauplii per 10 m^3

	Nearsh	ore	Repli	Nearshore Replicate Tows	Nears	Nearshore Tows	OW S	Offshore Tows	e Tows
		Sta	Stations		02[Stations	ស្ន	Stations	ions
DA TE	201	202	દ્ધ	203	50	10	30	1tG	50
170173	0	-	0	0	0	ı	1	ı	1
20573	148	-	25	4 10	58	80	< 10	7 10	7 10
1),0873	254		85	278	206	8	205	72	1
Clooks	, ,	•-	· I	,	j	Ç	33	ı	•
31273	710		4 10	V 10	~ 10	536	19	82	•

TABLE 11. Total number of caridean larvae per 10 $\rm m^3$

	Nearsh	ore Replic	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Nears	Nearshore Tows Stations	S A	Offshore Tows Stations	2 Tows
DATE	201	202	- 2 03	1 8	ΙC	30)†C	22
170173	27	31	156	77	ı	ī	1	1
20573	190	7 02	174	189	117	10	19	73
140873	231	. 13	204	162	7	41 0	8	1
31273	•	Ĭ	ı	,	1	270	1	1
111273	111	< 10	~ 10	37	54	24	13	ı

TABLE 12. Total number of fish eggs per m3.

	Nearsho	arshore Replica Stations	Nearshore Replicate Tows Stations	Nears	Nearshore Tows Stations	S M	Offshore Tows Stations	Tows ons
DATE	2C.1	SC2	203	S	7C	30	74	50
170173	#	m	6	8	ı	1	1	ı
20573	25	24	84	047	92	84	59	59
140873	72	. 22	19	S.	15	1 1€	8	1
31273	T	Ĭ	1	1	J	345	1	ī
111273	126	536	287	238	39	64	159	

TABLE 13. Total number of fish larvae per 10 $\rm m^3$

	Nearsh	ore Repl	Nearshore Replicate Tows	Neal	Nearshore Tows	OWS	Offshore Tows	Tows
		Stations	∞		Stations	ωĵ	Stations	Suc
DA TE	201	202	203	200	IC	3¢	740	50
170173	~ 10	. 94	< 10	ત	1	1		ì
20573	78	92	17	59	77	~ 10	< 10	<10
140873	~ 10	. 01>	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	15	ı
31273	1	1	ı	T	t	0	L	ı
111273	~ 10	999	< 10	222	22	< 10	14	Ł

TABLE 14. A list of the copepod and chaetograth species identified from the Punta Higuero collections.

COPEPOD SPECIES

Acartia spinata Acartia lilljeborgii Paracalanus crassirostris Paracalanus parvus Paracalanus aculeatus Oithona oculata Oithona plumifera Oithona sp. A Clausocalanus furcatus Temora turbinata Temora stylifera Oncaea venusta Oncaea mediterranea Corycaeus subulatus Corycaeus giesbrechti Corycaeus pacificus Corycaeus agilis Corycaeus speciosus Corycaeus anglicus Corycaeus clausi Corycaeus lautus Farranula gracilis Farranula sp. A Undinula vulgaris Nannocalanus minor Centropages furcatus Calocalanus pavo Lucicutia flavicornis Calanopia americana Macrosetella gracilis Microsetella norvegica Acrocalanus longicornis Candacia pachydactyla Euchaeta marina Eucalanus cf. attenuatus Labidocera spp. Miracia efferata Euterpina acutifrons

CHAETOGNATH SPECIES

Sagitta hexaptera
Sagitta hispida
Sagitta enflata
Sagitta tenuis
Sagitta serratodentata
Sagitta bipunctata
Krohnitta mutabbii
Pterosagitta draco

Previous studies of zooplankton in the coastal areas of Puerto Rico are restricted to the bays and shelf regions along the southwestern portion of the island (Duran 1957, Coker and Gonzalez 1960, Bowman and Gonzalez 1961, Gonzalez and Bowman 1965). The species found at Punta Higuero included many of those mentioned in the papers just cited as well as those encountered in several recent surveys around Puerto Rico (Youngbluth 1973a,b; 1974a,b).

The range of variability between replicate tows is similar to previous estimates observed in other plankton investigations (e.g., see the review by Wiebe and Holland 1968).

The seasonal increase in the abundance of most zooplankton populations during December and January and the tendency for most groups to be more numerous nearshore probably reflect greater mixing of the water column and a higher level of primary production.

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

The sampling program was designed to provide quantitative estimates of: 1) the standing stock of zooplankton, 2) the variety of major taxonomic groups, and 3) the diversity and abundance of the more numerous copepod species. The manner of field sampling determined the variety and biomass of organisms encountered. The data in this report are based on collections made in the surface waters during the daylight hours. The sampling gear and methods were kept uniform, i.e., net type, net mesh, towing speed, and depth range sampled. A small number of replicate tows were gathered at each site to obtain some measure of the variability between samples. To obtain a better understanding of the zooplankton community more sampling with replication should be done at frequent

intervals, at a greater number of stations, at different depths, during the day and night, and during different seasons for several years. The sum of the information gathered in these ways is necessary to interpret fluctations in standing stock and diversity in relation to environmental changes and biotic interactions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several people helped collect and analyze the samples, including Carmen E. Cintron, Lin Craft, Juan Miguel Muñoz, Gary P. Owen, and Oscar Mendez Ortiz. The majority of the chaetograths were identified by Dr. Jose A. Suarez-Caabro. Mr. Peter Willmann wrote the program appearing in Appendix A. Rosa M. Asensio cheerfully punched data on computer cards. This work was supported by Puerto Rico Water Resources Authority Contract No. At (40-1)4079.

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c. Benthic

OCCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAJOR TYPES OF EPIBENTHIC COMMUNITIES AT PUNTA HIGUERO

By: Vance P. Vicente

INTRODUCTION

An increase of electrical power has become mandatory in Puerto Rico, due to population growth and technical advances. A proposed site for a fossil fuel plant is located at Punta Higuero on the west coast of Puerto Rico. Sea water from the immediate area will be used as a coolant and then discharged at temperatures above ambient. In the past there has been much misuse of coastal waters by power plants, and their detrimental effect upon marine life has been well documented (Zieman 1970; Roessler and Zieman 1969). To prevent continuing misuse and subsequent harm, it has also become mandatory to evaluate the ecological and economic character of existing marine communities before exposing them to industrial processes.

The purpose of this study was to make a preliminary survey of the benthic communities at the Punta Higuero site. In order to study benthic life adequately three important aspects should be taken into consideration.

- Determination of the types of communities, populations, and species of a particular area at a particular time.
- 2) Natural changes (i.e. seasonal) occurring within a particular community and within its components.
- 3) Their tolerance to the forthcoming environmental impacts.

The present field study deals with the first of these.

For additional information consult a previous study of this site (Szmant 1972).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling was done during two periods - 26-28 June 1973 and 14-16 January 1974. Three stations were designated as sampling areas: Station A, located north of the dome at Punta Higuero; Station B, located perpendicular to the dome and slightly northwest of the Point; and Station C, located south of the Point (Fig. 1). Although basically the same methods were used during both sampling periods, Station B was omitted from the second period due to unfavorable weather conditions.

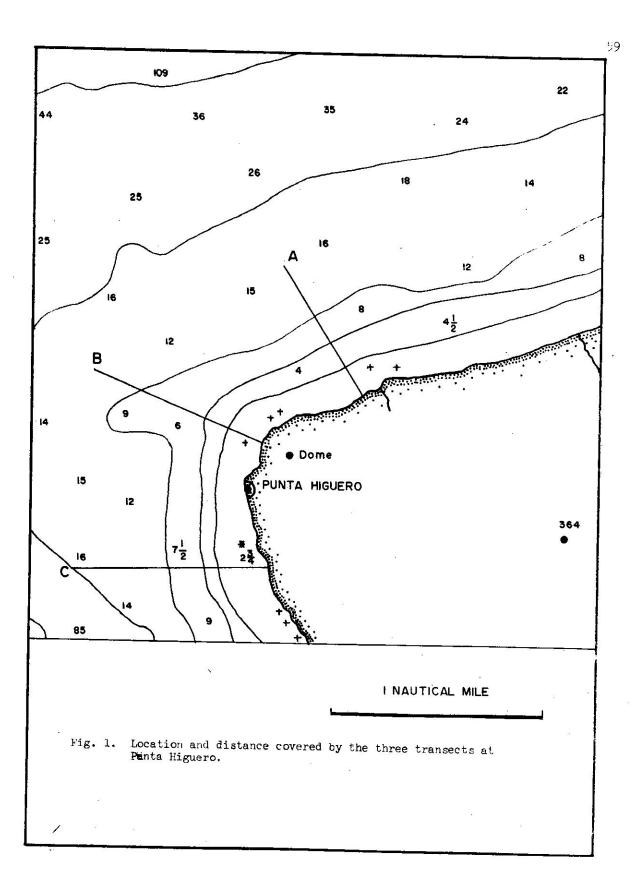
The field work involved a total effort of three divers and 69 man hours (48 man hours during the first sampling and 21 during the second). The survey was done using SCUBA apparatus, underwater cameras (Nikonos)¹, and collecting bags. Data on the types of benthos, dominant species, types of substrate and other geographical characters of the area was recorded on an underwater plexiglass slate.

Three transects were made. Each transect spanned a distance of approximately 1 nautical mile. The divers swam along the transects, taking pictures, sampling and recording data. Benthic communities in depths from 3-27 m were surveyed in this manner. During the second sampling period four samples were collected with 1/4 m² grid by removing all epibenthic forms by hand. A species list, biomass, and the relative abundance of each species were obtained from each of the samples.

In summary, the results of this study are based on three aspects:

- 1) Field observations and notes.
- 2) The samples collected.
- 3) Detailed studies from the photographs taken of the area.

Unless otherwise cited, all photographs included were taken by Vance P. Vicente.



RESULTS

STATION A - 26-28 June 1973

24-27 m:

SPONGE AGGREGATIONS

Substrate

The bottom at such depths in Station A consisted of a sandy substrate except where sponge communities occurred. The sand consisted of large particles (approximately 1/2 2 mm) and could be classified as coarse sand, according to the Wentworth scale (Bird 1969). On the bare spots wide ripple marks (wave length of .3 - .6 m and wave weight of a few centimeters) were observed, arranged in a westward direction.

A thin layer of precipitated organic sediments covered the sand. On some sections, this layer had a green tinge probably due to small filamentous algal forms.

Dominant Organisms

1. Sponges

As mentioned before, sponges (Porifera) were the dominant group, particularly the basket sponge

<u>Xestospongia muta</u>. However, other forms were quite abundant, including <u>Sphaeciospongia vesparia</u>, <u>Neofibularia massa</u> (Stinging sponge), <u>Ircinia sp.</u> and Verongia sp. (Fig. 2).

2. Algae

Other groups of organisms were present despite their limited distribution at such depths. The red algae

Fig. 2. The sponges, X. muta (basket shaped) and Verongia sp. (tubular shape in the lower left corner) at Station A, the dominant forms of benthos at 27 m. Two species of the queen trigger fish Balistes vetula can be seen in the upper corners.



Laurencia intricata covered some parts of the bottom and sometimes covered some of the sponges, and to a lesser extent the brown algae Dictyota dentata and others.

3. Corals (Octocorallia)

One gorgonian was observed at this depth. This was Pseudopterogorgia sp.

12-18 m:

RED ALGAL COVER; SPONGES

Substrate

The bottom at these depths was practically all covered by algae and sponges. The substrate is covered by sand but the inner substrate consisted of hard rock.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

Most of the bottom substrate was covered by an aggregation of algae. A sample of this algal cover revealed that it was composed mostly of the red algae Amphiroa rigida entangled with other red, brown, and green algae, but the predominant form being Rhodophytes (red algae).

2. Sponges

Sponges were quite abundant throughout the transect. At these depths the basket sponge

X. muta, Desmopsamma anchorata, Verongia sp.

2nd others, to a less except, were quite common.

3. Corals

Very few coral formations were observed. Only scattered small patches of <u>Meandrina</u> sp. were observed.

16-18 m:

CORAL; GORGONIANS

Dominant Organisms

At 18 m a transitional zone (ecotone) occurred between the algal and coral gorgonian communities. This culminated at 16 m where corals and gorgonians formed most of the epibenthos (Figs. 3 and 4). Many fishes live among the coral formations.

1. Corals

Various types of coral formations were present.

Gorgonians such as <u>Plexaurella</u> sp., <u>Pterogorgia</u>

anceps, <u>Pseudopterogorgia</u> anceps and others occurred.

Hard corals included <u>Meandrina</u> sp., <u>Montastrea</u>

cavernosa, <u>Diploria</u> sp., and <u>Dendrogyra</u> cylindricus

(Fig. 4).

2. Algae

Some algae were attached to the hard substrate free of coral formations; however, the specific dominant alga! species were not recorded.

Fig. 3. A gorgonian garden at 16.5 m at Station A. The tallest gorgonian at the center is a specimen of Briareum asbestinum. Other gorgonians such as Pseudopterogorgogia sp. can be seen in the lower right corner. The many small blue fish are a school of Blue Chromis, Chromis cyaneus.



Fig. 4. A patch of the scleractinian coral Dendrogyra cylindricus at 16.5 m at Station A. The yellow and black fish is the rock beauty, Holacanthus tricolor.



FISHES

Many fishes, mostly small ones, aggregated in and around the gorgonian coral formations. These included: A school of over 50 specimens of blue chromis, Chromis cyaneus (Pomacentridae); 4 adult forms and a school of 30 juvenile forms of the blue head wrasse, Thalassoma bifasciatum (labridae); 1 rock beauty, Holocanthus tricolor (Chaetodontidae); a small school of the brown Chromis, Chromis multilineatus, 1 black durgon, Melichthys niger, (Balistidae); and 2 schools of surgeon fish, Acanthurus sp., (Acanthuridae).

Four queen trigger fish, <u>Balistes vetula</u> (Balistidae) and a few bicolor damselfish, <u>Eupomacentrus bipartitus</u> (Pomacentridae) were observed in the deeper waters.

<u>9-13 m:</u>

CORAL: SPONGES; ALGAE

The coral formations were restricted to a depth of 16-18 m.

At 13.5 m coral formations were non-existent except for a few specimens of Pterogorgia anceps, Dichocoenia stokesii, and Meandrina sp. At 12 m, patches of the sponge Anthosignella varians were observed.

From 9-12 m the bottom was covered by two main types of growth:

1) algal mats consisting mostly of the red algae Amphira rigida and entangled with other less common ones. 2) large patches of the sponge A. varians (Fig. 5).

The sediment in this cation consisted mostly of skeletons of the dominant algal form (coralline) Amphiroa sp.

3-7.5 m

ALGAE

At 7.5 m, the bottom consisted of algal mat formations, a few smaller patches of A. varians and a few gorgonians, such as <u>Muricea</u> sp.

At 6 m, the bottom was practically covered by an algal mat of a different composition than those found at greater depths. The algal cover at this depth consisted primarily of the red algae Corallina sp. and Jania sp., entangled with other algae.

A sandy bottom, and heavily silted water was encountered at 4.5 m. From 3-4.5 m the benthos consisted of miscellaneous forms. However, patches of algae, primarily <u>Corallina</u> sp., seemed to be dominant.

Fig. 5. The sponge A. varians (pale patches on lower right, lower left and upper right corners) and red alga in apparent competition for substrate at 9-12 m at Station A.



Many other forms of life made up the benthos of this shallow region including <u>Thallasia testudinum</u>, small patches of the coral <u>Siderastrea siderea</u>, and the sponge <u>Verongia</u> sp. The observations at this time were limited due to poor visibility.

STATION A - 14-16 January 1974

The relative distribution of the dominant forms are discussed below in relation to their occurrence during the first sampling period.

24-27 m:

SPONGE AGGREGATIONS

Substrate

The substrate was generally unchanged from the first sampling period.

Dominant Organisms

1. Sponges

The macro-epibenthic fauna consisted primarily of sponge aggregations (Porifers:Demospongioe).

Specimens of the basket sponge <u>Xestospongia muta</u> and <u>Ircinia</u> sp. occurred quite commonly. This is similar to the observations made during June 1973.

2. Algae

Brown algae (Phaeophyta) such as <u>Dictyota</u> sp. and <u>Dictyopteris</u> sp. were observed growing over portions of many sponges. This observation was not made during the previous trip. At that time, the red alga (Rhodophyta) <u>Laurencia intricata</u> was observed growing on similar habitats.

3. Corals

The cor: I fain a observed were considerably sparse.

There were no scleractinian corals, and the coral

fauna was represented only by scattered gorgonians dwelling among and on the sponges.

6-18 m:

BENTHOS

Substrate

Most of the bottom consisted of a hard substrate, occasionally interrupted by sandy channels and sand holes.

Dominant Communities

1. Algae

A dominant algal community attached to the hard substrate was observed. The dominant alga was the red alga (Rhodophyta), existing in a complex arrangement with other brown (Phaeophyta) and green (Chlorophyta) algae.

The most common Rhodophytes included the articulated coralline red algae Corallina cubensis,

Amphiroa fragilissima, and Jania adhaerens.

However, at 16.5 m, (Table 1) the calcareous red algae Lithothamnion occidentalis and Coelarthrum albertisii constituted a large part of the total biomass; while at 7.5 m, the coralline algae were the principal component (Table 2).

At both depths mentioned above most of the algae and articulated corallines were entangled with the brown alga Dictyota linearis and to a lesser extent

TEXT TABLE 1

14-16 January 1974

The relative abundance of the algae obtained at 16.7 m in a sample at Station A. The numbers represent the dry weight obtained for each species within the $1/4~\rm m^2$ sample.

Species Rhodophyta		Dry Weight (g)
Corallina cubensis) Amphiroa fragilissima) Jania adhaerens)		18.9
Lithothamnion occidentalis		17.6
Coelarthrum albertisii	th.	4.2
Phaeophyta <u>Dictyota linearis</u> <u>Dictyopteris plagiograma</u>		•7
Chlorophyta		
Caulerpa vickersiae Caulerpa microphysa		-
Miscellaneous		1.0
	Total	42.4

TEXT TABLE 2

14-16 January 1974

The relative abundance of the algae obtained at 7.6 m at Station A. The numbers represent the dry weight obtained for each species within the $1/4~\text{m}^2$ sample.

<u>Species</u> Rhodophyta		Dry Weight	(g)
Corallina cubensis) Amphiroa sp.) Jania rubens)		8.8	
Martensia pavonia		-	
<u>Dictyurus occidentalis</u>) <u>Amansia multifida</u> Gelidium pusillum		•1	
Cryptoremia sp.		•3	
Phaeophyta Dictyopteris sp. Dictyota linearis Dictyota sp.		- •3 •7	
Chlorophyta			
Cladophora sp.		.1	
Miscellaneous algae		2.5	
	Total	12.8	

by <u>Dictyopteris</u> sp. and <u>Dictyota divaricata</u>.

A possibility is that a brown algal bloom may have been occurring at this site, since this was observed in many locations along the transect.

2. Sponges

The sponges <u>Ircinia fasciculata</u>, <u>Cynochira sp.</u>, <u>Verongia sp. occurred rather sparsely. However, the heavily encrusting sponge <u>Anthosigmella varians</u> commonly formed patches among the algal mats (Fig. 6).</u>

Several observations were made concerning A. varians:

1) they were less abundant than during the summer of 1973; 2) coralline red algae (Rhodophyta) and brown algae (Phaeophyta) were observed growing within the patches which is unusual; 3) some of the patches were surrounded by a layer of mucuous. This could indicate biological interaction within the algae-sponge interface, as many corals and sponges secrete a mucuous slime when they are cut, injured, or under stress.

3. Corals

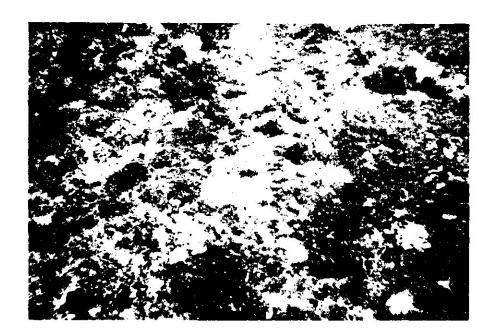
Coral formations prevailed principally in areas of hard substrate that were unoccupied by algae and sponges. They occurred infrequently, except at 15 m.

The scleractinian corals <u>Diploria labyrinthiformis</u>,

Montastrea <u>cavernosa</u>, <u>Colpophyllia amaranthus</u> and

Fig. 6. The encrusting sponge (Porifera: Demospongiae)

Anthosigmella varians as in January 1974. The occurrence of algal patches within them is unusual.



<u>Dichocoenia</u> stokesii formed encrustations and coral heads on the hard bottom.

The gorgonians <u>Eunicea laxispica</u>, <u>Eunicea sp.</u>,

<u>Pseudopterogorgia americana</u> and <u>Pseudopterogorgia</u>

sp. were observed on the hard substrate.

STATION B - 26-28 June 1973

The weather conditions were favorable and there was little wave action. Water visibility was approximately 16.5 - 18 m.

20-27 m:

BENTHOS

No predominant formations characterized the area, except for possibly the sponges There were primarily two bottom types: a sandy bottom and a hard bottom.

Sandy bottom:

1. Substrate - The nature of the sand was the same as that found near the deep communities in Station A, except for the absence of ripple marks.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

Portions of this sandy region were covered by algae. Amphiroa rigida and A. fragilissima were two common ones. There were patches of the flowering plant Halophila baillonis growing over the sand.

2. Sponges

The only sponge growing here was the basket sponge Xestospongia muta, which was quite common at these depths.

Ward bottom:

This area consisted mostly of coral-sponge aggregations. Many sponges occurred including <u>Xestospongia</u> <u>muta</u>, <u>Sphaeciospongia</u> <u>vesparia</u>, <u>Verongia longissima</u>, <u>V. fistularis</u>, and <u>Callyspongia vaginalis</u>. Many of these were covered by hydrozoans.

The predominant coral forms were the gorgonians.

18 m:

RED ALGAL MAT

The sandy bottom was nearly entirely covered by algae. However, there was an underlying hard substrate to which algae and other organisms were attached.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

The algal mat forming most of the epibenthos consisted primarily of an entanglement of the red algae (Rhodophyta) Corallina cubensis and Jania adhaerens; Coelarthrum albertesii was also common.

2. Sponges

Sponges were common here. Portions of the bottom substrate were covered with large patches of A. varians. Some of the other sponges observed were X. muta (very abundant on the deep benthos bordering the site), Sphaeciospongia vesparia, Higginsia strigilata and Desmapsamma anchorata.

3. Corals

Corals were not abundant in this region, but a few patches of <u>Diploria sp., Montastrea cavernosa</u> and <u>Siderastrea siderea</u> could be observed encrusting the bottom. A few gorgonians were observed such as <u>Pterogorgia anceps</u> and <u>Plexaurella sp.</u>

12 m:

BOULDERS

Boulders were conspicuous. These were spaced between either a sandy bottom or a hard rocky bottom. There are three bottom types at this depth: the boulder themselves, the sandy bottom, and hard bottom between or among the boulders.

SANDY BOTTOM

Substrate

A thin layer of organic sediments covered the sand. The ripple marks were small and arranged in a capillary fashion. Although there are exceptions this type of substrate is generally unfavorable for benthic life.

HARD BOTTOM

Boulders

Most boulder surfaces were covered by algal aggregations. A large amount of organic sediment, polychaete tubes, bryozoans and hydrozoans was observed. The sponges present were predominantly X. muta and a few other such as Haliclona rubens and Callyspongia vaginalis.

inant Organisms

1. Algae

This hard flat bottom among the boulders offered good substrate for algal attachment.

A red algal mat composed of entangled Jania adhaerens and Amphiroa rigida covered most of this substrate. Coelarthrum albertesii was common but less so at 18 m.

2. Sponges

A. varians formed wide encrustations among the algal mats. A few basket sponges were also present.

6 m:

RED - BROWN ALGAL MAT

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

Most of the hard substrate was covered by an algal aggregation composed primarily of two types: the red algae (Rhodophyte) Bryothamnion triquetum, and the brown algae (Phaeophyta)

Dictyopteris delicatula. Less common algae occurring in this area were: Corallina sp.,

Jania sp., Valonia ventricosa, Halimeda sp. and a few thalassia leaves.

2. Sponges

Patches of A. varians on the algal mat were observed. Verongia sp. and the stinging sponge

Neofibularia massa were also common at this depth.

3. Corals

Two species of gorgonians, Muricea elongata and Eunicea tournefort, occurred in reduced sizes.

Occasional patches of the scleractinian coral Siderastrea siderea were seen. This coral seems to be quite resistant to sedimentation, as it repeatedly occurred in shallow turbid waters.

It has also been observed in tide pools of increased temperatures, with no apparent adverse effects.

1.5 - 3 m:

INSHORE COMMUNITIES

It is known that the inshore benthos are affected throughout the year by wave action and sediments in suspension; however, detailed observations on this shallow region were not made due to poor visibility.

The substrate was sandy, and the portions covered with algal mats were underlined by hard structures.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

There were two types of algal cover in this range. At 3 m there was a light algal cover of red filaments over portions of the sand. This algae may belong to the phylum cyanophyta, which has red accessory pigments (Phycoerythrin) used in photosynthesis. At 1.5 m a different algal aggregation occurred, consisting primarily of two kinds of red

algae (Rhodophyta): <u>Corallina cubensis</u>, and <u>Jania</u> adhaerens.

Some green algae (Chlorophyta) were common at these shallow depths. These included <u>Penicillus</u> capitatus, <u>Halimeda discoidea</u>, <u>Udotea flabellum</u> and Cladophora fuliginosa.

2. Corals

Coral growth are limited in environments heavily affected by siltation; thus only a few greatly reduced encrustations of the coral <u>Siderastrea</u> siderea occurred.

3. Sponges

Only one sponge, a species of Verongia, was near shore. Much of its surface was covered by budlike structures which are probably used in propagation.

No patches of A. varians were observed.

STATION C - 26-28 June 1973

The weather conditions were favorable and permitted good water visibility (18.2 m). There were no bottom disturbances and no wave action.

The biotic aggregations inhabiting this area were characterized by coral growths, unlike the epibenthic communities found at Stations A and B. These observations are in agreement with Szmant (1973).

There was a transitional zone at 3 - 12 m, which culminated in a coral community. The biotic aggregations on the deeper portions of the transect 24-27 m revealed that there was biotic continuity at this depth. Similar to Stations A and B, the deep benthos consisted of sponge and algal formations.

3 m:

ALGAL ZONE (STYPOPODIUM ZONALE)

The above description of the benthos present is descriptive rather than real. It does not mean that this alga covered most of the substrate, but rather characterized the area by its abundance (Fig. 7).

Substrate

The bottom at this depth consisted of a flat hard structure with few, sandy pockets.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

Bushes of the brown alga (Phaeophyta) Stypopodium zonale characterized the area. Other algae covered

Fig. 7. The brown bushes are specimens of Stypopodium zonale. They were abundant at 3 m at Station C.



portions of the hard substrate. These included Corallina cubensis, Dictyota dentata, Udotea flabellum.

2. Corals

Corals were common despite the reduced size of the species at this depth. The hard corals (Scleractinian) occurred as small patches or encrustations on the hard substrate. Similarly, the gorgonians were consistently reduced in size. This was probably due to heavy siltation or wave action.

The hard corals which formed reduced patches or small heads included <u>Porites asteroides</u>,

<u>Siderastrea siderea</u>, <u>Montastrea annularis</u> and <u>cavernosa</u>. The gorgonians included <u>Muricea</u> sp.

<u>Eunicea</u> sp. and <u>Plexaurella</u> sp. They were less common than the hard corals at this depth.

3. Sponges

Many specimens of <u>Verongia</u> sp., described in the inshore communities in Station B, occurred. An occasional patch of <u>A</u>. <u>varians</u> was observed.

6 m:

TRANSITIONAL ZONE

No particular name was assigned to this zone since the epibenthos had a miscellaneous composition. An algal mat consisting of tufts of Jania adhaerens entangled with other algae (e.g. Cladophora fuliginosa)

covered portions of the substrate. There were hard corals and patches of \underline{A} varians. Gorgonians occurred in larger numbers and sizes than those at 3 m (Fig. 8).

Substrate

The substrate was hard, rocky and generally flat, except a few coral outgrowths.

Dominant Organisms

1. Algae

Algal tufts composed of Jania adhaerens entangled with other algae covered portions of the area.

Other algae, including Amphiroa fragilissima and Corallina cubensis, were present.

2. Corals

The hard corals formed wider patches and bigger formations at this depth than at 3 m. Those corals present included: Siderastrea siderea,

Meandrina sp., Diploria sp., Montastrea cavernosa,

Millepora sp. (hydrocorallina) and Porities asteroides.

3. Sponges

A. varians was the most common sponge, covering much of the substrate.

12 m:

CORAL COMMUNITY

The previously discussed transitional zone culminated at 12 m in a coral reef community. The corals attained full size and formed a

Fig. 8. The pale patches (center) are A. varians. Some gorgonians are also present.



complex aggregation of organisms (Fig. 9). Also, many gorgonians and sponges occurred, covering most of the algal aggregations.

Substrate

Most of the substrate had a calcarous composition, probably formed by the many corals present, and in some cases forming boulders (Fig. 9).

Dominant Organisms

A wide variety of corals, gorgonians, sponges, and other organisms occurred; corals were the most abundant. Algae also occurred on certain areas around the coral formations.

1. Corals (Scleractinia)

There seemed to be no predominant form of coral, yet several types occurred. The corals observed included Montastrea cavernosa, Meandrina sp.,

Diploria sp., Isophyllia sinuosa, Isophyllia sp., and Millepora sp.

Corals (Octocorallia)

Many gorgonians occurred, and they attained a greater size than at previous shallower depths.

They included <u>Pterogorgia</u> sp., <u>Muricea elongata</u>,

M. <u>flavida</u>, M. <u>sulphurea</u>, <u>Gorgonia ventalina</u>,

and Eunicea tourneforti.

2. Sponges

A great variety of sponges occurred on the coral formations, some of them typical of coral reef communities. There were the following: Gelliodes

Fig. 9. A coral community which occurred at Station C.



vesparia, small specimens of Xestospongia muta, and Hircinia sp. Other less conspicuous forms such as Microcions sp. formed thin encrustations on the underside of corals and over the surface of dead corals, and Cliona caribboea and Cliona sp. harbored the inner calcareous structures.

18-27 m:

DEEP BENTHOS

Sponge aggregations appeared to be the dominant group in this region; however, these deeper regions were difficult to characterize due to the limited bottom diving time.

Despite the limited sampling, three different bottom types were observed: 1) sandy flat bottom; 2) boulder-like structures with many gorgonians and a few coral patches; 3) boulder-like structures with few gorgonian or coral formations.

Deep sandy bottom

This type of bottom was observed at depths of 27 m, 24 m, 21 m, and 18 m. In contrast to the sandy formation at Station A, there were no ripple marks observed and the formation was flat in structure. Similar to Station A at these depths, there was a thin layer of organic sediments covering most of the sand. These areas were nearly devoid of marine life, except for a thin layer of filamentous green algae covering some of the substrate. There were no starfish, sand dollars, or any of the commonly found sandy bottom organisms.

Boulder-like structures with gorgonians. (18 m)

There was a great variety of organisms attached to these structures. Most common of these were the gorgonians, along with a few coral encrustations and sponges (Fig. 10). As found at Station A, the red algae Laurencia intricata covered many of the sponges and portions of the boulders. Also, an unidentified species of hydrozoa and a few bryozoans were on these deep boulders.

The gorgonians observed included <u>Eunicel laxispica</u>, <u>Diodogorgia</u> nodulifera, <u>Pterogorgia</u> anceps and <u>P. citrina</u>.

Probably the most common sponge at this depth was the basket sponge Xestospongia muta.

Boulder-like structures-no gorgonians (27 m)

The boulders at 27 m lacked the gorgonian formations found at 18 m. Instead, much of their surface was covered by algae such as <u>Laurencia</u> intricata, Coelarthrum albertesii, and <u>Jania</u> adhaerens (Fig. 11).

Only one type of hard coral, Montastrea annularis, was observed growing on portions of these boulders.

Many specimens of the sponge <u>Xestospongia</u> muta were also found.

FISHES

Fish were commonly found in and around the coral formations.

The observed species included: 3 specimens of <u>Halachoeres bivattatus</u> (Labridae); 12 specimens of <u>Dupomacentrus partitus</u> (Pomacentridae); 5 adult blue head wrasses and 2 juveniles of <u>Thalassoma bifasciatum</u> (Labridae); 2 queen triggerfish, <u>Balistes vetula</u> (Balistidae); 3 groupers (Serranidae); 5 surgeon fish, <u>Acanthurus bahianus</u> (Acanthuridae); and 3 squirrel fish (Holocentridae).

Fig. 10. Boulder-like platforms with several gorgonians at Station ${\tt C.}$



Fig. 11. Boulder-like platforms nearly devoid of gorgonians at Station C.



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TEXT TABLE 3

14-16 January 1974

The relative abundance of the algae obtained at 6 m at Station C. The numbers represent the dry weight obtained for each species within the $1/4~{\rm m}^2$ sample.

Species Rhodophyta		Dry Weight (g)
Amphiroa sp.) Jania sp.) Hildenbrandia prototypus)		.1
Gelidium pusillum Martensia pavonia		.1
Phaeophyta		
Dictyota sp.		.4
Miscellaneous		2.2
	Total	2.8

TEXT TABLE 4

14-16 January 1974

The relative abundance of the algae obtained at 18 m at Station C. The numbers represent the dry weight obtained for each species within the $1/4~{\rm m}^2$ sample.

Species		Dry Weight (g)
Rhodophyta		
Corallina cubensis) Amphiroa sp. Jania rubens)		10.1
Dictyurus occidentalis Coelarthrum albertesii Gelidium pusillum Martensia pavonia		.3 .2 .2
Phaeophyta		
Dictyota sp. Dictyota linearis Dictyopteris hoytii Padina sp.		1.3 .1 -
Chlorophyta		
	Total	12.3

composed of articulated coralline red algae such as <u>Corallina cubensis</u>, <u>Amphiroa sp.</u>, and <u>Jania rubens</u>. Similar to the findings at Station A, the brown algae, <u>Dictyota sp.</u> and <u>Dictyopteris</u> sp. were observed living as macroepiphytes and entangled within the dominant coralline red algae.

Generally sparse coral fauna was observed. Gorgonians and encrusting corals were rarely observed on those boulders with available hard substrate.

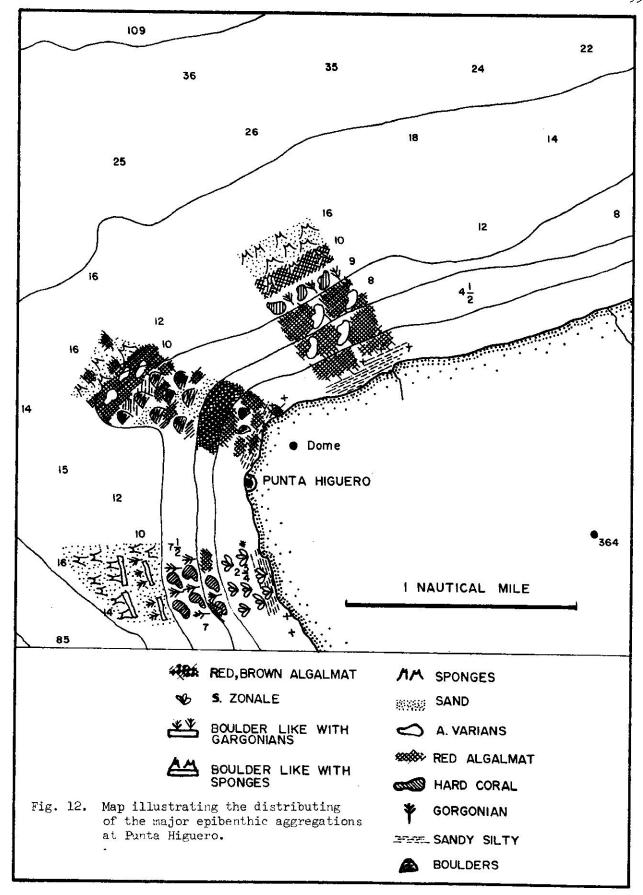
DISCUSSION

Ten different epibenthic associations were observed throughout the study (Fig. 12):

- Sponge communities inhabiting the deep benthos at all three stations.

 Corals and gorgonians did not occur widely, probably due to the limited light penetration at such depths. Light is essential for the growth of corals since it is required by the symbiotic algae that assist them in calcification and other physiological processes;
- Red algae communities usually among the patches of \underline{A} . varians.

 This situation was common at all three stations;
- 3) Coral communities, encountered at Station A at depths of 13.5 m, and throughout Station C, particularly at 12 m;
- 4) Boulders at Station B at 12 m;
- 5) Red and brown algal communities at 6 7.5 m at Station B;
- 6) A Stypopodium zonale zone inshore at Station C;
- 7) Boulder-like structures with gorgonians at 18 m at Station C;
- 8) Boulder-like structures with no gorgonians at Station C at 24 27 m;
- 9) Sandy bottoms with thin layers of organic sediments;
- 10) Sandy-silty bottoms inshore at Stations A and B, harboring miscellaneous biotic aggregations.



There is a tendency towards dominant algal populations north of the Point, while on the south of the Point there is a tendency towards coral formations. However, there are coral reef formations slightly north of the Point, (Station b, 16.5 m) although not as extensive as those occurring south of the Point. These observations, made during the summer study, agree in some ways with those made by Szmant (1973).

Most of the hard substrata occurring in the deep sublittoral zone north of Punta Higuero harbor benthic fauna composed principally of algae and sponges. A major change seemed to occur in the benthos during the winter expedition. The Sponge Anthosigmella varians formed large patches, sometimes covering several square meters of hard substrate. However, almost all the patches of A. varians observed during the winter sampling were smaller than those observed during the summer sampling. Algal aggregations were observed within the sponge mats which is unusual. A mucuous slime within the sponge-algal interface on some patches was observed, possibly indicating biological interaction.

A transition in which algal communities dominate the sponge formations seemed to be occurring. It is not known if this is a seasonal phenomenon, since no previous data are available.

One cause of successions within the benthic fauna at Punta Higuero may be the influence of the nearby Añasco River (Fig. 13). The silt clay and other terrigenous matter transported to the site would have some affect on the benthic organisms. However, no statement can be made concerning the degree of the river's influence without further research.

Fig. 13. Aerial photograph of Punta Higuero taken during the winter of 1974 illustrating the sediment transported to the south around Punta Higuero.



(E.D. Wood)

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d. Fish

F.D. Martin & J.W. Patus

The fishes of the Punta Higuero site have been sampled by a number of methods. They have been taken using dip nets and rotenone and have been identified by swimming through an area and from photographs taken by the benthic team. lists the species identified from this area and the method used to sample them. Table 2 lists only those species taken by rotenone and the numbers taken at each station. For locations of these stations see Fig. 1. No samples taken thus far have turned up species which are unusual for this end of the island and all species thus far can be characterized as reef, rocky shoreline, pelagic or sandy bottom dwelling species. The habitats which these fish prefer are more or less continuous from Cabo Rojo to Aguadilla and all have pelagic larvae except for the blennies. Wide spread damage to these species then seems unlikely. Sampling is proceeding on a quarter year basis and will be continuations of the sampling procedures above.

Species	*Sampling Method	**Normal habitat
Echidna catenata - Chain Moray	R	Rf
Gymnothorax sp Moray (juv.)	R	Rf
Harengula clupeola - False pilchard	R	P
Jenkinsia lamprotaenia - Dwarf Herring		P
Arcos rubrigenosus - Red Clingfish	R	Rk
Atherinomorus stipes - Hardhead Silver		P
Adioryx vexillarius - Dusky Squirrelfi	.sh R	Rf, Rk
Holocentrus sp Squirrelfish	S	Rf, Rk
Serranus sp Grouper	S	Rf, Rk
Malacanthus plumieri - Sand Tilefish	P	SB
Caranx fuscus - Bluerunner	S	P
Caranx ruber - Bar Jack	S	P
Lutjanus apodus - Schoolmaster	S,R	Rf, Rk
Haemulon parrai - Sailorschoice	R	Rf
Pseudupeneus maculatus - Spotted Goatf	ish S	SB
Pempheris schomburgki - Copper Sweeper		Rf
Pomacanthus arcuatus - Gray Angelfish		Rf
Abudefduf saxatilis - Sergeantmajor	R,D,S	Rf, Rk
Abudefduf taurus - Night Sergeant	R	Rk
Eupomacentrus leucostictus - Beaugrego	ry S	Rf
Eupomacentrus variabilis - Cocoa Damse		Rf
Eupomacentrus sp Damselfish	P	Rf
Mugil liza - Liza	D	P
Mugil sp Mullet (juvenile)	R	P
Thalassoma bifasciatum - Bluehead	D,S	Rf, Rk
Unidentified small wrasses	R,P	Rf
Scarus sp Parrotfish	S	Rf
Sparisoma sp Parrotfish	S	Rf
Dactyloscopus tridigitatum - Sand		
Stargazer Walle Walle	R	SB
Blennius cristatus - Molly Miller	D	Rk
Entomacrodus <u>nigricans</u> - Pearl Blenny	R	Rk

Species	*Sampling Method	**Normal habitat
Ophioblennius atlanticus - Redlip Bler unidentified juvenile blenny	nny S R	Rf
<u>Acanthemblemaria</u> <u>spinosa</u> - Spinyhead Blenny	D	Rk
Coralliozetus cardonae - Twinhorn Blen	nny D	Rk
Labrisomus guppyi - Mimic Blenny	R	Rk
Labrisomus nuchipinnis - Hairy Blenny	R	Rf, Rk
Malacoctenus versicolor - Barfin Blen	ny R,D	Rk
Paraclinus fasciatus - Banded Blenny	Ŕ	Rk
Unidentified juvenile clirid	${f R}$	
Bathgobius soporator - Frillfin Goby	R,D	Rk, Rf
Acanthurus bahianus - Ocean Surgeon	S,P	Rf
Acanthurus coeruleus - Blue Tang	S,P	Rf
Acanthurus sp. larval	R	
Balistes vetula - Queen Triggerfish	P	Rf
Melichthys niger - Black Durgeon	P	Rf

^{*}R = Rotenone stations, 15 & 16 January 1973

S = Swimming mostly around "Steps", July 1972.

P = Photographs, benthic team samples, January 1973
D = Dipnetting 18 February and 6 May 1972.

^{**}Rf = Coral Reef fishes

Rk = Rocky shoreline or Rock Reef area fish

P - Pelagic

SB = Sardy bottom, or sand patch species.

COLLECTING SITES

- Beach near Toñito's Place. l.
- Picnic Rock a large rock formation on Punta Gorda. 2.
- Splash Pools N. of Dome. 3.
- Rock Groin and protected water at the old Bonus outfall. 4.
- Rocky shore between Dome and Lighthouse. 5.
- Rocky shore just S. of Lighthouse. 6.
- 7. Surfer's Beach
- 8. Small channel in the beach rock N. of Steps.
- Runnel behind a beach rock outcropping N. of Steps. 9.
- 10. Steps

Acanthurus sp. Surgeonfish (juv.)		*								
Acanthurus sp.							_			
vdob artilian		* 9	*		ĺ		·2*	_		
Bathgobius soporator	100 100	ĺ	,_						3 Mil.	
Unidentified Clinid	*-									
Paraclinus fasciatus					۲-۱					
Malacoctenus versicolor	10.00				. i					
Hairy blenny				1	3.8		10			
Labrisomus nuchipinnis										
Igdqu3 sumosiadal	1			٦	Ň					
Byenny							*			
Unidentified		100m - \$110					1*			
Pearl Blenny	75 - 350	1				N	_			
Entomacrodus nigricars	201	6	8	-		CQ .]			
reitly terium Sand Stargazer								i		
Dactyloscopus				4						8
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Unidentified			-							
Wullet (iuv.)						3	*			
Might Sergeart		<u> </u>								7.0
Abudefduf taurus	*	*					4*			
Sergeantmajor	*2	25	İ		*		2*		2*	1*
Abudefduf saxatilis	2	S	ļ.,.		1		[2			
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Schoolmaster Haemulon parrai		H	十				_			
subods suns tal	*	L	1 _0 _0							
Dusky Squirrelfish	- Li									
Adioryx vexillarius		_	-	\vdash	7				-	
Hardhead Silverside				27				ļ		
Red Clingfish stipes Atherinomorus stipes			- 13			-				
Arcos rubrigenosus]		2						
False pilchard				9						
Harengula clepeola	_	-	+	۳			-		-	
Gymnothorax sp. Moray (juv.)					*					
Charm Moray Sh	├	╁╌	\vdash	-			-			
Echidna catenata Chain Moray]		*						
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	Toñito's e		Ø	at	Shore between and Lighthouse	ić gu	Beach	Channel Steps	<u></u>	
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	near	絽	P	oi	F F	lo to	w	Chann	1.2	
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	ch	걸	28	يح	ocky	ock Shore jus of Lighthouse	тe	Small N of	Steps	j DE
	Beach	Picnic Rock	Splash	Rock Groin at Dome	Rocky	Rock Shore just of Lighthouse	Surfer's	Small N of	Runnel Steps	Steps
	lan -	12	S	IX.	J#	<u> </u>	0,	107	Г.	107

* at least some specimens were juvenile

APPENDIX A

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would cut the beach at the dock area so there would be a "north beach" accessible from Aguada and "south beach" accessible from near the gate to the PRWRA site.

With ready access, adequate oil spill guards, and planting to screen the area from the public there should be no loss to recreational or aesthetic values.

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Fauna observed in Punta Higuero was restricted. This was partially due to a natural paupacy in local fauna. Also transect observations do not get many of the more shy or rare birds or animals. These require trapping and covert observation. Macrofauna consisted mainly of pelicans, rats, mongoose, cats, and dogs. All, except pelicans, are introduced pest species.

FAUNA LIST

Reptiles and Amphibians

Leptodactylid frog
Bufo marinus
Anolis crystatellus
Anolis sp.

AVES

Crotophaga ani
Tyrannus dominicensis
Mimus polyglottos
Quiscalus niger

MAMMALS (native)

Noctilionid bat

PROBABLE UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

The most probable adverse effects are those physical effects relating to removal of the vegetation for development and disruption of run-off patterns. Nothing can be done about the former. A partial compensation can be made by planting fringe areas (Possible Remedial Actions). This action, plus care in grading, should help in advoiding the bad effects of disrupting run-off patterns.

POSSIBLE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Designed Successional Forests:

Many attractive and useful plant species are normal members of the secondary successional forest. These include coconuts, almendras, mangos, royal palms, tamarindo, cocoloba, casuarine, spodilla (manilkara), flamboyan, gumbo limbo, etc. These hardy species can be planted along roads and the perimeters of developed areas. This would serve to (a) promote natural succession, (b) provide a screen against noise, dust, ambient heat, etc., (c) cover the plant from public view.

Beach Front Parks:

The beach areas of Puerto Rico are considered public domain. Therefore, any unsightly, hazardous, or prohibitive developments are undesirable. By and large, the beach front areas (stippled in Fig.3) are not planned for extensive development. Much of the scenic beauty and community value could be preserved by leaving existing natural areas, planting trees along roads, (by the fences) and between the beach and the plant and water front (dock) area. Exclusion fences for the PRWRA facilities would be essential. This

TABLE 3. Species list for the secondary successional forest on the Limestone Hills at Punta Higuero.

TREES IN THE SECONDARY FOREST

Artocarpus altilus
Bucida buceras
Busera simaruba
Casearia guianensis
Cocos nucifera
Ficus stahlii
Guarea trichilioides
Manganifera indica
Piper aduncum
Roystonea borinqueña
Thounia striata
Terminalia catappa
Zanthoxylum martinicense

SHRUBS

Duggena hirsuta involucrata
L. camara
Solanum torvum
Urena sp.

VINES

Abrus abrus
Ipomea sp.
Melothria guadalupensis
Passiflora sp.
Stigmaphyllon tomentosum
Urechistes lutea

FERNS

Adiantum cristutum
Polypodium sp.
Camphyloneurum sp.
Tectaria heracleifolia

TABLE 3. (cont.)

HERBS

Anthurium acaule
Borreria laevis
Cassia tora
Crotalaria incana
Desmodium spp.
Lobelia robusta
Mimosa pudica
Pilea sp.
Stachytarpheta jamaicense
Wedelia sp.

$\mathtt{GRA}\,\mathtt{SSE}\,\mathtt{S}$

Digitaria sanguinalis
Paspalum spp.
Sporabolus sp.

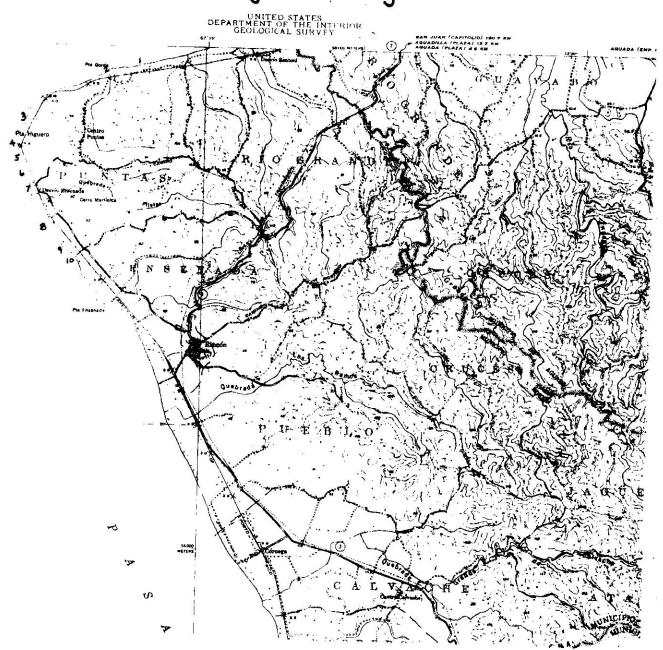


Figure 1 - Collecting Sites

Additions to the Fish Species Lists

for the

Punta Higuero Site

by F. D. Martin

On 12 March 1974 two shoreline rotenone stations were done. One was at the station designated as Picnic Rock in the 1973 first quarter report and the other was at a beach rock outcropping between stations 7 and 8 of that report.

Species taken are as follows:

Species	Previously Reported	Picnic Rock	Station 7.5
Echidna catenata-Chain Moray	X		
Gymnothorax spMoray (juv.)	Х		
Gymnothorax vicinus-Purplemouth Moray		X	x
Harengula clupeola-False Pilchard	X		
Harengula humeralis-Redear Sardine			x
Jenkinsia lamprotaenia-Dwarf Herring	X	X	
Anchoa lamprotaenia-Bigeye Anchovy			X
Arcos rubrigenosus-Red Clingfish	Х		X
Ogilbia sp.			X
Parophidion schmidti-Dusky Cusk-eel			Х
Atherinomorus stipes-Hardhead Silversi	đe X		
Adioryx vexillarius-Dusky Squirrelfish	X	24	X
Scorpaena plumieri-Spotted Scorpionfish	h	X	Х
Epinephalus adscensionis-Rock Hind		X	X
Serranus spGrouper	χ		

Pseudogramma gregoryi-Reef Bass	8		
		χ	Х
Rypticus subbifrenatus-Spotted Soapfish Apogon maculatus-Flamefish			x
			X
Malacanthus plumieri-Sand Tilefish	Χ		
Caranx fuscus-Bluerunner	X		
Caranx ruber-Bar Jack	Х		
Trachynotus goodei-Palometa		Х	
<u>Lutjanus</u> <u>apodus-Schoolmaster</u>	Х		
Haemulon carbonarium-Caesar Grunt			х
Haemulon parrai-Sailors Choice	χ		х
Pseudupeneus maculatus-Spotted Goatfish	Х	X	x
Pempheris schomburgki-Copper Sweeper	X		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Chaetodon striatus-Banded Butterflyfish		Х	
Pomacanthus arcuatus-Gray Angelfish	X		
Abudefduf saxatilis-Sergeant Major	X	Х	х
Abudefduf taurus-Night Sergeant	Χ		
Eupomacentrus fuscus-Dusky Damselfish			Х
Eupomacentrus leucostictus-Beaugregory	Х		
Eupomacentrus rariabilis-Cocoa Damselfish	X		
Mugil Liza-Liza	X		
Mugil sp. (juveniles)	X	9	
Doratonotus megalepis-Dwarf Wrasse			χ
<u>Halichoeres</u> <u>bivittatus</u> -Slippery Dick			Х
Halichoeres maculipinna-Clown Wrasse	Œ		Х
<u>Halichoeres</u> poeyi-Blackear Wrasse			х
Thalassoma bifasciatum-Bluehead	χ		Х
Scarus spParrotfish	X		

Sparisoma chrysopterum-Redtail Parrotfish			X
Sparisoma radians-Bucktooth Parrotfish			X
Sparisoma rubripinne-Redfin Parrotfish		X	X
Dactyloscopus crossotus-Bigeye Stargazer		18	χ
Dactyloscopus tridigitatus-Sand Stargazer	Х	X	Х
Gillelus rubrocinctus-Saddle Stargazer			X
Blennius cristatus-Molly Miller	X	x	X
Entomacrodus nigricans-Pearl Blenny	X	X	X
Ophioblennius atlanticus-Redlip Blenny	X		Х
Acanthemblemaria spinosa-Spineyhand Blenny	x		
Coralliozetus cardonae-Twinhorn Blenny	X		
Labrisomus bucciferus-Puffcheek Blenny			X
Labrisomus guppyi-Mimic Blenny	Х		
Labrisomus nuchipinnis-Hairy Blenny	X	X	Х

6.1.4.3 Ecological Parameters

TERRESTRIAL SURVEY

By M.J. Canoy

INTRODUCTION

The terrestrial ecology of the Punta Higuero proposed power site is divided into three broad community regions: (A) coastal beach and limestone communities, (B) successional plains, and (C) dry limestone. These are sub-provinces of the dry coastal (Little & Wadsworth, 1946) province.

The Punta Higuero site and bordering area was surveyed in February, 1973 and 1974. For this purpose three transects were walked (Fig. 1) from east to west and three north to south. From these samples, species lists and locale of plant communities were established. From color aerial photos of the site, and referring to the surface transect data, a map of plant communities was drawn. Three spot checks were made in anomalous areas (marked, Fig. 1) to verify local conditions.

Faunal lists and region of occurrence were compiled by observation.

Avifauna includes the sea birds as well as terrestrial species.

The structure and appearance of any ecological association depends primarily on the species present and the relative numbers of each. In a normal tropical assemblage, the number of species might be very high. Puerto Rico, however, is a densely populated and severely disturbed area. Also, it is an isolated place in terms of zoogeography. Practically all remnants of the original forests are gone. In most cases, the "mature" forests are secondary or tertiary forests.

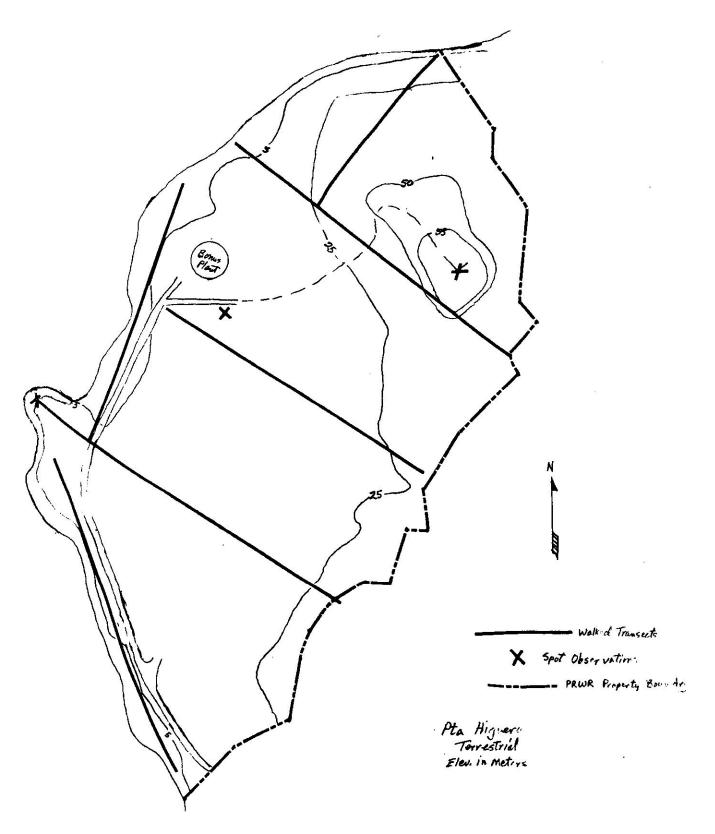


Fig. 1. Map of the Punta Higuero site showing orientation and sample locations.

Much of the island is kept in a permanent state of succession due to constant interference by man. The Punta Higuero site is no exception to this.

To determine the present and possible future trends of succession, we followed well-established ecological techniques. The accuracy and completeness of the work is more or less dependent on the activities of man, both locally and "up wind".

HISTORY

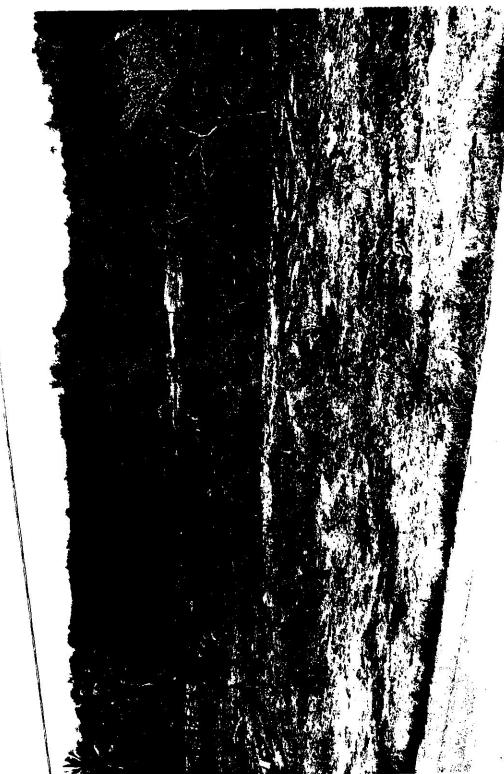
The general area is a more or less xerophytic coastal regime on sand and limestone with a narrow coastal plain of heavy clay. Some 200 years ago it was forested with dry country hard woods. When these were cut for lumber and fuel a secondary forest began. This was cleared off the plain area for sugar cane and off the hills for fuel.

Sugar cane culture continued until shortly before PRWRA acquired the land for the Bonus Reactor Project (approximately 1958). The area between Rincon and Punta Higuero is still in agricultural use for cane and for pasturage.

When PRWRA built the Bonus Reactor all the site not used in construction returned to a tropical old field succession. A few large breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis), Australian pine (piñero, Casuarina) and Royal Palms (Roystonea borinqueña) remained but the major vegetation was acacias, vines, and herbs. This grew to cover most of the plain and the lower hillsides. However, most of it was bulldozed away in January and February, 1974 (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Newly bulldozed area on the plain at Punta Higuero.



PLANT COMMUNITIES

The Beach Association (Map, Fig. 3) at the site is quite typical (Fig.4). The dominant trees are the almond (almendra, Terminalia catappa), sea-grape (uva del mar, Coccoloba uvifera), and coconuts (cocoa, Cocos nucifera).

Numerous small shrubs, herbs, and vines form a ground cover under the trees.

Common among these are mother-in-law toungues (Antharium), Lantana involucrata, Ipomea spp., and Solanum spp. Other species included are Scaevola plumieri

Crotalaria retusa, Bidens pilosa, Erithalaris sp., and Eugenia sp.

The beach community serves to hold the sand against wind and water, to make humus, and provide a basis for successional forests to follow. Also on a densely populated, tourist-oriented island, such as Puerto Rico, it serves to hide less esthetic aspects of farms, barrios, and industry from public view at the beaches. For these reasons it should be preserved.

On a small rocky point south of the Bonus plant there are a few Aguave and Plumieria alba. This outcrop is sand and clay over a limestone and beach rock conglomerate.

A list of the major species observed in the beach community is seen in Table 1.

Clay plains at the foot of the hills represent the most disturbed sector of the site. This area was cut over for timber many years ago, then cultivated, and finally left undisturbed when PRWRA put in the Bonus plant experiment. It was covered with old sugar can and zancilla (Leucaena glauca) (Fig. 5). Well over 90% of the biomass was in these two species. During the winter of 1973-74 this area was burned and bulldozed by PRWRA in preparation for construction (Fig. 2).

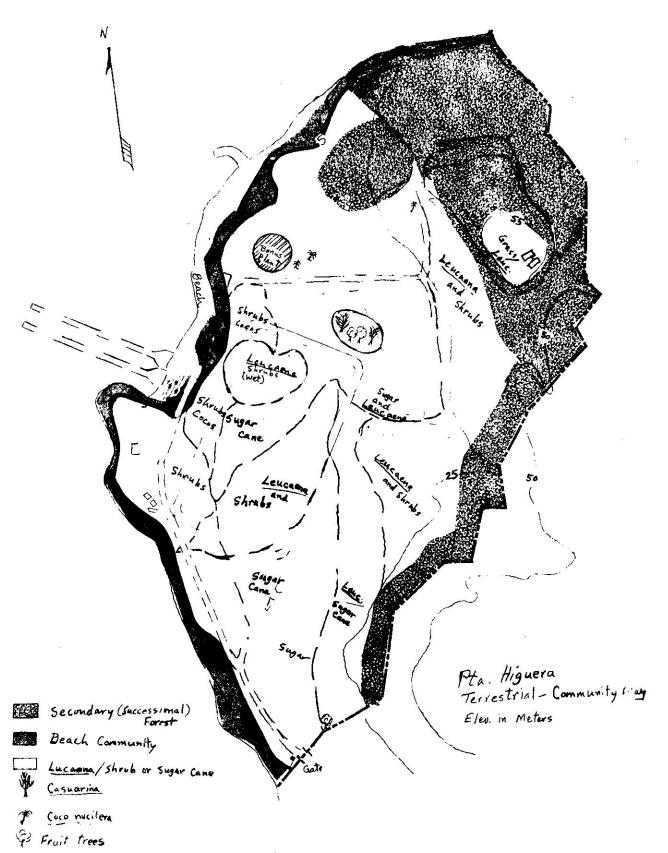


Fig. 3. Community map of Punta Higuero site showing approximate boundries.





Fig. 5. Inecaena glauca, the major natural component of the plains area plant community.

TABLE 1. Beach community species list.

TREES and SHRUBS

Cocos nucifera
Coccolobis uvifera
Chrysobalanus icaco
Lantana involucrata
Plumieria alba
Terminalia catappa
Erithalis fructicosa
Citharexylum fructicosum
Scaevola plumieri
Lantana camara
Solanum torvum

HERBS and VINES:

Crotalaria retusa
Indigofera suffruticosa
Stylosanthes hamata
Guilandia crista
Smilax coriacea
Ipomea spp.
Stigmaphyllon tomentosum
Anthurium acaule
Cassia tora
Lobelia robusta
Mimosa pudica
Hymenocallis littoralis

The few large trees left on the plain are casuarina (<u>Casuarina</u> equestrifolia), panapen (<u>Artocarpus altilis</u>), almendra (<u>Terminalia catalappa</u>), and palma real (<u>Roystonea borinqueña</u>). The species list for plants is found in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Species list for the plant community on the coastal plains at Punta Higuero.

TREES and SHRUBS:

Lantana involucrata
Leucaena glauca
Artocarpus altilis
Casuarina equiestrifolia
Terminalia catappa
Randia aculeata
Solanum torvum

HERBS and VINES:

Ipomea spp.
Rauwolfia tetraphylla
Crotalaria retusa
Indigofera suffruticosa
Bidens pilosa
Anthurium acaule
Cassia tora
Lobelia robusta
Mimosa pudica
Pilea sp.
Strachytarpheta jamaicense
Hymenocallis littoralis

GRASSES:

Andropogon glomeratus
Sporabolus indicus
S. porratii
Digitaria sanguinalis
Setaria geniculata

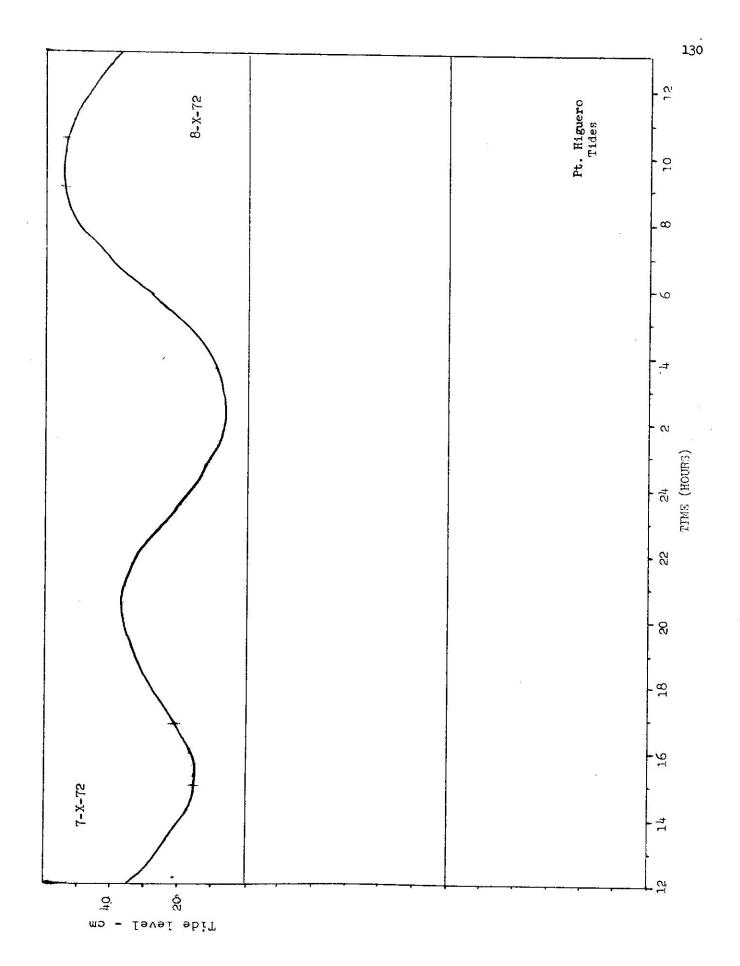
SECONDARY SUCCESSIONAL FOREST

The Limestone Hills plant association ranges from the dry communities on the western slopes of the hills to moist forest stands in low areas of the eastern slopes. This association has not been seriously disturbed for 15-30 years. It may serve as a propagation source for re-population of the undeveloped portions of the plain area.

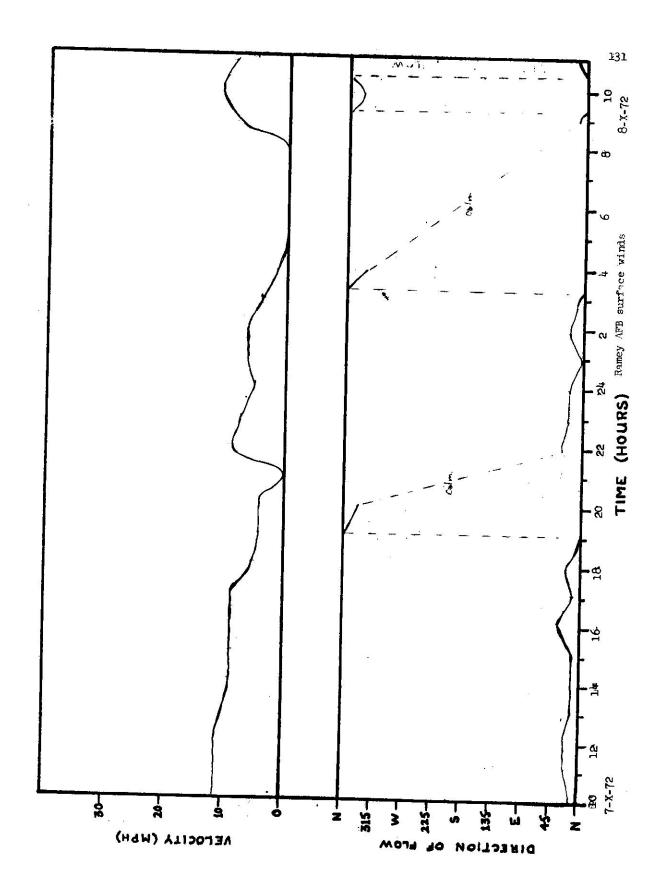
Near the base of the hills are Leucaena glauca, Bursera simaruba, and Zanthoxylum martenicinse. These are over an under-story of Piper spp., Dieffenbachia, Pothomorphe, Randia, Urena, and Amaranthus. Young mangos (Mangifera indica) and Royal Palms (Roystonea borinqueña) are appearing on the slopes from a few mature individuals up the hills. The grass and sugar cane from the flat area grades into shrubs and scrubby trees. No true demarcation can be made. A return to the mature forest would take a long period of time. A species list appears in Table 3.

The drier areas of forest do not have a large ground flora but they are difficult to walk through due to the numerous tree trunks, interlocking branches, and thorns.

Prominent trees are the gumbo limbo (<u>Bursera simaruba</u>), guebracho (<u>Thounia striata</u>), and guaranguao (<u>Guarea trichilioides</u>). On the east of the properties there are two moist valleys. Here are found mangos (<u>Mangifera indica</u>), panapen (<u>Artocarpus altilus</u>), some of the climbing grasses, <u>Lasiacis</u> and <u>Abrus</u>, also occur here.



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3	•39	722	90	.26	13.4	314
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			Ave.	.30	15.5	17
5	•73	1352	90	.49	25.0	2
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7	1.1	2037	90	•73	37•7	17
9	.91	1685	90	<u>.61</u>	<u> 31.2</u>	_10
			Ave.	. 58	29.8	11

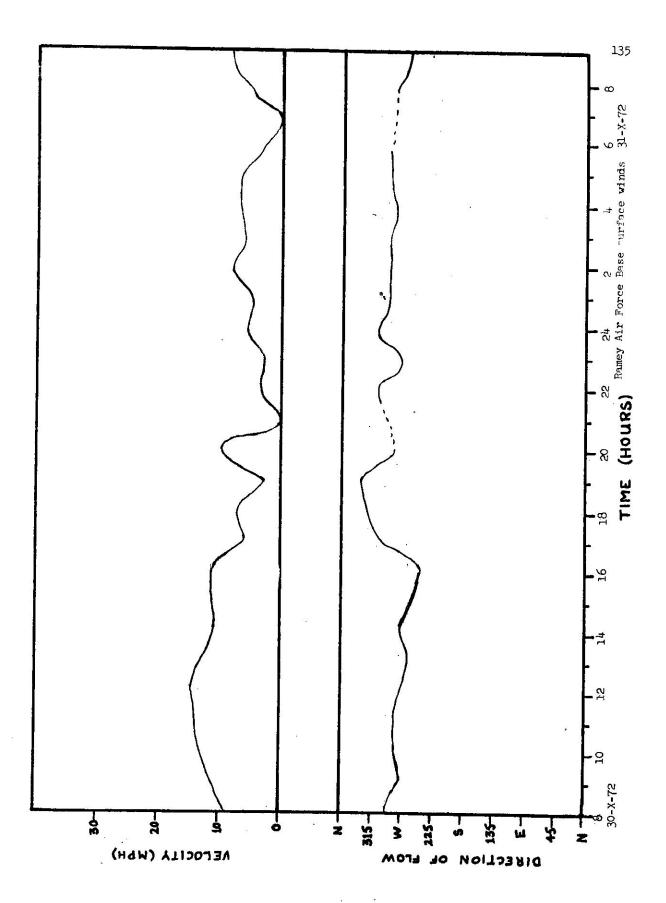
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Dye Drop (No.)		ance (m)	Time (min.)		ocity (cm/sec.)	Direction (deg)	
1	.48	889	120	.24	12.3	356	
2	.80	1482	120	.40	20.6	5	
3	1.16	2148	120	.58	29. 8	20	
4	1.10	2037	120	•55	28.3	36	
5	.25	463	120	<u>•33</u>	17.1	2	
			Ave.	•32	1.6.7	1	
6	.85	1574	120	•43	21.9	11	
7	1.1	2037	120	<u>.55</u>	28.3	_16	
			Ave.	•53	27.1	21	
8	*disappeared into a convergence.						

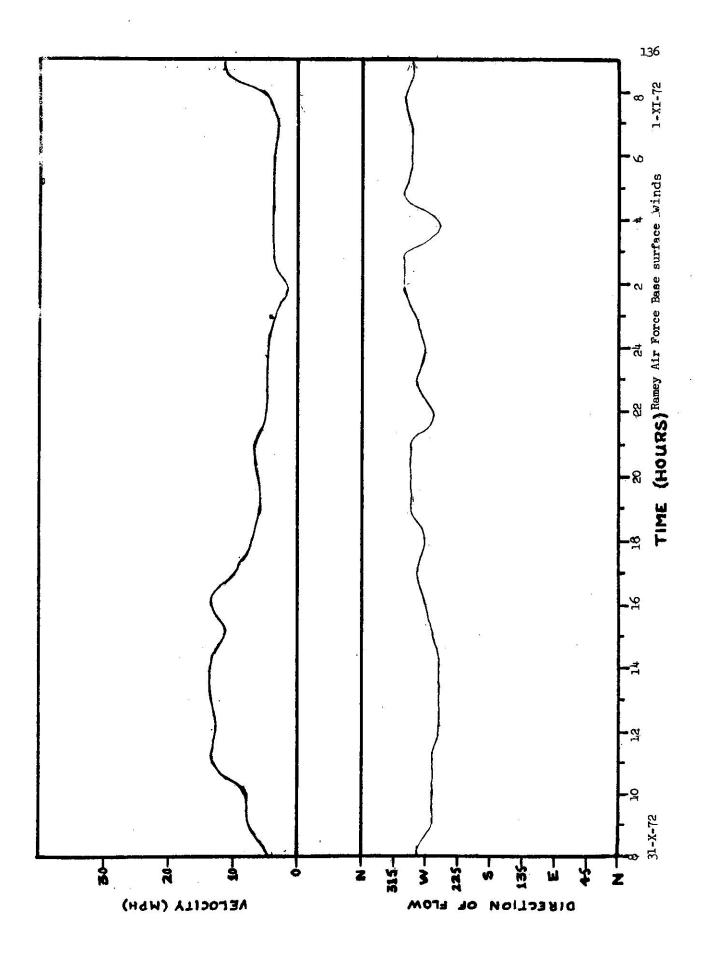
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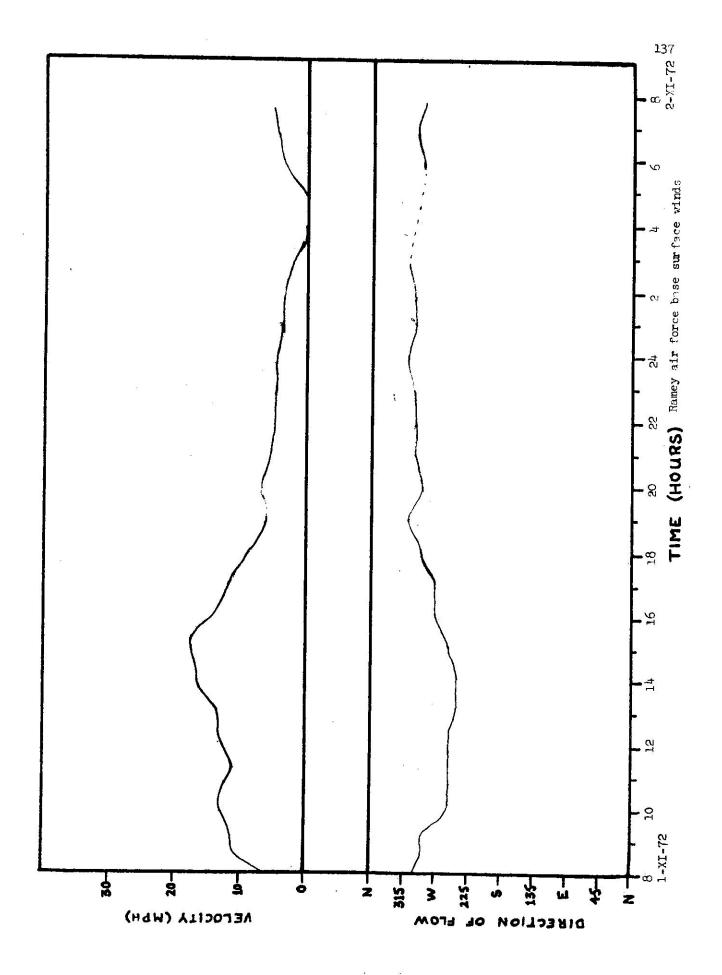
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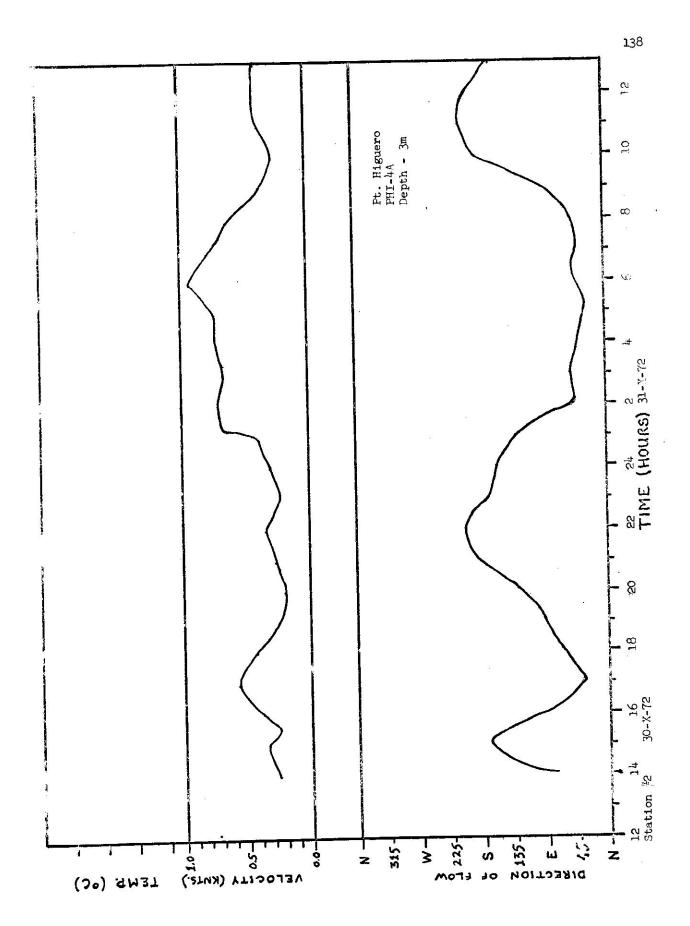
Dye Study

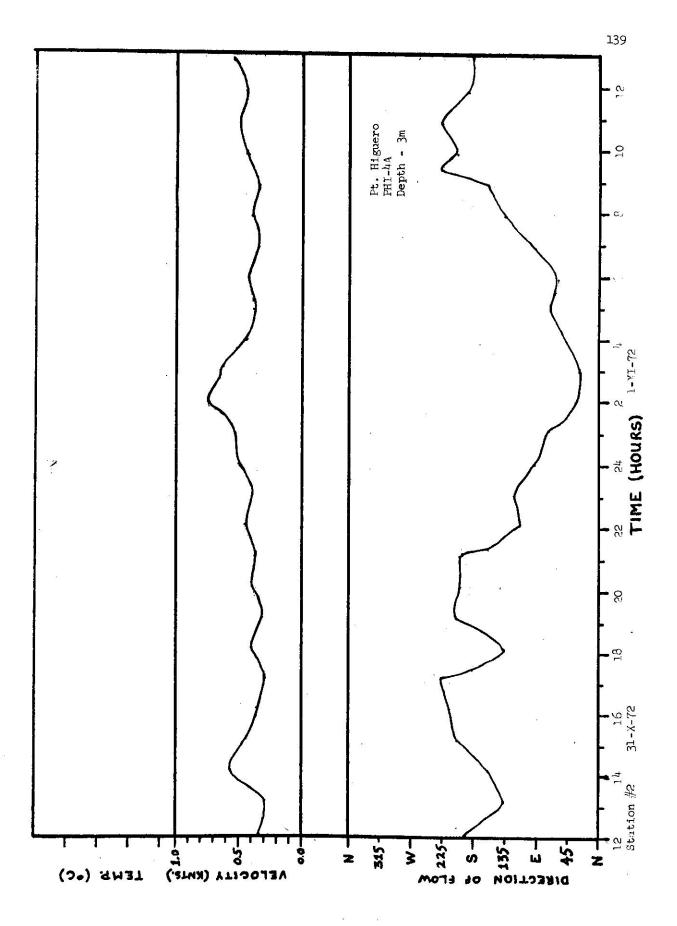
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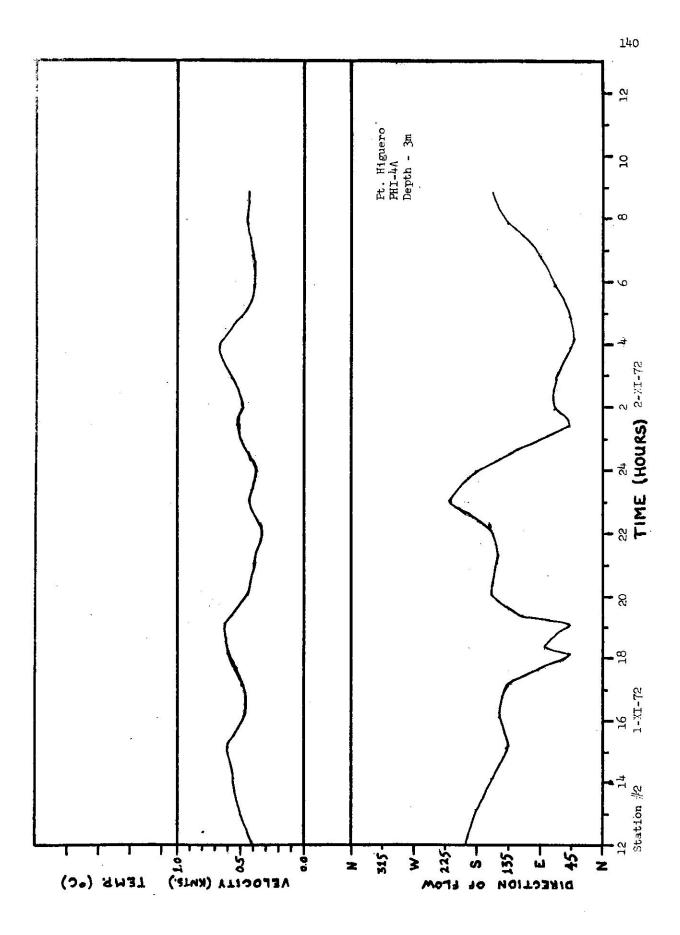


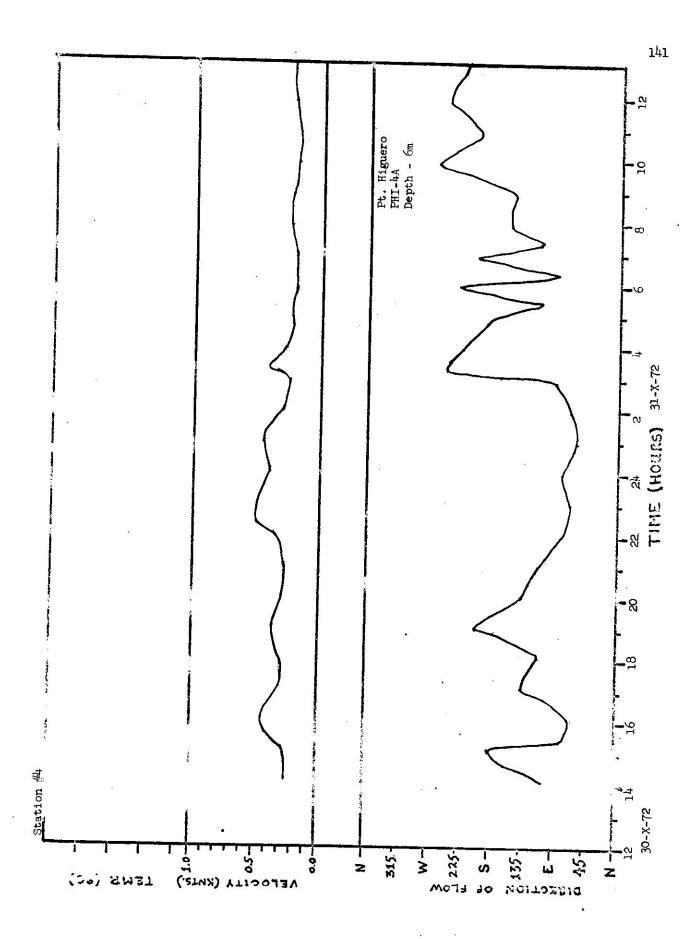


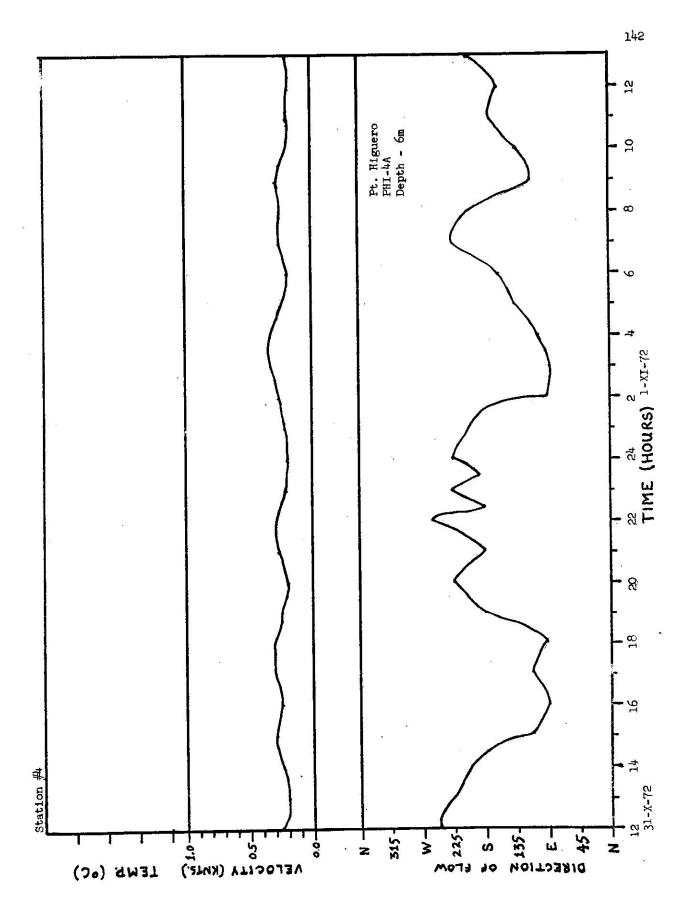


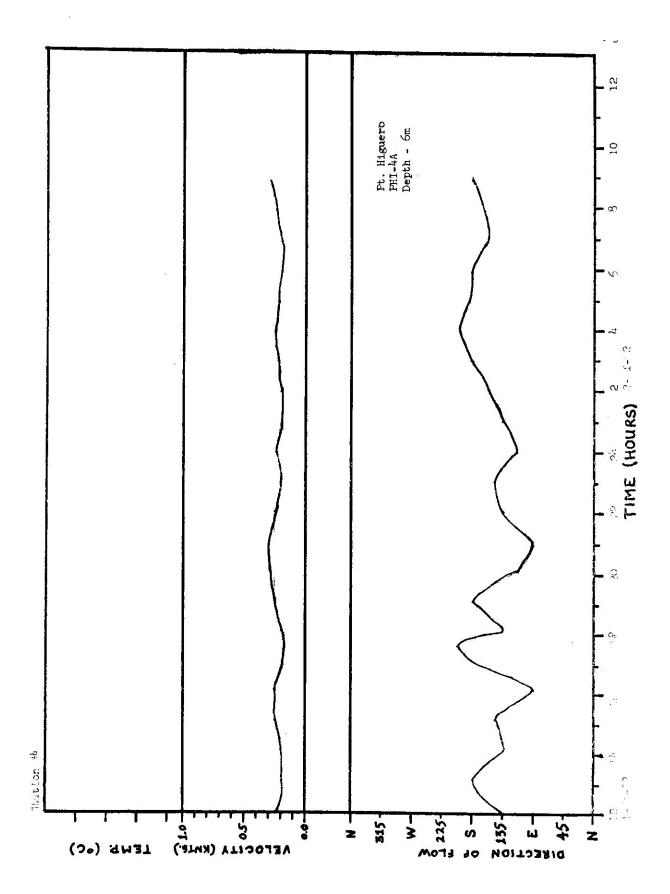


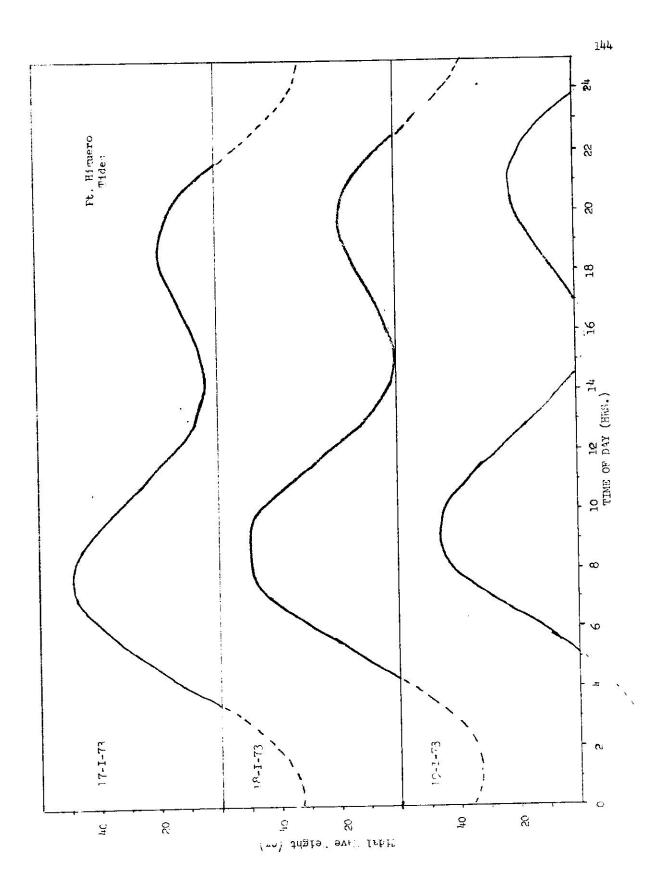


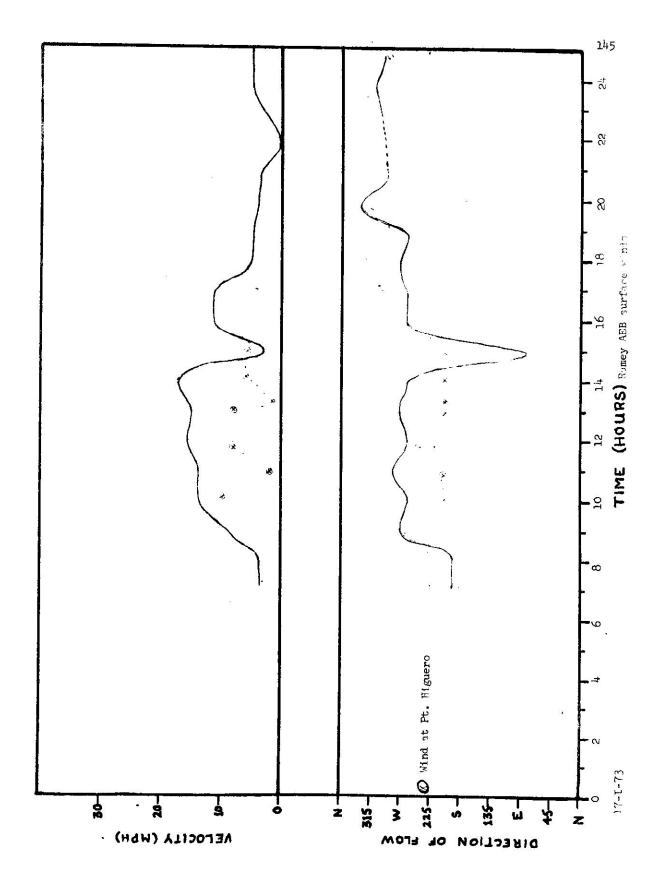


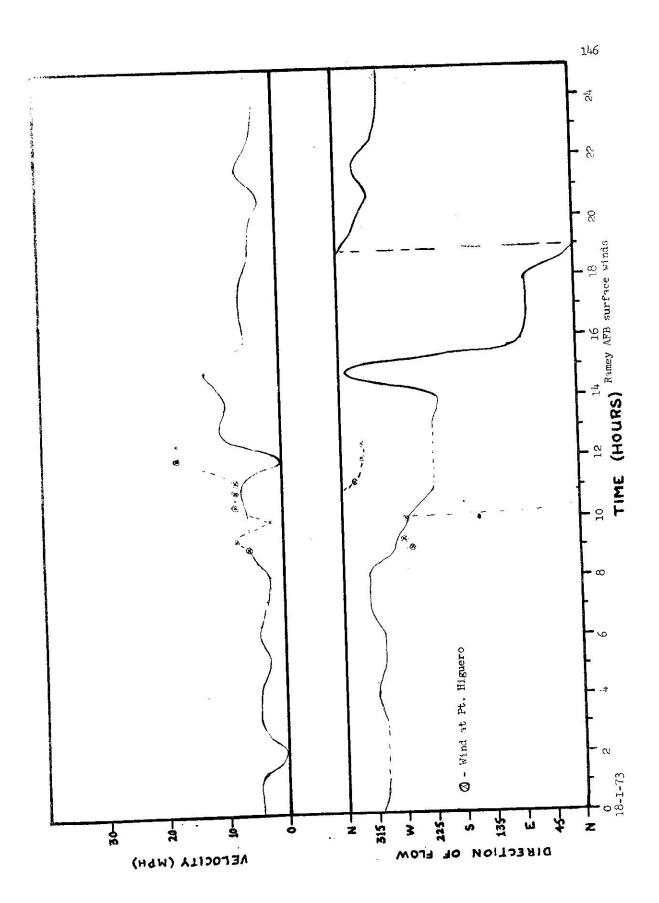


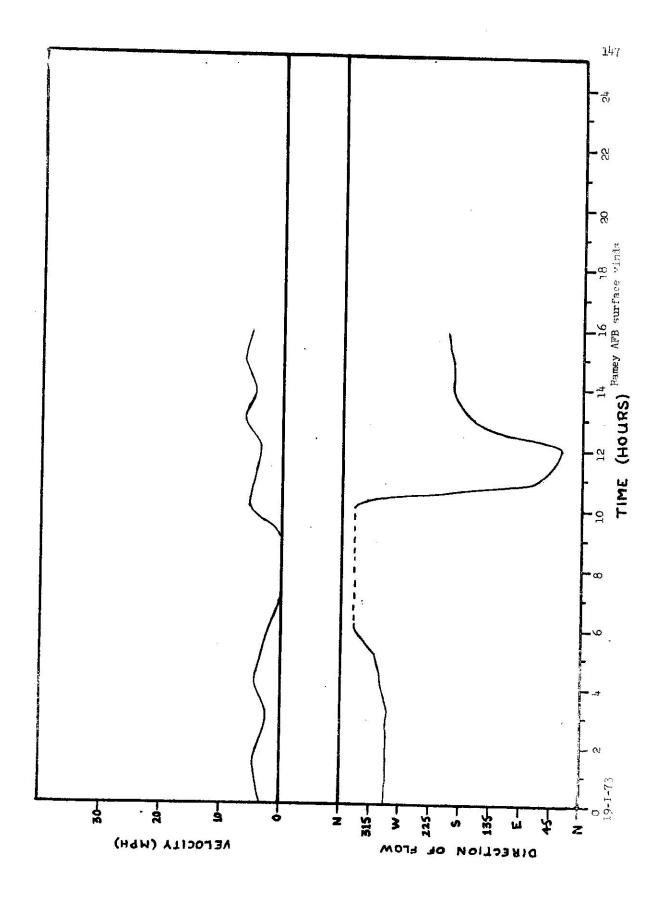




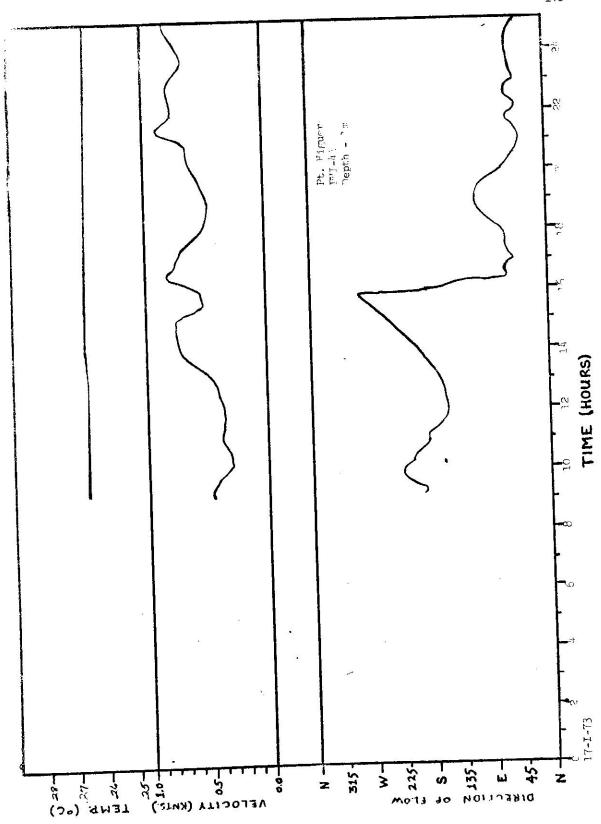


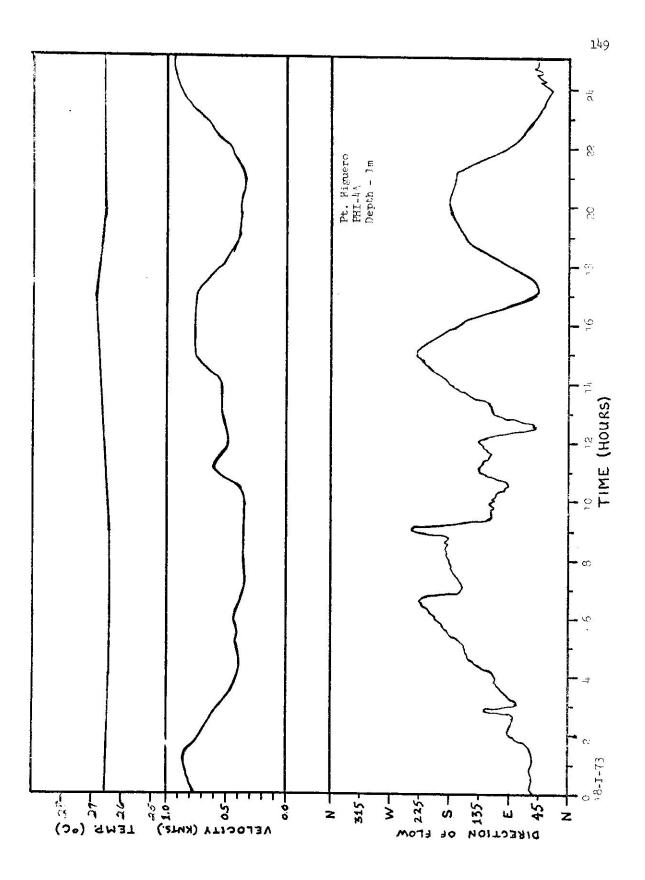


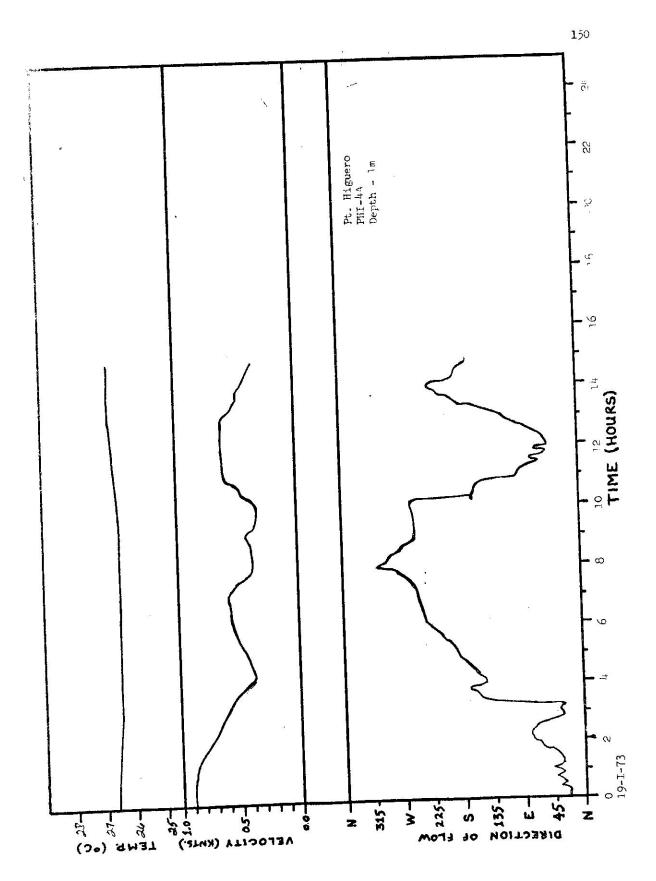


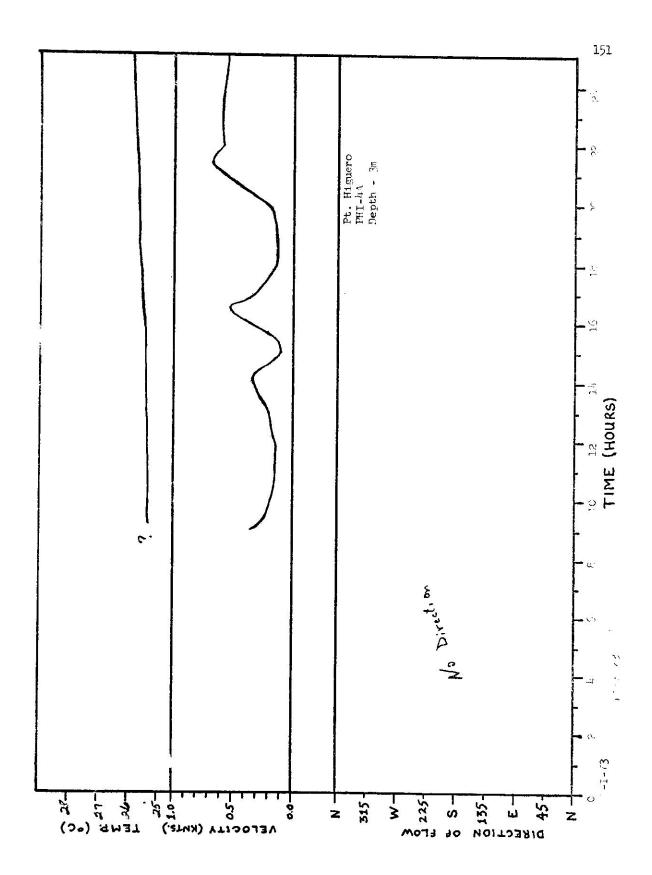


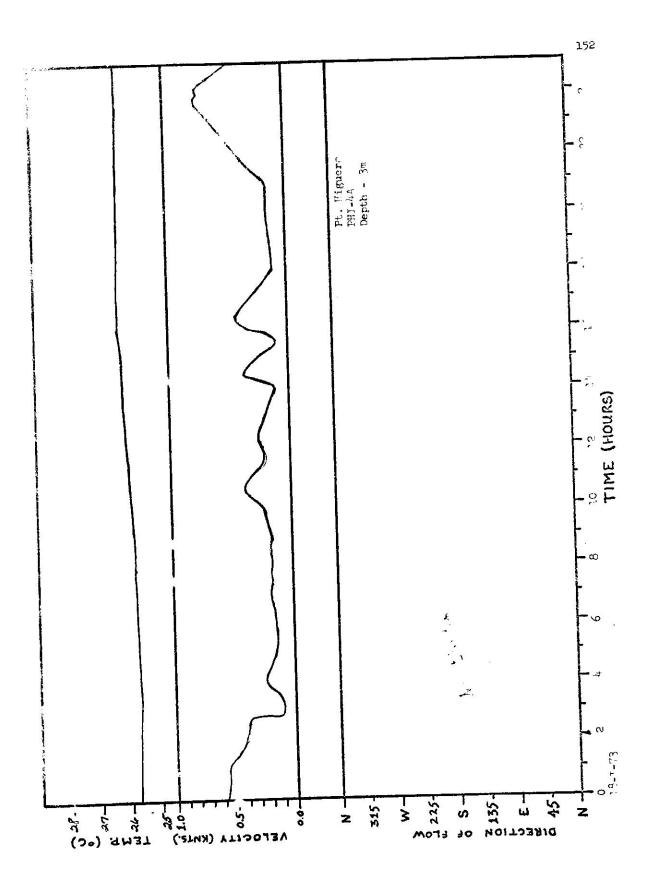








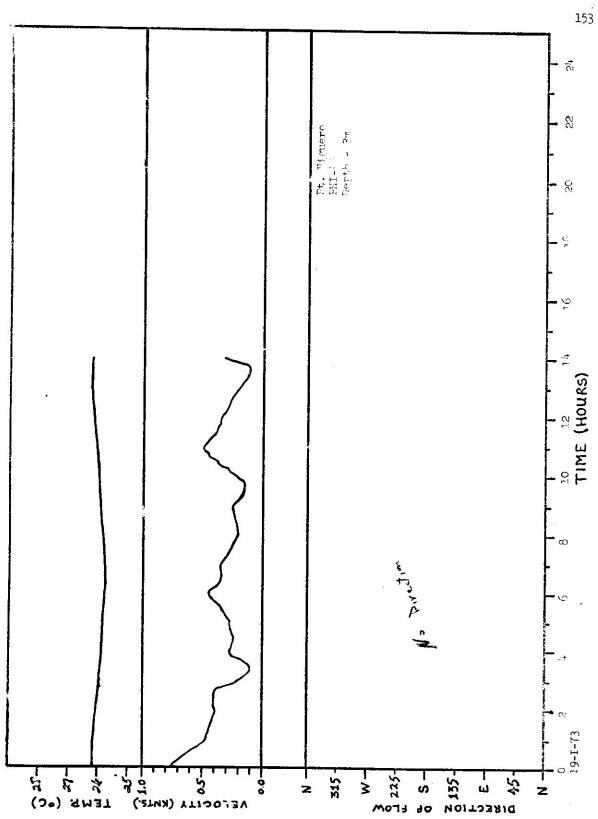


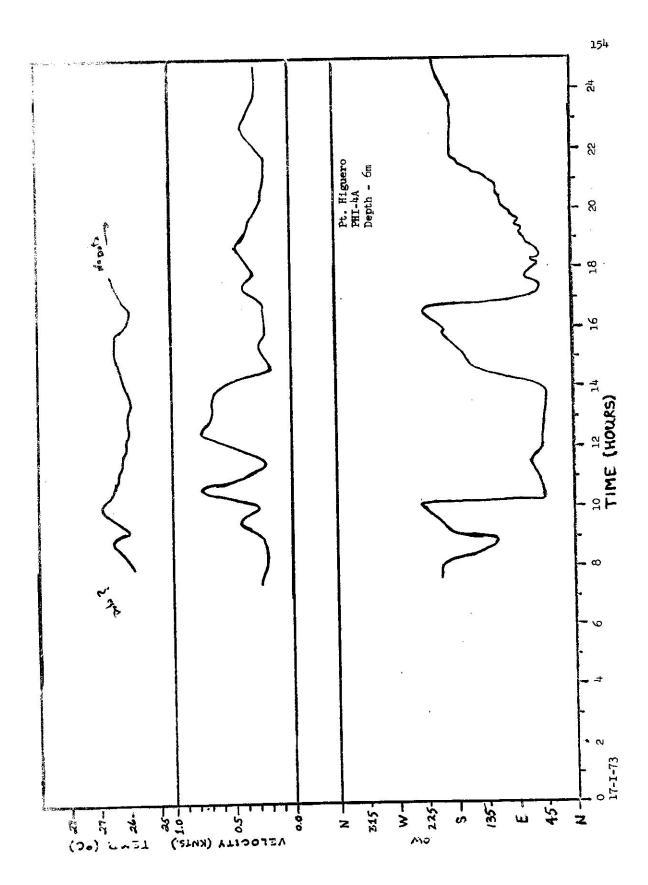


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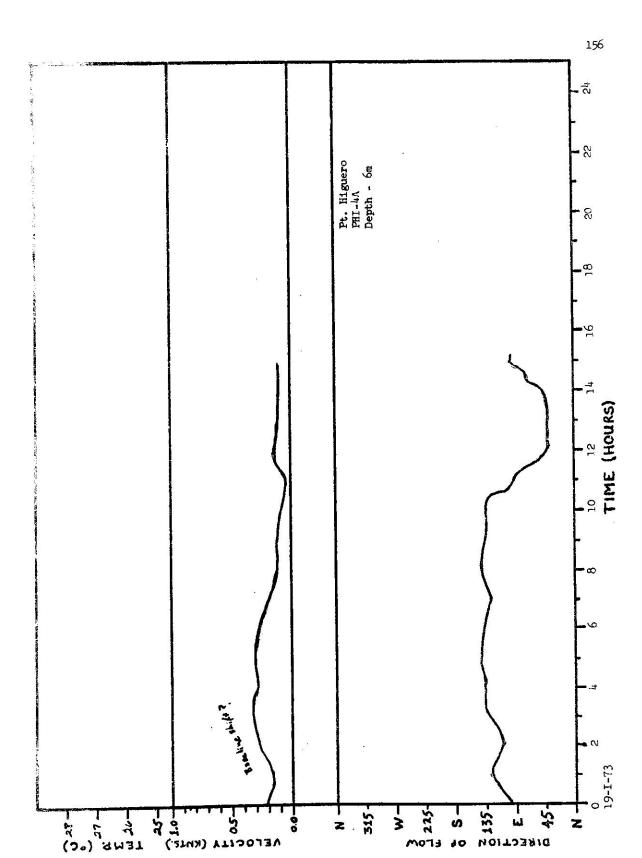
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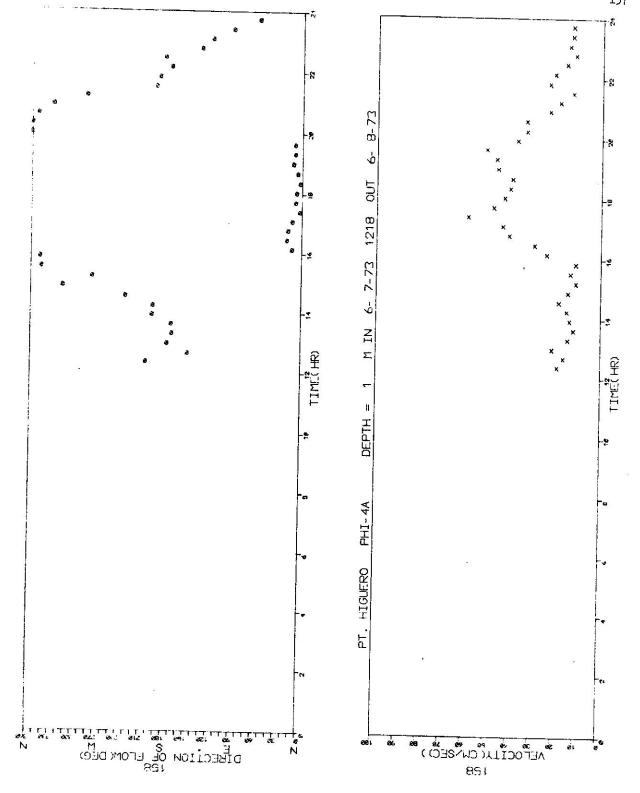
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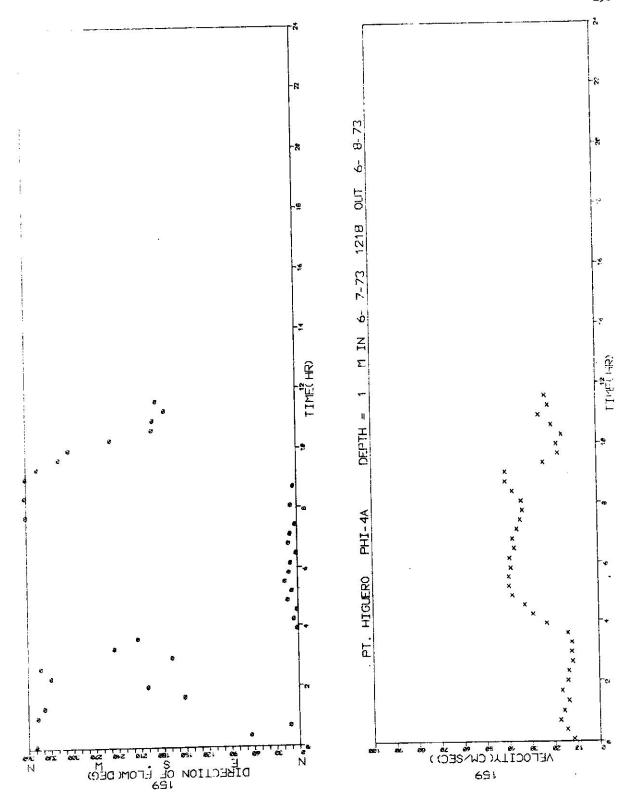


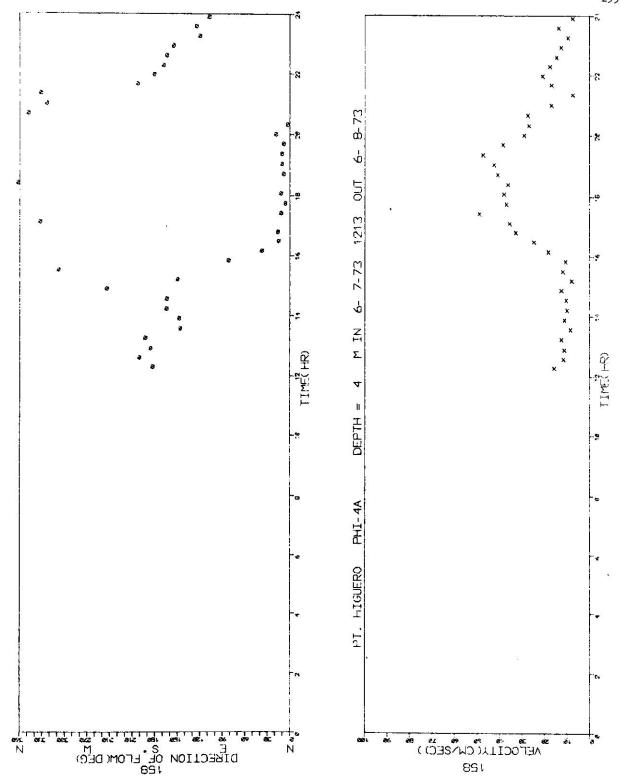
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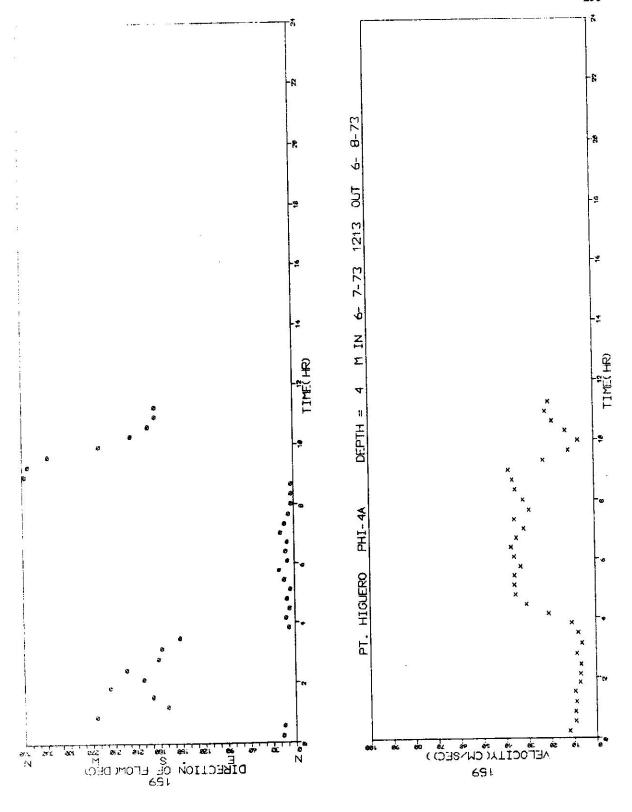


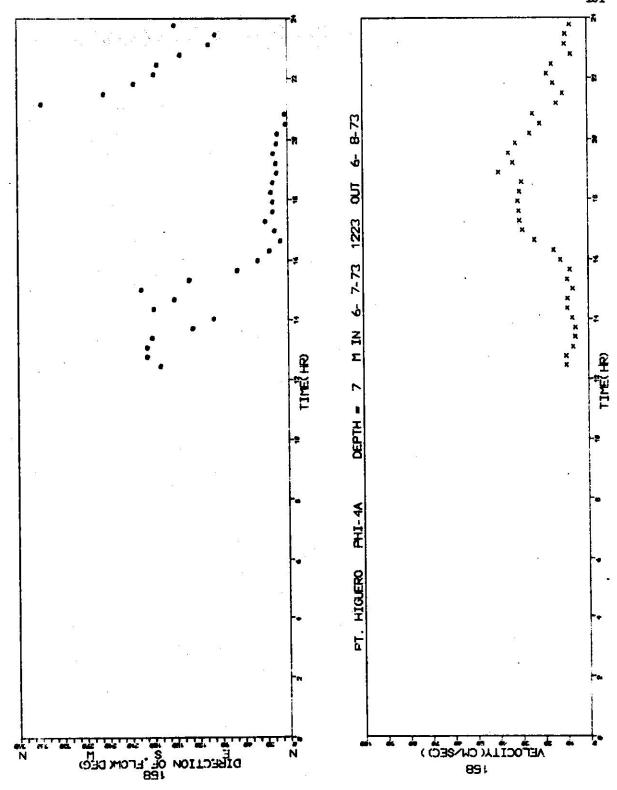


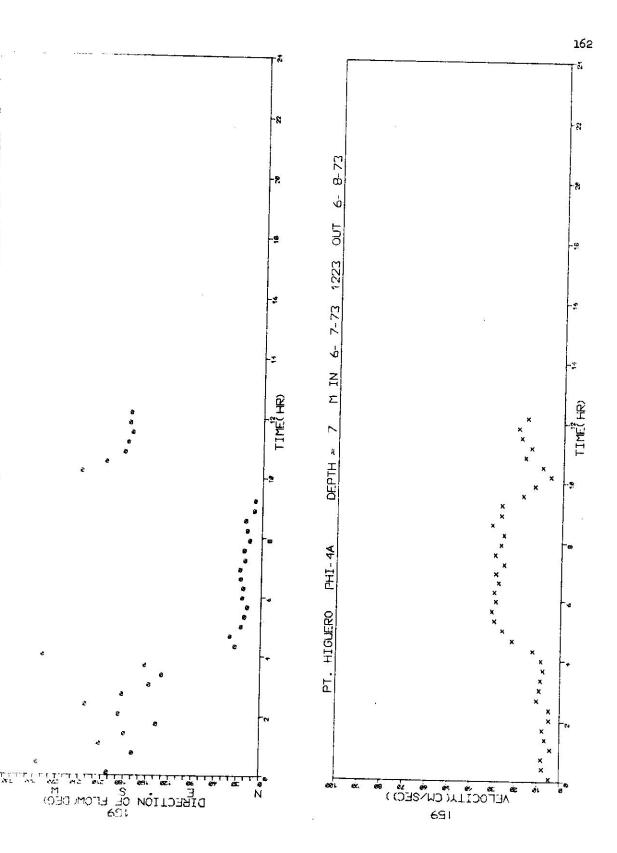


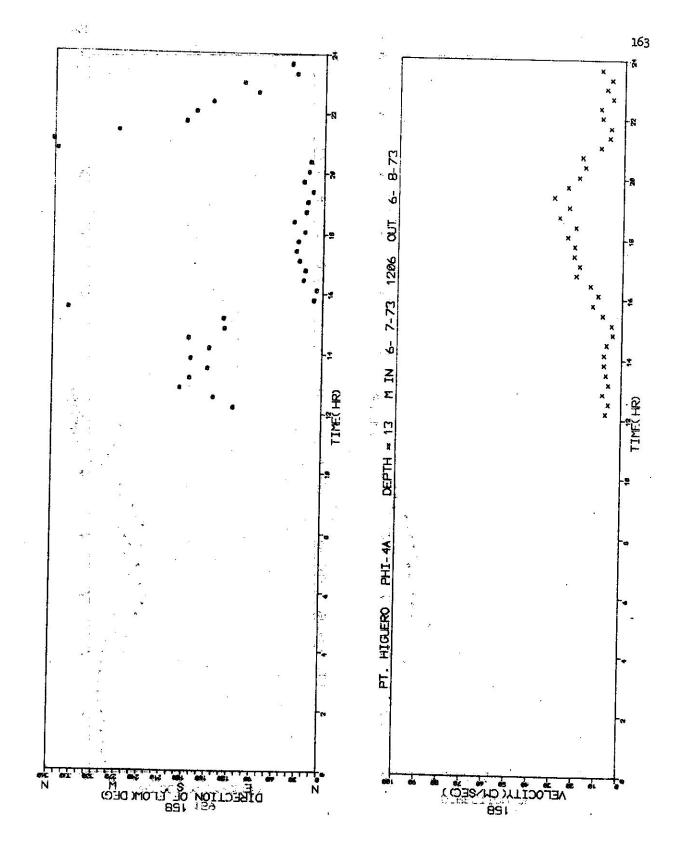


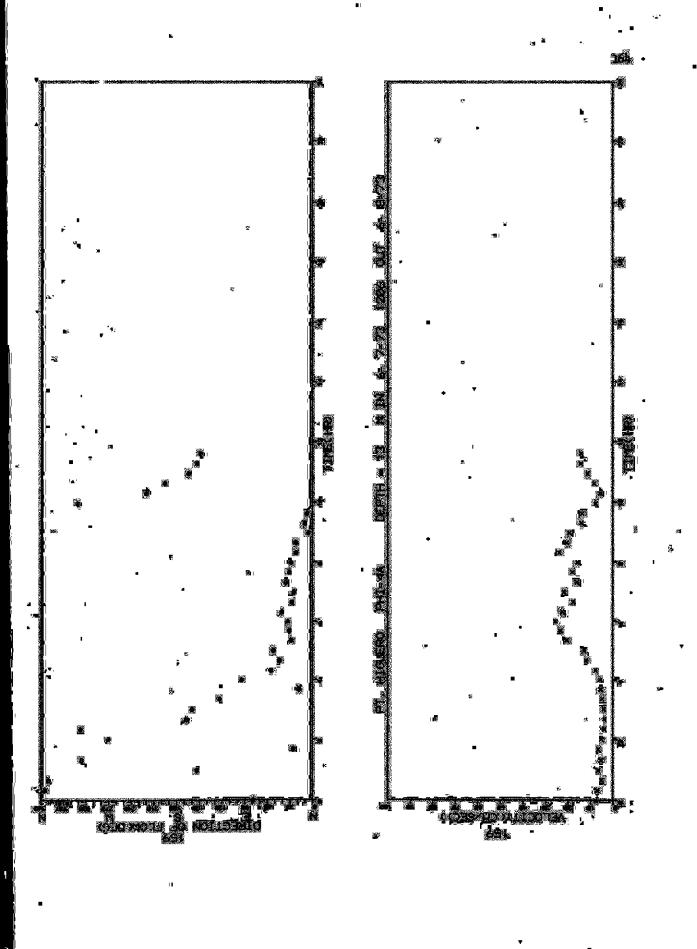












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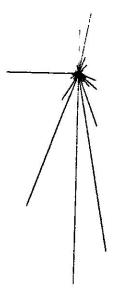
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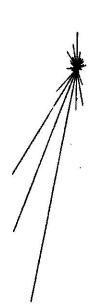
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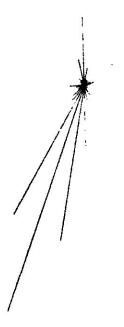
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215,	Table 4.—VISIBILITY CODE [Use range-finder readings of known landmarks if possible.]	Code Objects not visible Description	1 200 yards. Tolk fog. 2 400 yards. Tolk fog. 3 1,000 yards. Thin fog or mist. 5 2 nautical mile. Visibility poor. 6 5 nautical mile. Visibility poor.	l miles	Table 3.—CLOUD COYER CODE On Answer of aty course in tends No clouds. Less than 1 and 1.	6 6 6 7 and 8. 7 and 8. 9 and 9 plus. 9. Sky obscured.	Table 2.—CLOUD TYPE CODE One Stratus or Fractostratus (8t or Fs). Circus (Ci). 2. Circostratus (Cs). 3. Circostratus (Cs). 4. Altocumulus (Ac).	S. Altostratus (As). Stratocumulus (Ss). Cumulus or Fracticumulus (Cu or Fe) Cumulonimbus (Cb).
RIENTS IN UGWAT/L. LING DEPTH * E=2. R SGALE, H.O. 215. TH. FROM * E=1 ROUNDED, TABLE IN H.O.21. IOND. AND AMOUNT * H.O. 215 GODE.	Table &—COMPASS DIRECTION CODE or From Which Surface Wind is Blowing or From Which Wave System is Approaching, in	Calm. 5° to 14° 15° to 24° NNE.	33333333 2422 5222	105° to 114° ESE. 115° to 124° 125° to 124° E	155 to 184° 155 to 184° 155 to 184° 175 to 184° 8 185 to 184° 8 195° to 204° SSW.	215° to 224° 8W. 225° to 224° 8W. 235° to 246° W8W. 255° to 266° W8W. 255° to 266° W.	285° to 294° WNW. 205° to 304° 305° to 314° 315° to 324° NW. 335° to 344° NNW. 345° to 484° N. W. 55° to 484° N. W.	
PROPERTY OF	able 18.—FOREL WATER COLOR SCALE CODE		70 Yellowish-green Od Yellow Green, Od Green yellow, Od Green hellow, Od Green hellow, Od Yellow Yellow (WAIO Code 78)	Code Description Reight 13	y. es. velets:			Served or not observable. Clouds generally dissolving or exept clouds. Clouds generally dissolving or becoming less developed. State of sky on the whole un. Characteristic change of sky and the whole un. Characteristic change of sky discharacteristic change of sky discharacteristic developing. Litgle er. number indicate varior rain conditions.

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STATION PHI-5A	BARO 1813,4 WEATHER 82 TEMP DRY 29.8 VISIBILITY 8 TEMP NET 8.8 CLOUD TYPE 4 REL HUMID 874 CLOUD AMT 5	CAST 1 MESS TIME 17.0 GMT, 13 2 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 10 MIRE ANGLE 7 OXYGEN TITER 1680 METER WHEEL FACTOR .997
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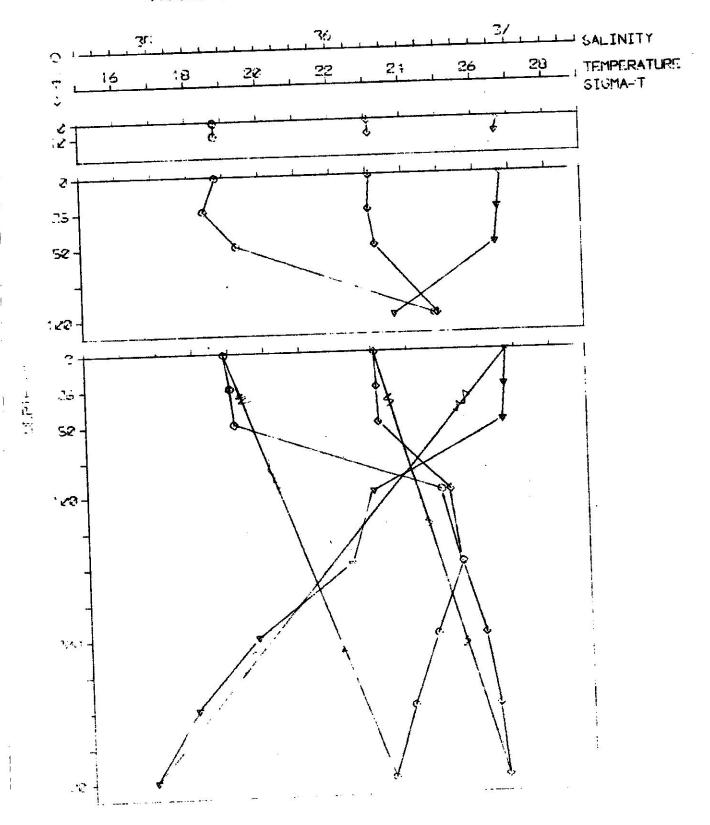
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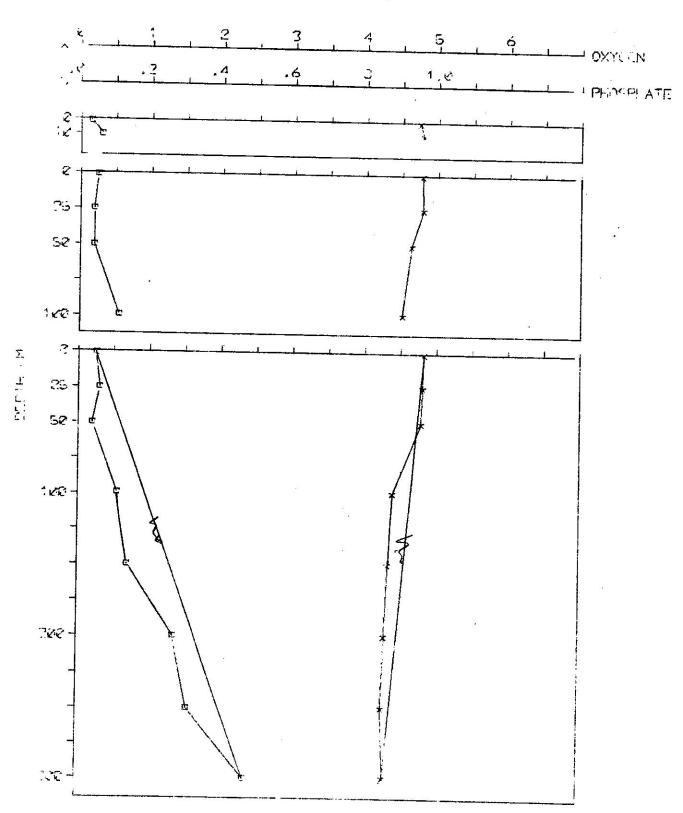
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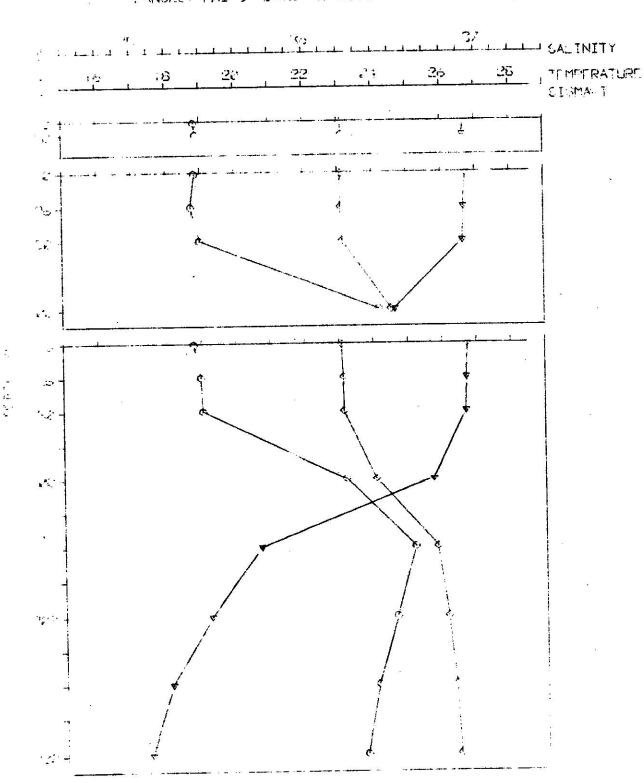
HYDROGIATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPERATURE, SALINITY AND SIGMA-T. TPANSECT PHI-2, DATE 1/18/77



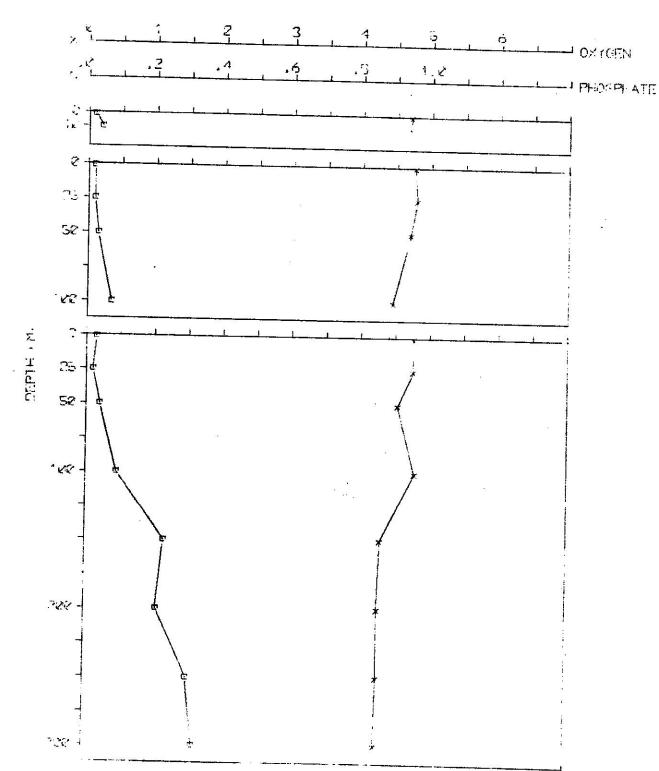
HYDROSTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CXYGEN AND REACTIVE PHOSPHATE.
TRANSECT PHI-2. DATE 1/18/73



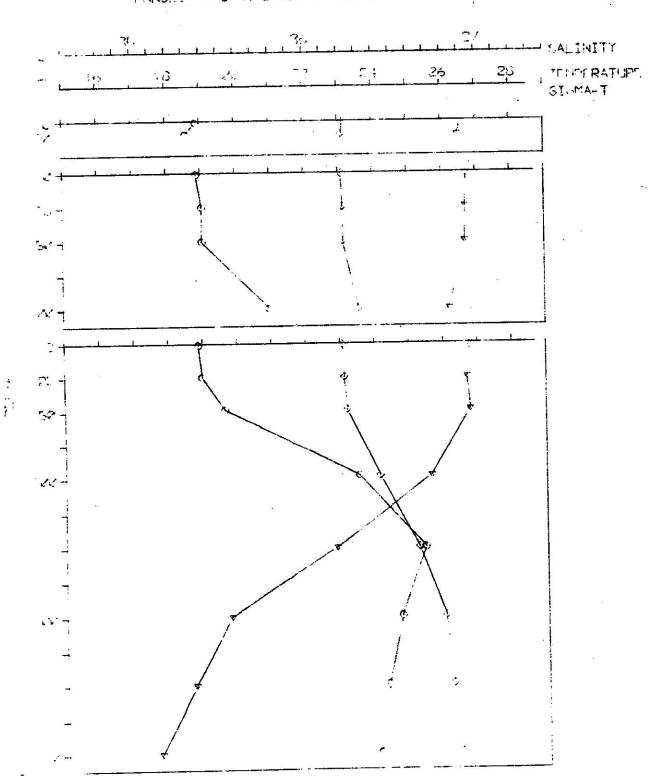
PADEDYTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPLEATURE. CALINITY AND CIGMA-T. TRANSECT PHI-3 DATE 1/18/73



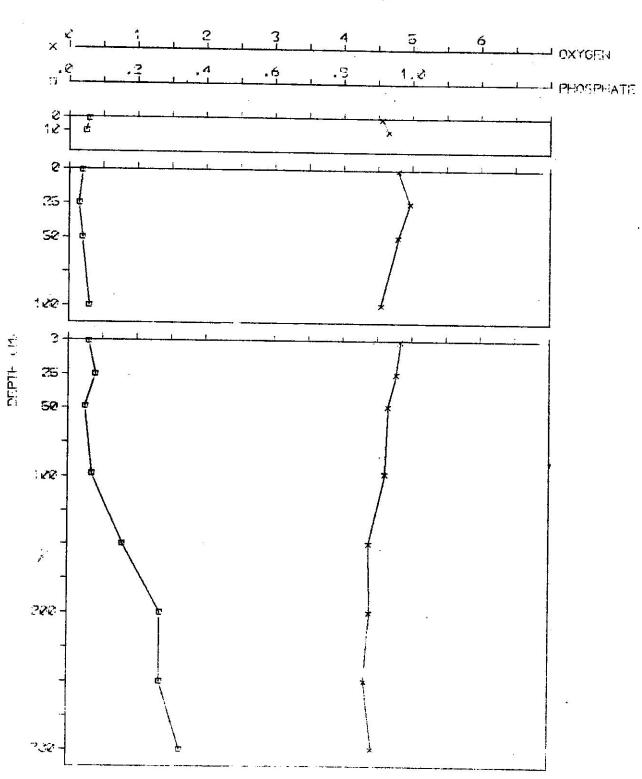
HYDROGIATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED SXYGEN AND FEACTIVE PHOTPHATE. TRANSECT PHI-3 DATE 1/18/73



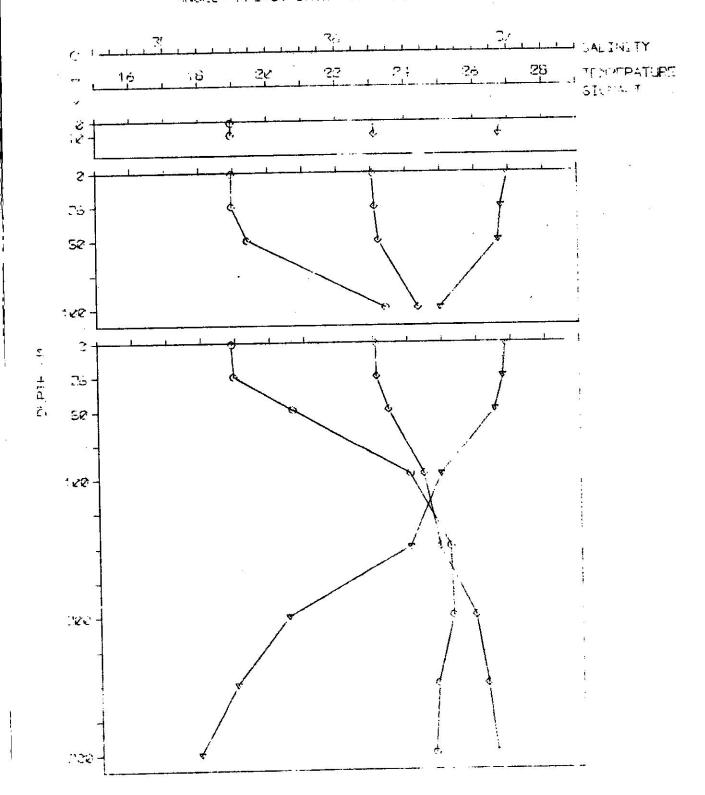
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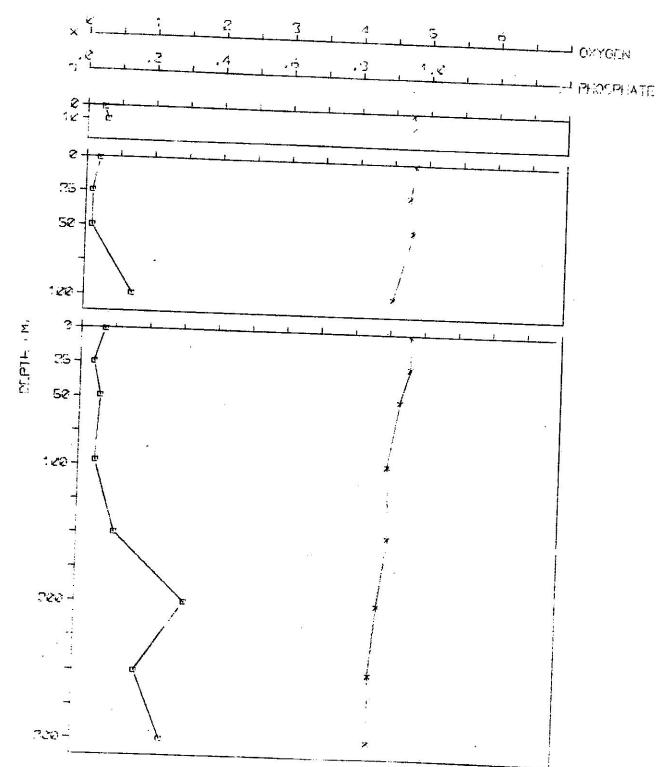
HYDROKITATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CYTGEN AND PRACTIVE PHOSPHATE.
TRANSECT PHI-4. DATE 1/18/73



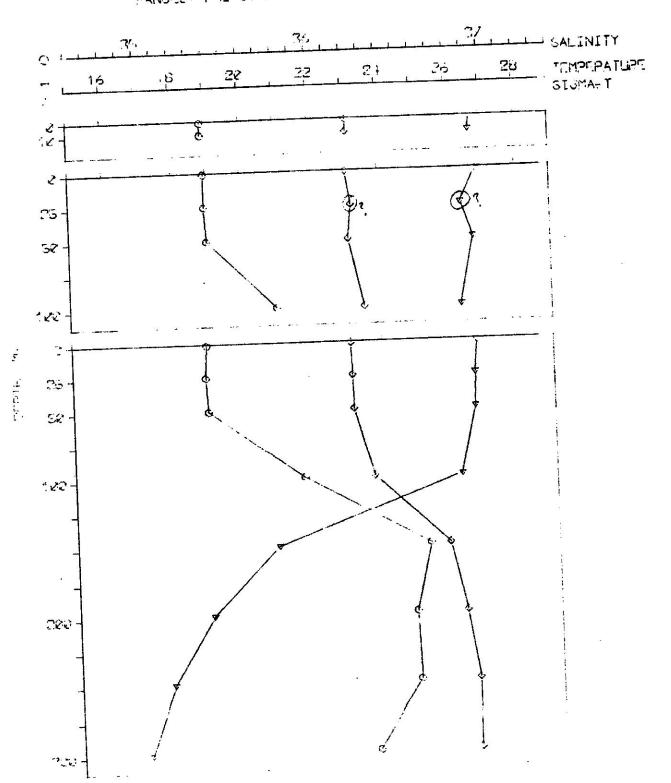
- OPCONTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPERATURE, SALINITY AND SILMA-T. T ANSECT PHI-S. DATE: 1/17/73



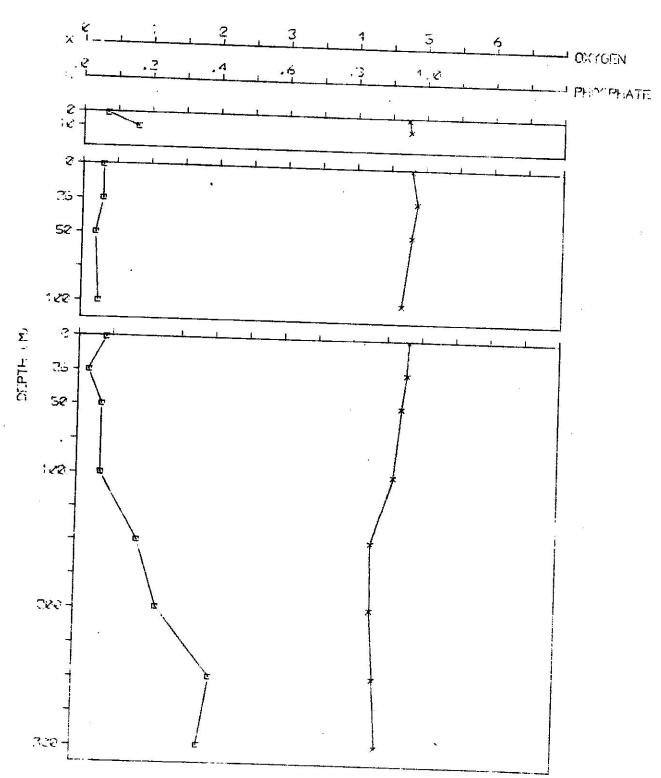
HYDER TATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CHYCEN AND PRACTIVE PROSPHATE. TRANSFET PHI-5. DATE: 1/17/73



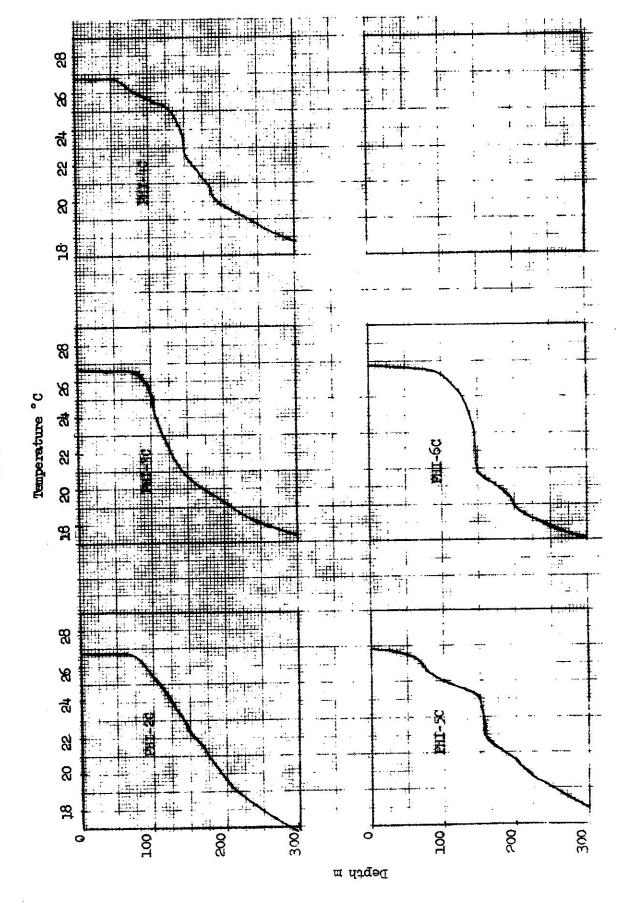
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EYDROSTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CAYGEN AND REACTIVE PHOSPHATE.
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27443	WAVE PERIOD 4 TRANSPAR SONIC DEP 2015 COLOR 20	AST TO SO	27444	WAVE PERIOD 5 Transpar Sonic dep Ø152 Color 18	5.	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N
PRNC REFERENCE	WIND VELOC 86 WIND DIREC 81 WAVE DIREC 81 WAVE HEIGHT 2 18 WIRE ANGLE	0XYGEN ML/L MG/L XSAT 4,66 6,65 98,74 4,73 6,76 99,87	PRNG REFERENCE	WIND VELOC 07 WIND DIREC 01 WAVE DIREC 01	190 WIRE ANGLE	DXYGEN ML/L MG/L XSAT 4-71 6.73 99.74 4.71 6.73 99.42 4.71 6.73 ************************************
STATION PHILIPA	27.8 VÍSIBILITY 8 27.8 VÍSIBILITY 8 0.6 CLOUD TYPE 6 0 074 CLOUD AMT 2 12.6 LDCAL MAX DEPTH METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	TH TAVE SALIN SIG T 7.36 27.37 35.889 25.29 8.88 27.15 35.875 23.35	STATION PRI-128	27.5 VISTBILITY 8 6.6 CLOUD TYPE 8 874 CLOUD AMT 2	1240 LOCAL MAX DEPTH METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	74VF SALIN SIG T 20 27,36 35,860 23,27 20 27,13 35,886 23,36 20 6,78 35,884 23,36
R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 5/ 2/73 BARO HOUR 16.1 TEMP DRY LAT 18-20.7 N TEMP WET LONG 67-16.3 W REL HUMI CAST 1 MESS TIME 16.1 GMT	JEPTH (M) TENTL OF THE BN TL 0 11 27,59 27,155 6	R V PALUMBO CRUISE	NATE 5/ 2/73 BARO 1 HOUR 16,7 TEMP DRY LAT 18-20,6 N TEMP WET LONG 67-16,3 W REL HUMID	CAST A MESS TIME 16.7 GMT.	NEPTH (M) WIRE CZ TZ BN TL TM 25 25 B Z 27.13 B. 56 50 6 6 6.

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PRNC REFERENCE	WIND VELOC 63 WIND DIREC 81 WAVE DIREC 81	300 WIRE ANGLE	DXYGEN F ML/L MG/L XSAT	2 4.73 6.76 99 2 4.73 6.76 99 9 4.73 6.76 99	4 69 6.78 90°0 4 86 5°88 72°0	5 3,99 5,78 69
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PRNC REFERENCE	WIND VELOC 05 WIND DIREC 81 WAVE DIREC 02 WAVE HEIGHT 4	10 MIRE ANGLE	0XYGEN HI/L MG/L XSAT 4.78 6.71 99.44 4.76 6.88 188.47	PRNC REFERENCE		108 WIRE ANGLE 8	0XYGEN L/L MG/L XSAT 76 6.80 100.69 74 6.77 99.98 71 6.73 99.61 56 6.43 86.56
STATION PERIOR	24 C	GAT: 1132 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 928 METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	7N TAVE SALIN SIG 7 27,28 27,29 35,876 23,31 8,88 27,11 35,888 25,37	SUB-ITE NOTIVE	1019.1 WEATHER 62 Y 28.8 VISIBILITY 8 T 6.8 CLOUD TYPE 8 ID 672 CLOUD AMT 1	T. 1111 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 8 METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	## TAVE SALIN SIG T # ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ##
A V PALUMBO CRUISE	OUR 18+21 4 N PEMP ONG 67=16+7 W REL	CAST 1 MEMS TIME 15.5 G OXYGEN TITER 1.8	DEPTH (H) WIRE CZ TZ BN 7L 0 1 0 11 27 29 10 10 0 12 27,11	R V PALUMBO GRUISE	DATE 5/ 2/73 BARD HOUR 15.2 TEMP DR LAT 18=21.3 N TEMP WE LONG 67=17.2 W REL HUM	CAST 1 MESS TIME 15.2 GM OXYGEN TITER 1.02	DEPTH (M) WIRE CZ TZ BN TL R 1 27.27 RS 25 B 2 27.13 SB 58 B 3 26.91 190 100 B 4 24.58

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STATION PERSTA	1017,6 WEATHER #2 DRY 31.8 VISIBILITY 8 WET 0.0 CLOUD TYPE 8 UHID 868 CLOUD AMT 9	GMT: 1421 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 828 METER WHEEL FACTOR .9	TEMP TAVE SALIN SIG T 3 27.28 27.28 35.877 25.31 3 0.00 26.08 35.881 23.41		STATION PHILAB	1016,5 WEATHER 02 DRY 31.0 VISIBILITY 8 WET 0.0 CLOUD TYPE 8 UMID 069 CLOUD AMI 9	GMT. 1448 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 028 METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	TEMP TAVE SALIN SIG T 8,00 27.67 35.884 23.19 8,00 26,96 35,876 23.41 8,00 25,94 35,833 23,41
R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 5/ 1/73 BARO HOUR 18#22 N TEMP I LAT 18#22 N TEMP I LONG 67#16,5 W MEL HI	CAST 1 MESS TIME 18,3 G	DEPTH (M) WIRE CZ TZ BN TL 0 1 0 11 27 28 10 0 12 26,98	,	P V PALUMBO CAUISE	DATE 5/ 1/73 BARO 18.8 FEMP D LAT 18-22.7 N TEMP W LONG 67-18.1 W REL HU	CAST 1 MESS TIME 18,8 G	DEPTH (M) WIRE C2 TW BN TL BS 255 B 2 26.96 128 198 B 3 26.96 128 198 B 3 26.94

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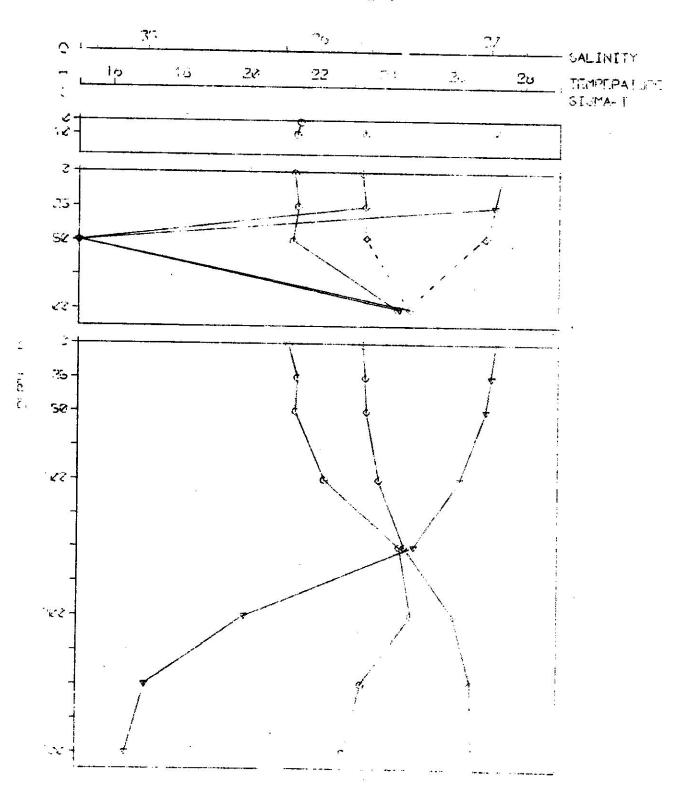
STATION PHI-6A

N V PALUMBO CRUISE

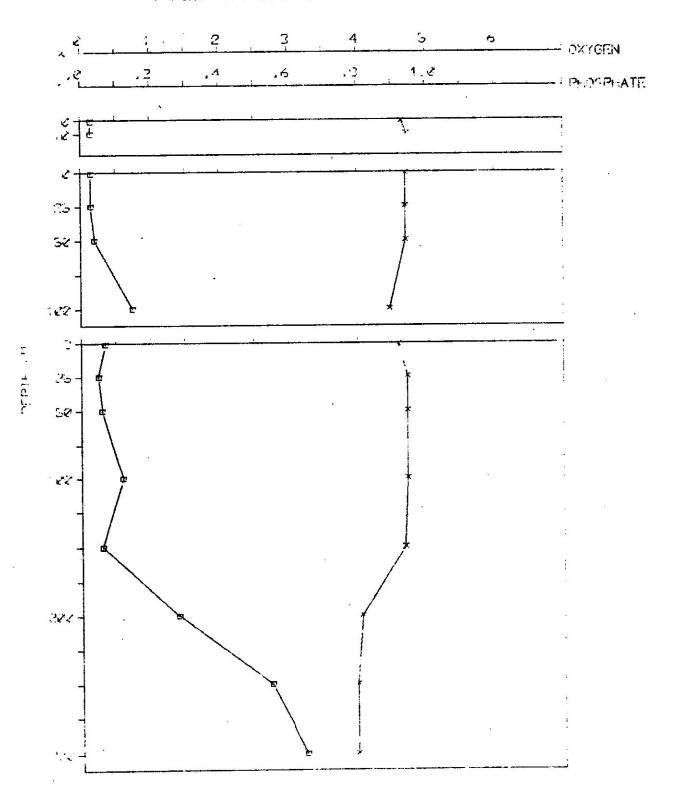
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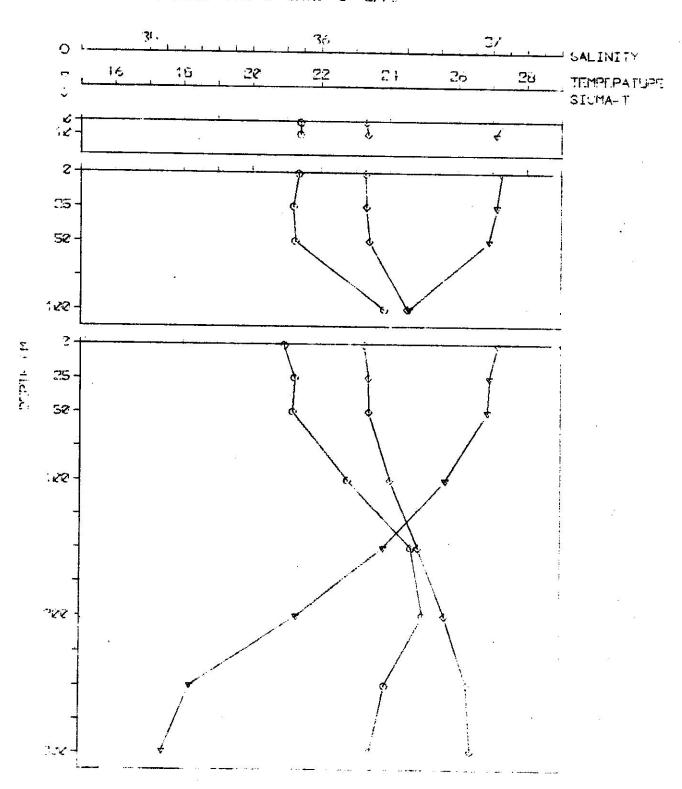
HYDER TATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TOMPOPATURE, SALINITY AND CO. 14-1. FRANCECT PLI-2. DATE SV 2273



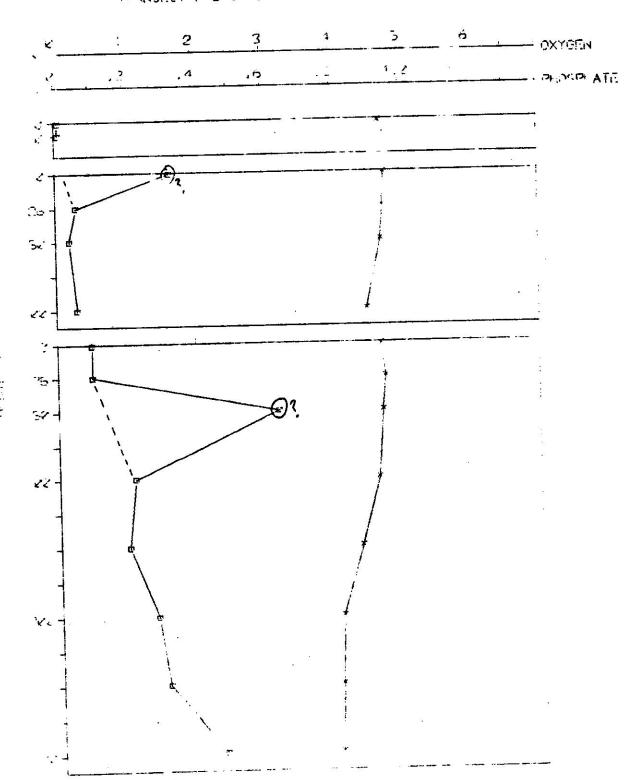
HYDEO TATION VERTILAL PROTILES FOR SIGGOLVED CAYGEN AND FEACTIVE PROSPERTE.
TRANSECT PRI-2: DAIL 5/ 2/73



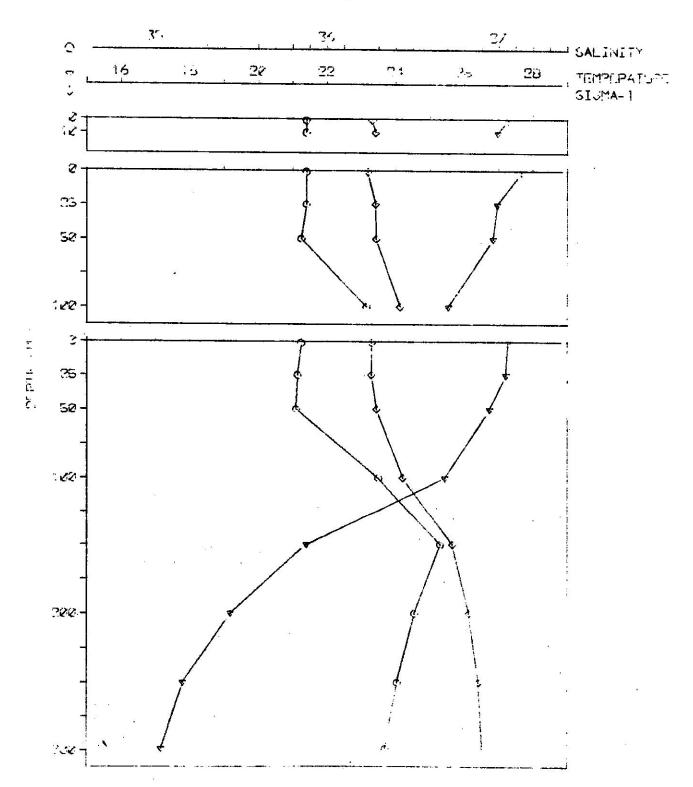
HYDEOGRATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPERATURE, SALINITY AND CIVMA-T.
TRANSECT PHI-3 DATE SX 2X73



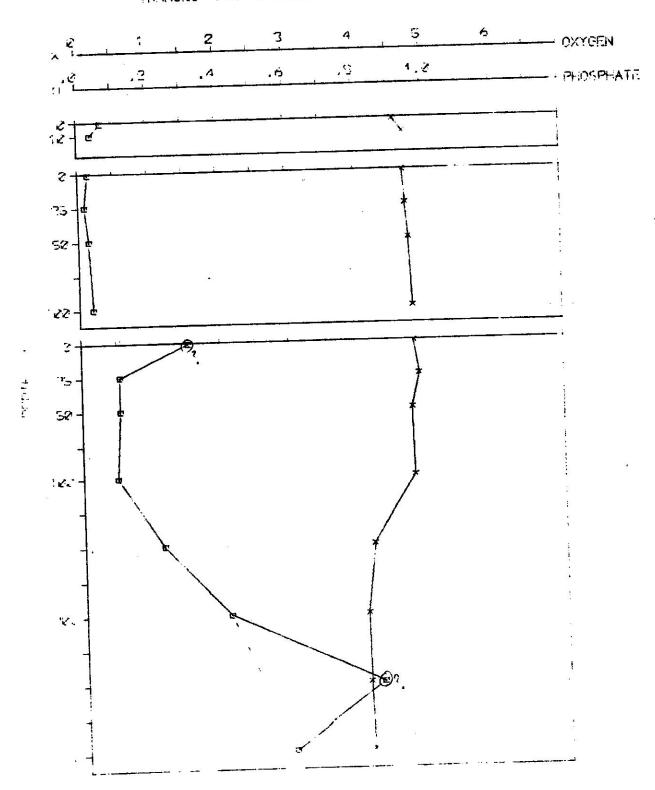
HYDROCITATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CAYCON AND REALTIVE PROFIRMED.
TRANSECT PHI 3 DATE 5/ 2/7



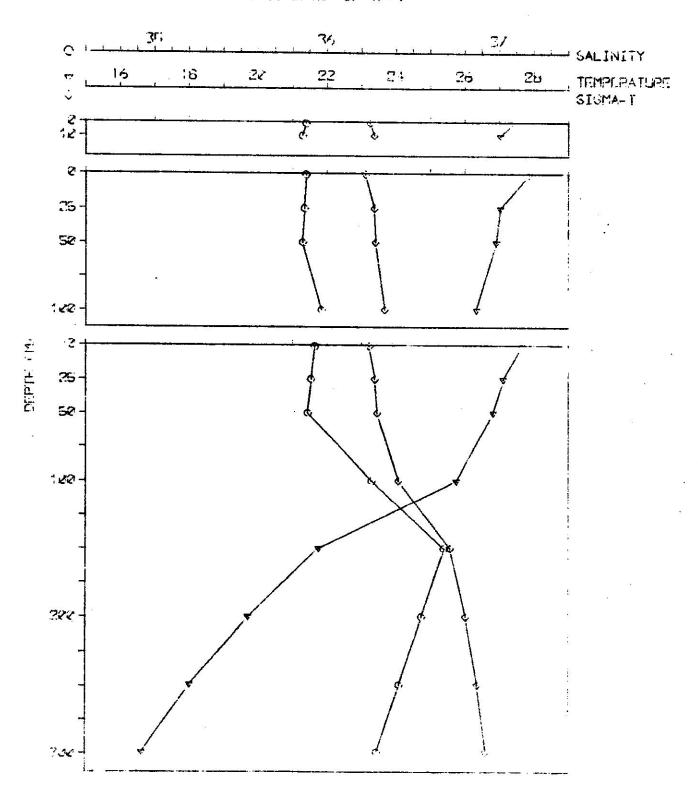
HYDE 'TATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPERATURE, SALINITY AND "ICMA-T, TRANSPORT PHI-4, DATE 5/ 1/73



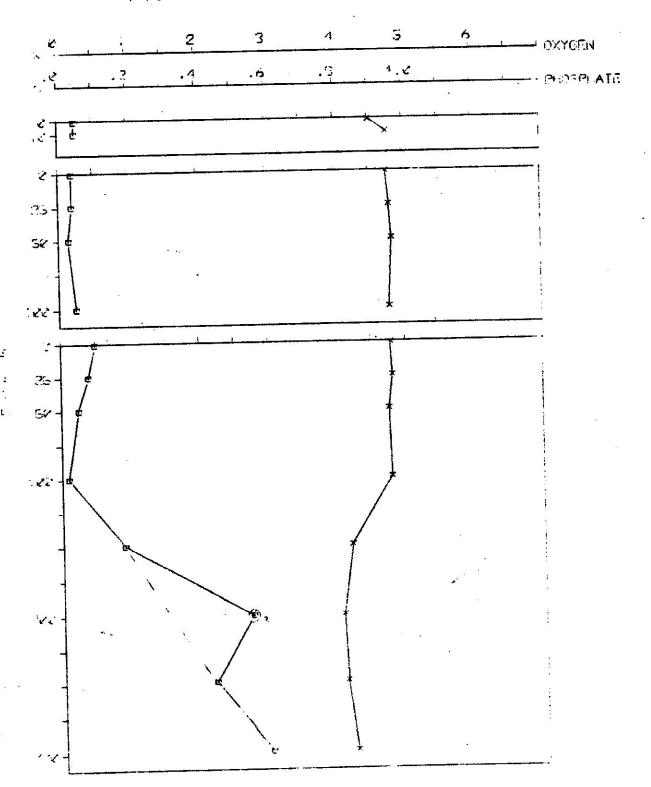
HYDROLTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CXYGEN AND STACTIVE PHOSPHATE. TRANSECT PHI-4, DATE 5/ 1/73



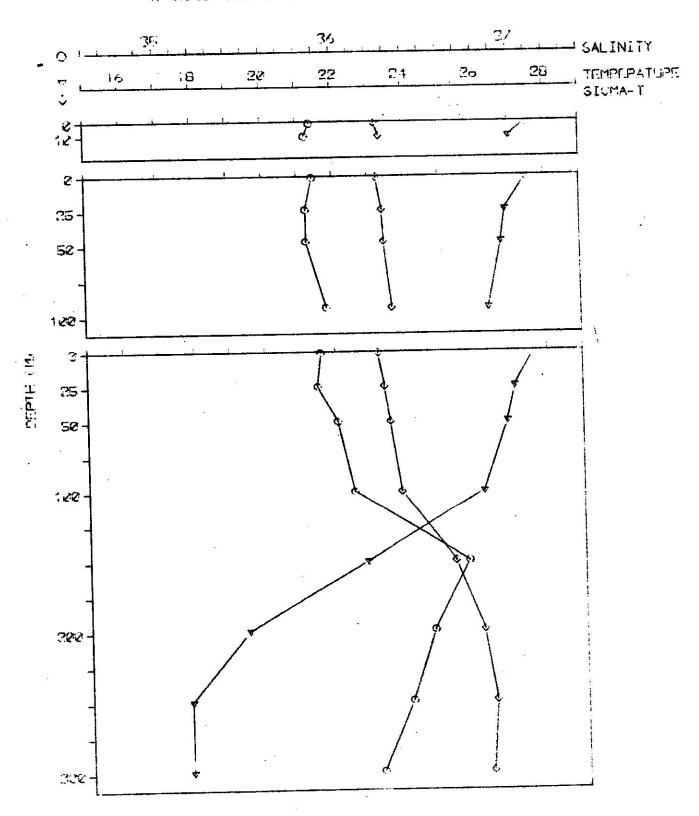
HYDROGIATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPERATURE, SALINITY AND SIGMA-T.
TRANSECT PHI-5, DATE 5/ 1/73



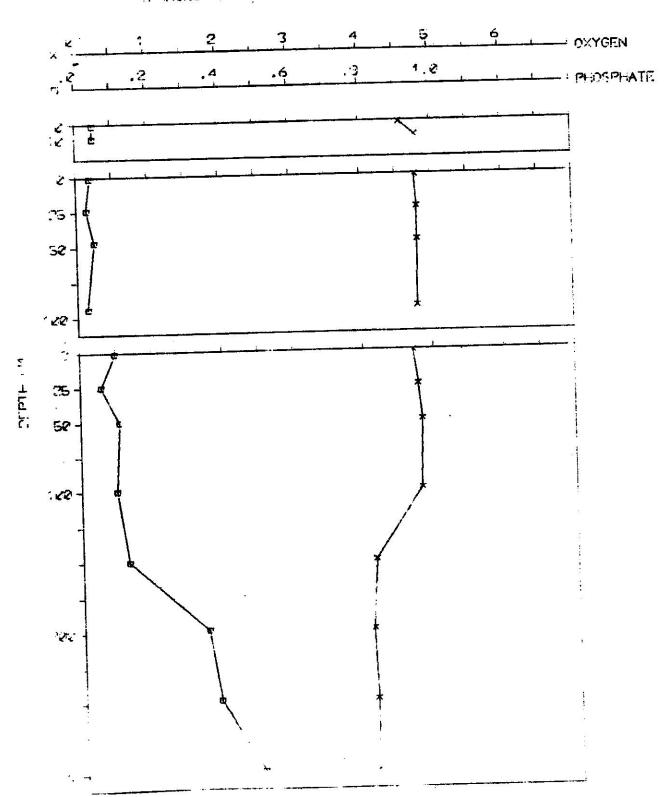
HYDROKTATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CAYGEN AND REACTIVE PHOSPHATE. TRANSECT PHI-5. DATE 5/ 1/73



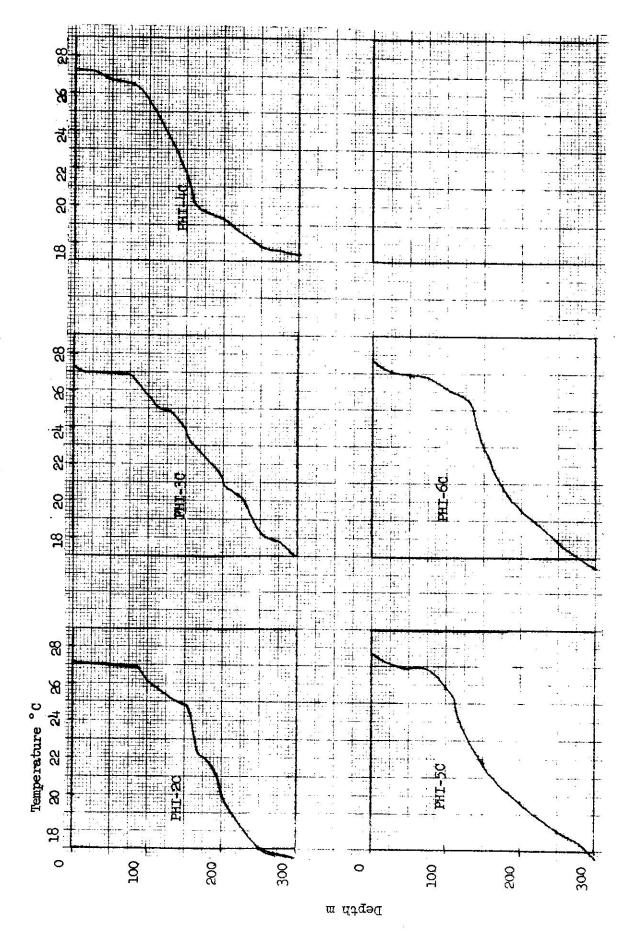
HYDROGIATION VERTICAL PRITILES FOR TEMPERATURE. SALINITY AND CIVMA-T. TPANSECT PHI-6. DATE 5/ 1/73



HYDROGIATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND REACTIVE PHOTPHATE. TPANSECT PHI-6. DATE 5/ 1/73



Bathythermograph traces for Pta. Higuero PHI-73-2, 5-2-73



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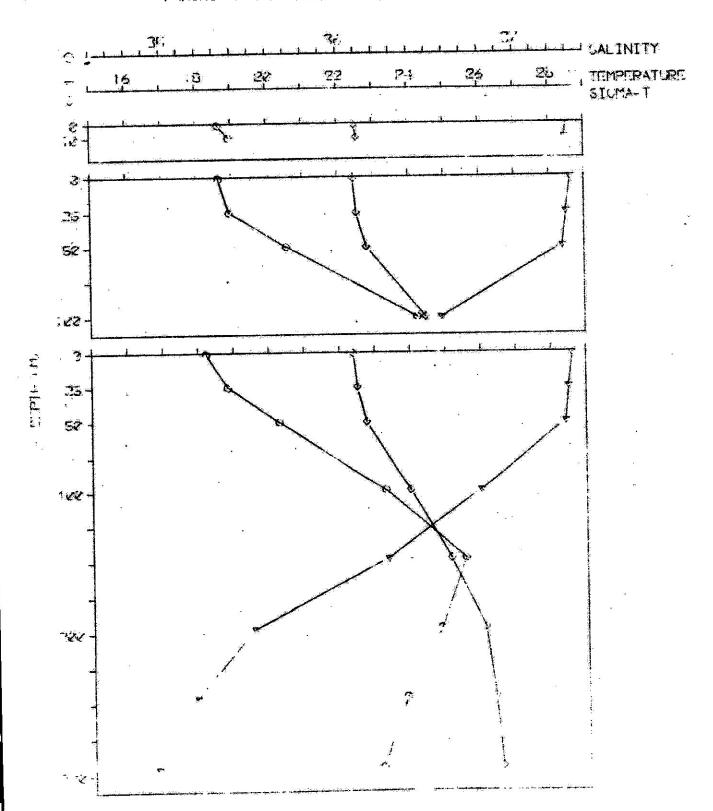
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STATION PHI-6A	17.8 WEATHER 85 8.9 VISIBILITY 7 8.8 CLOUD TYPE 8	METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	47 28.47 35.282 22.47		SOFTE NUITAL	817.7 WEATHER 85 31.1 VISIBILITY 7 8.8 CLOUD TYPE 8 874 CLOUD AMT 7	1114 LOCAL MAX DEPTH METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	AP TAVE SALIN SIG T 8.00 28.05 35.05.04 8.00 28.45 35.054 8.00 28.50 35.054 8.00 29.93 35.709 22.73
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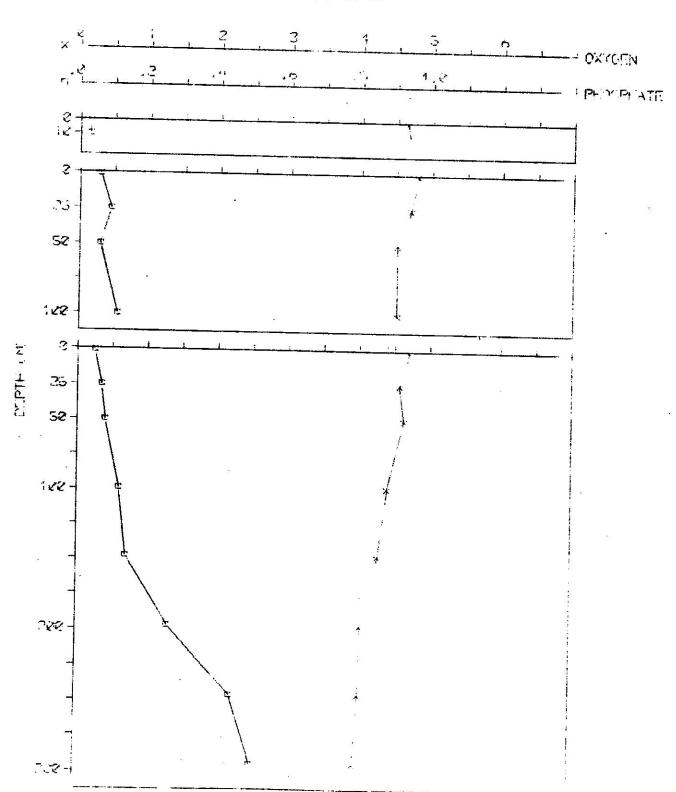
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TPANSECT PHI-2. DATE 8/13/73

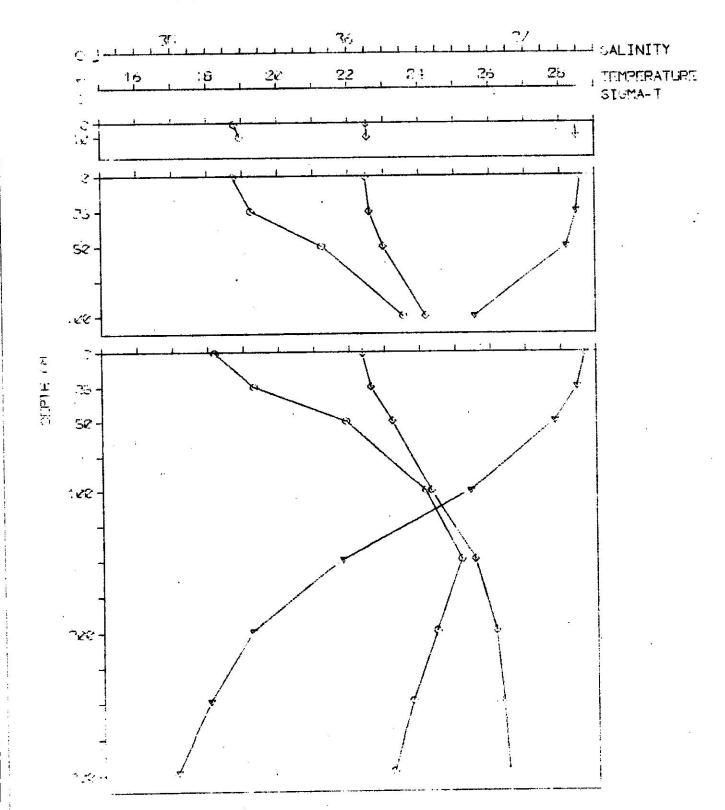


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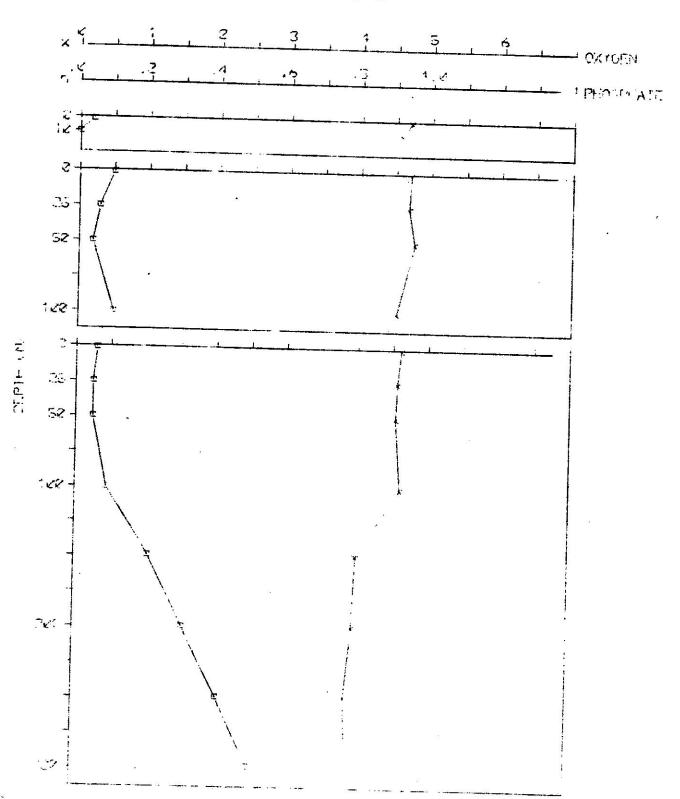
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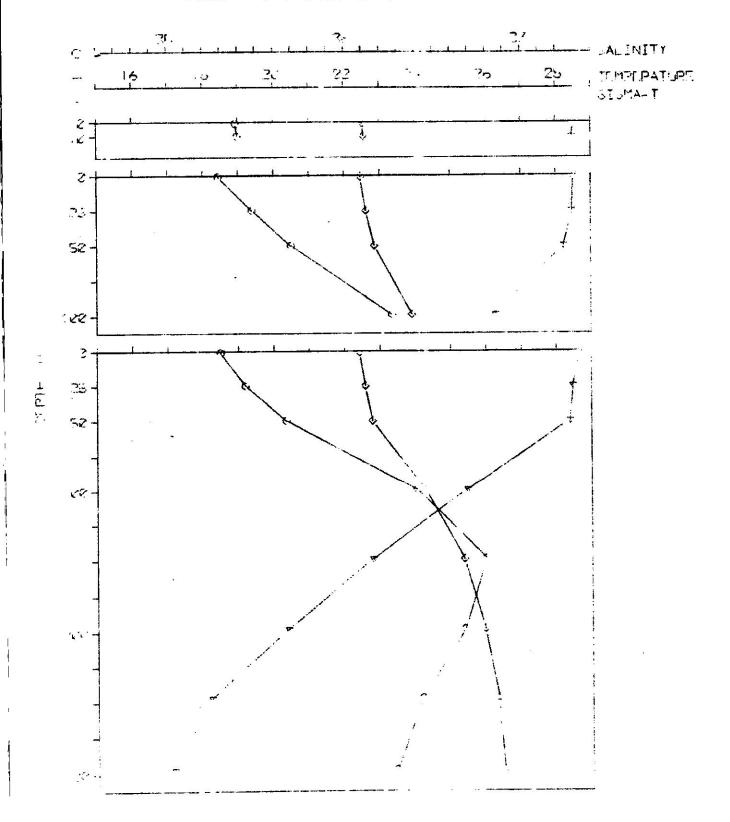
HYDROMITATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR TEMPLEATURE. SALINITY AND CIGMA-T. TPANSECT PHI-3, DATE 8/13/73



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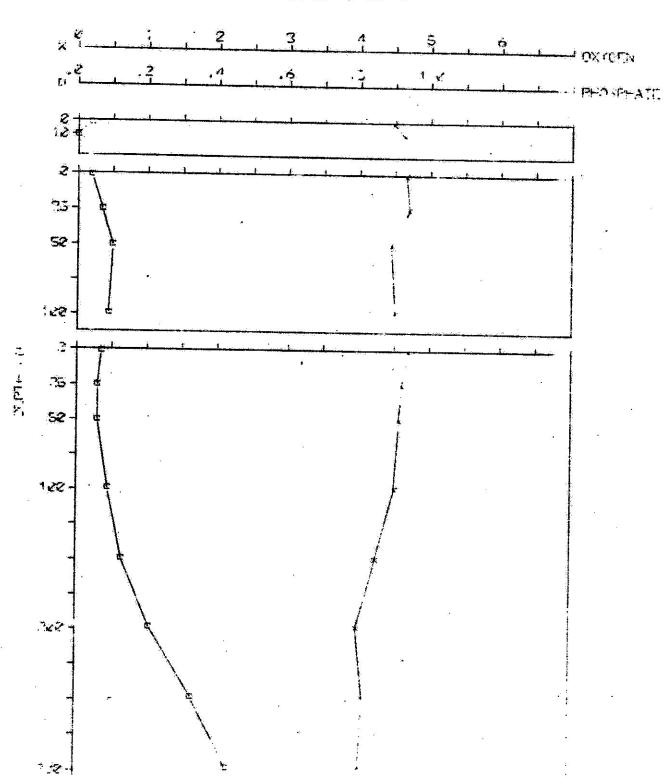


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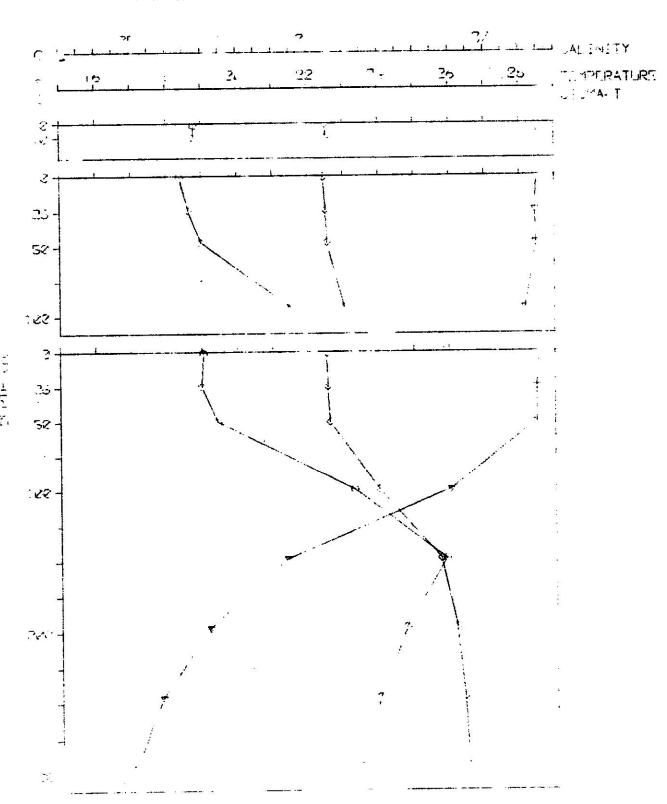
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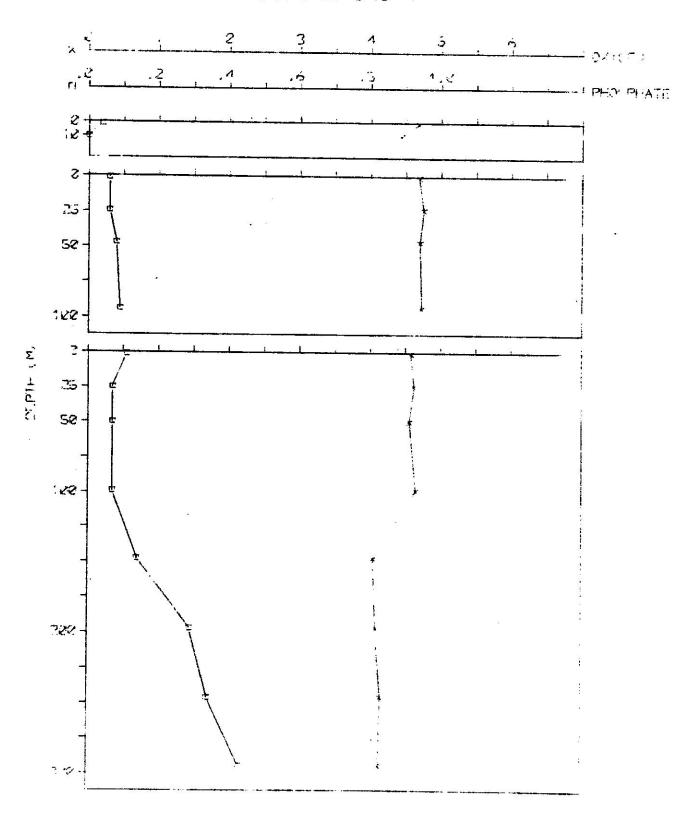
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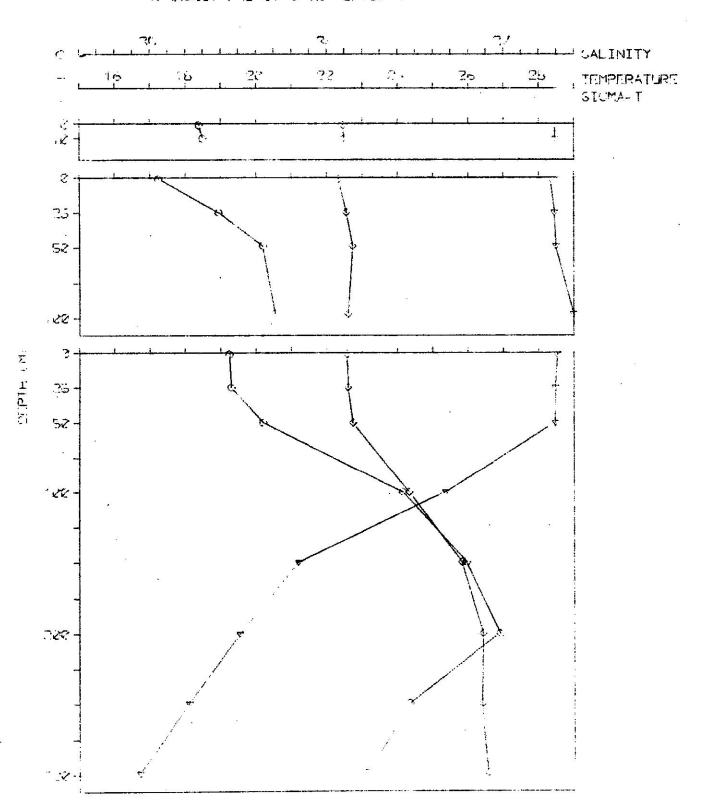
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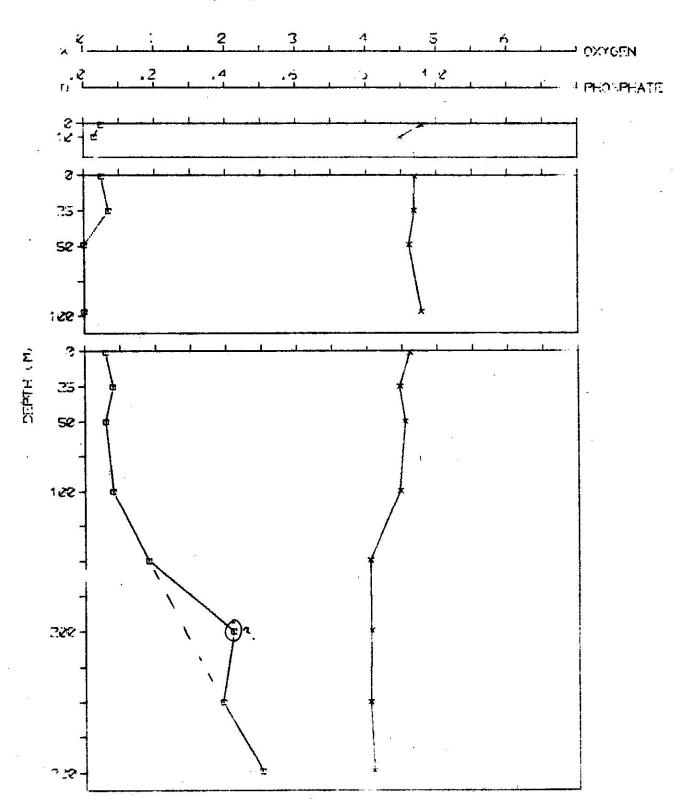
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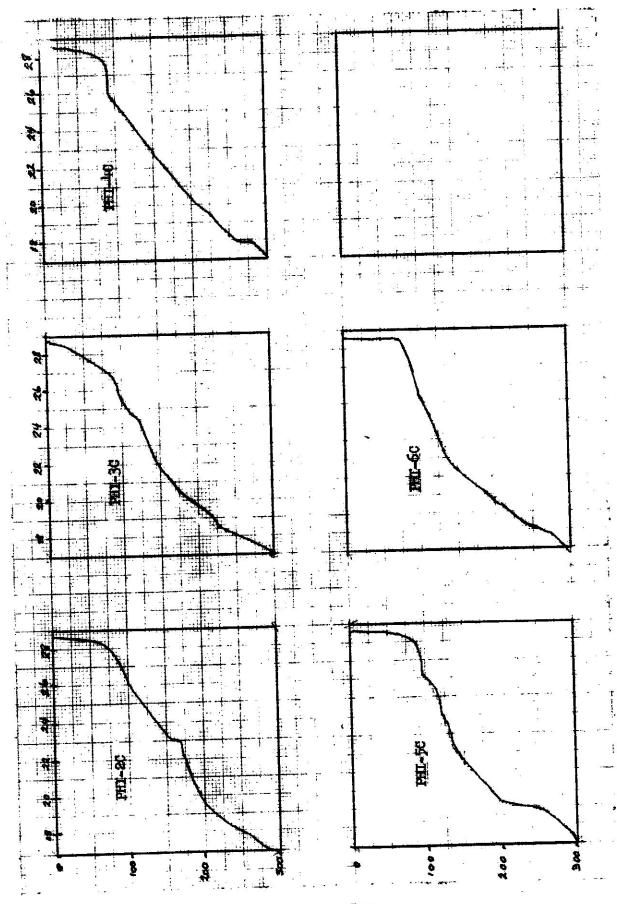


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TRANSECT PHI-6. DATE 8/13/73



HYDROGITATION VERTICAL PROFILES FOR DISSOLVED CXYGEN AND REACTIVE PHOSPHATE.
TRANSECT PHI-6. DATE 8/13/73





PHI-73-3, 8-13-75

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	DATE 1/15/74 BARO 1828,9 HOUR 18-26,9 N TEMP NET 27,8 LAT 18-26,9 N TEMP NET 27,8 LONG 67-16,2 N MEL HUMIO 718	TITER 1.879 HETER
R V PALUMBO CRUISE	HOUR 19-28-9 N LAT 18-28-9 N LONG 67-16-2 H	CAST 1 HESS TIME 25.0

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STATION PHILIDA	1828.9 NEATHER 82 Y 6.8 VISIBILITY 7 T 20.8 CLOUD TYPE 8 10 728 CLOUD AMT 2	T. 1725 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 5 METER WHEEL PACTOR . 9	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	STATE SELECT	1819.5 WEATHER 62 8.8 VISIBILITY 7 28.8 CLOUD TYPE 8 0 718 CLOUD AMT 1	METER WHEEL FACTOR . 99	## TAVE SALIN SALI
2018	HOUR 18-28.2 FEMF DR. LAT 18-28.7 N FEMF WE LONG 67-16.3 M REL HUM	CAST 1 MESS TIME 21.4 GM	UEPTH (M) WIRE CR TE BN TL B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1 B 1	R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DAYE 1/14/74 BARO HOUR 23.5 TEMP DRY LAT 18-21.3 N TEMP WET LONG 67-17.2 W REL HUMI	CAST & MESS TIME 21.9 GMT OXYGEN TITER 1.875	DEPTH (M) 1

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STATION PHILBS	1819.5 WEATHER 82 17 29.8 CLOUD TYPE 8 10 678 CLOUD AMT 2	FMP TAVE SALIN SIGT 8.00 25.45 35.34	BUTHE SOLFATOR	1021.5 WEATHER 02 Y 0.0 VISIBILITY 7 T 29.0 CLOUD TYPE 0 ID 710 CLOUD AMT 3	T. 1935 LOCAL MAX DEPTH 5 METER WHEEL FACTOR .99	######################################
R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 1/14/74 BARD HOUR 22.5 TEMP DR LAT 18422.5 N TEMP WE LONG 67-16.9 W REL HUN	CAST 1 MESS TIME 20.0 GH OXYGEN TITER 1.071 WIRE CZ TH BN TL 0 1 25.00	R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 1/14/74 BARD HOUR 21:4 FEMP DRY LAT 18:23.5 N FEMP WET LONG 67:16.6 W REL WUMI	CAST 1 MESS TIME 19.6 GMT OXYGEN TITER 1.672	DEPTH (Y) 2

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R V PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 1/14/74 B HOUR 22.3 F LAT 18-22.8 N F LING 67-15.8 W R	T 1 MESS TIME 2 OXYGEN TITE DEPTH (M) E C2 T2 BN A 1 B 1	PALUMBO CRUISE	DATE 1/14/74 B HOUR 22.0 T LAT 18*24.0 N T LONG 67-15.5 W R	AST 1 MESS TIME 2 DEPTH (M) RE CZ TZ BN 25 25 8 25 8 2 58 58 8 2 108 100 8 4

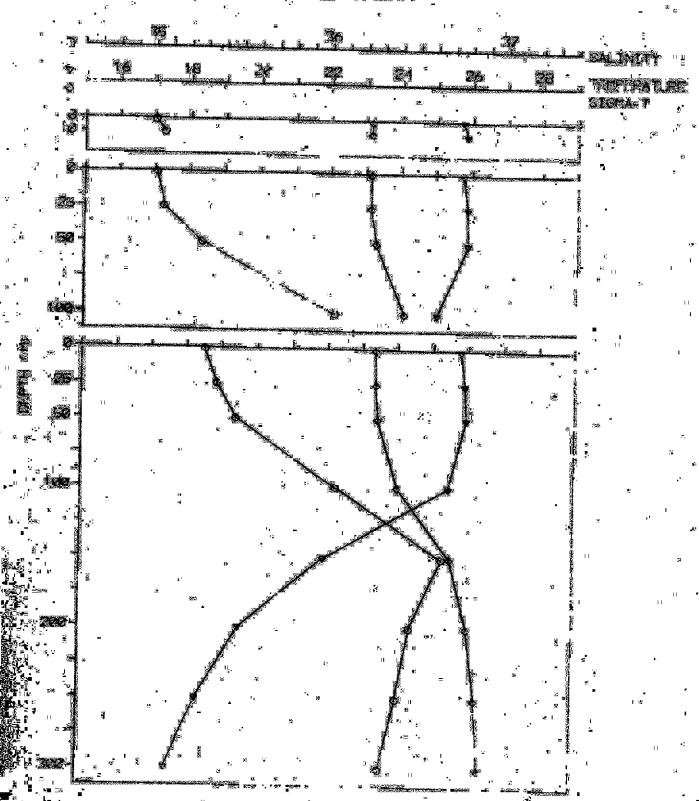
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PRNC REFERENCE	WIND VELOC 15 WIND DIREC 27 WAVE DIREC 26	SE HIRE ANG	0 X 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
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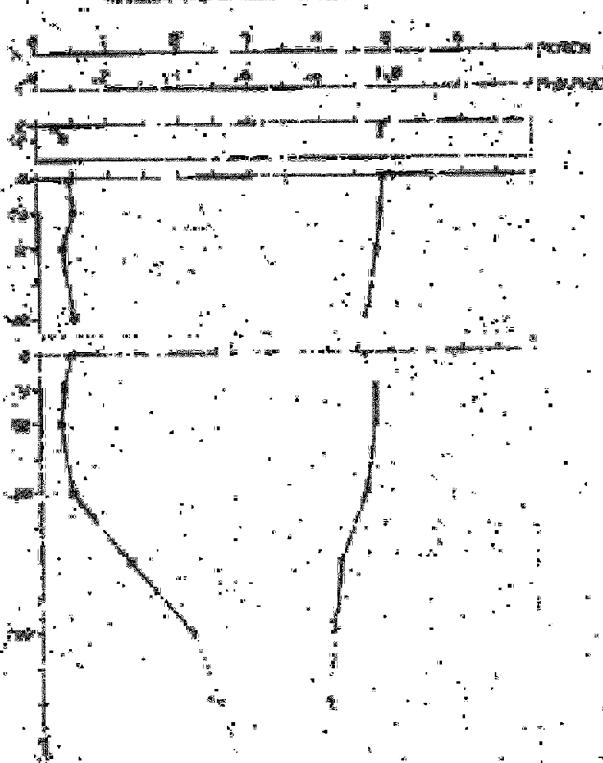
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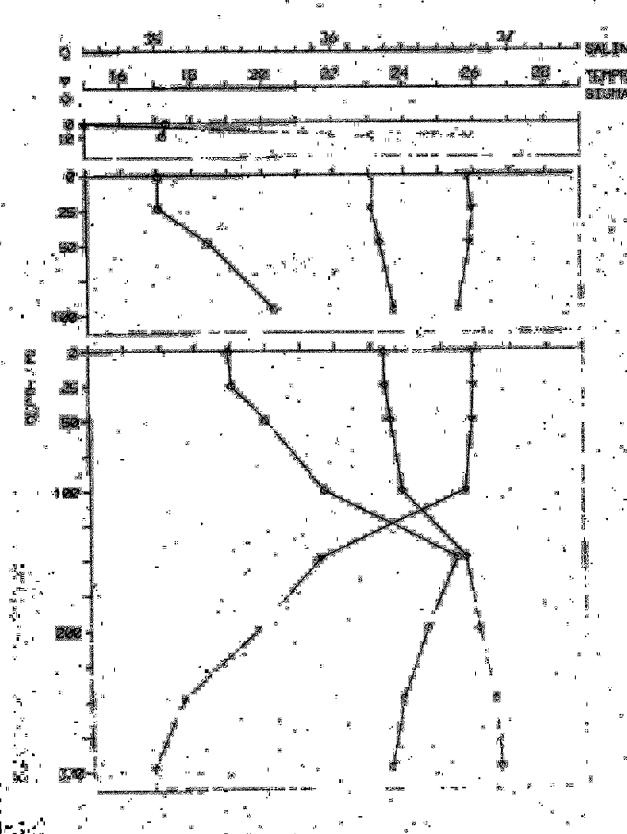
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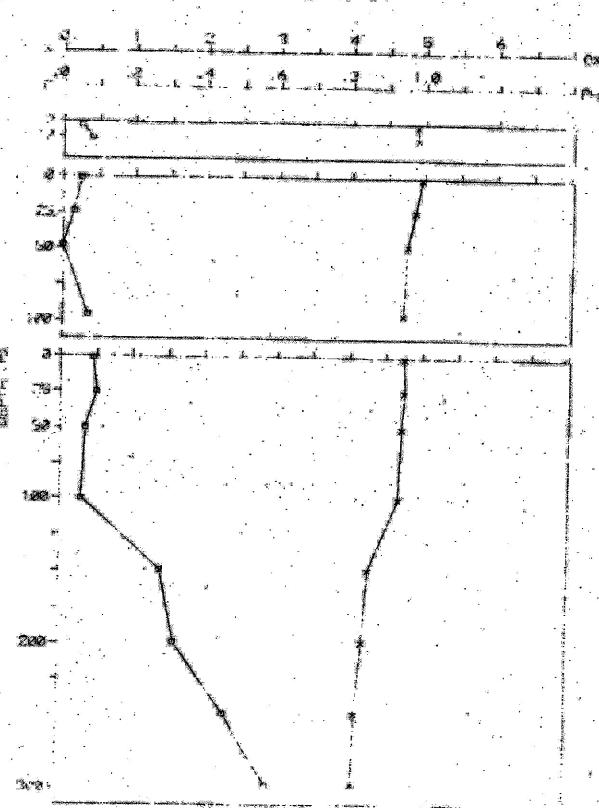
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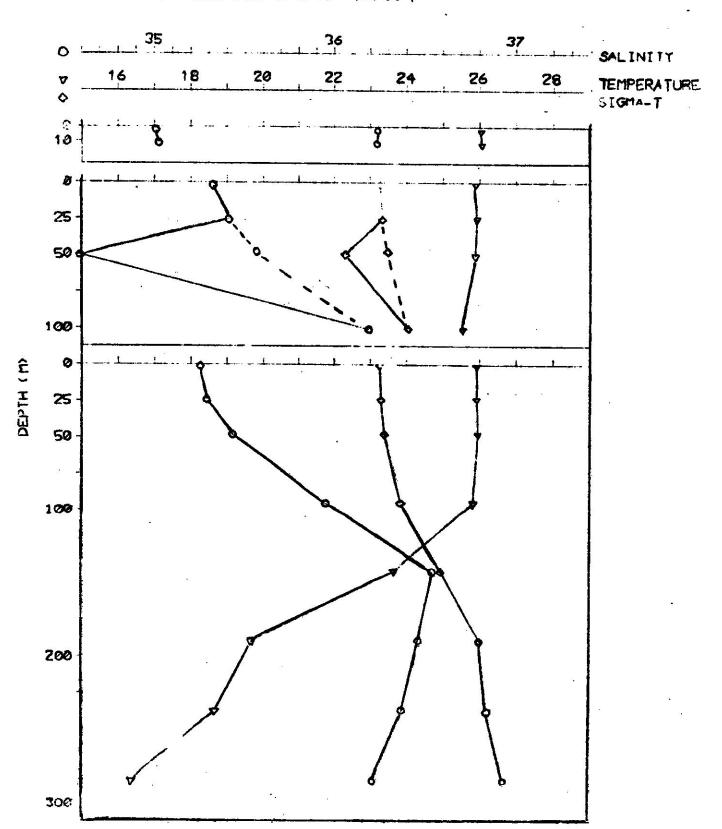
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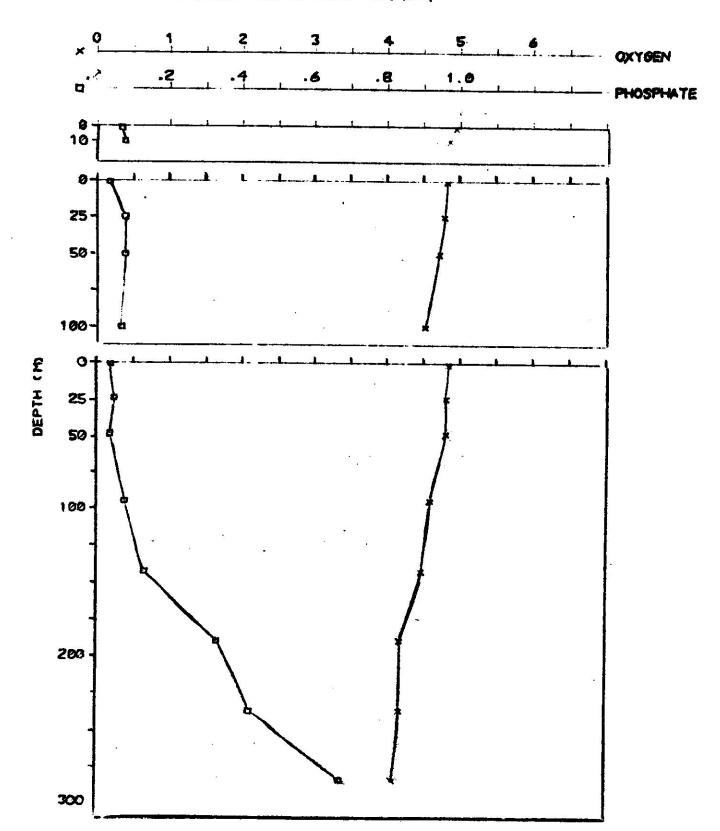
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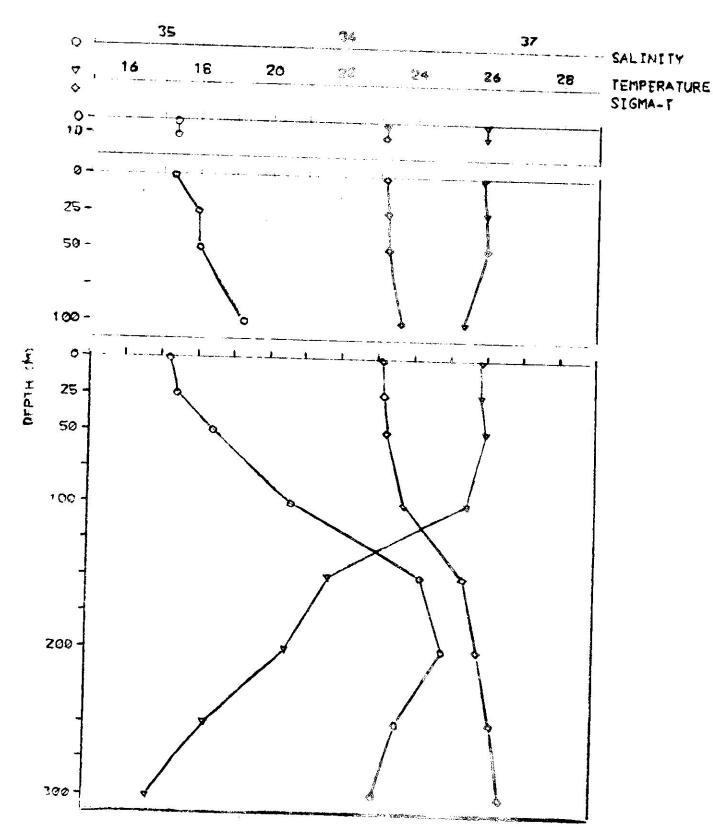
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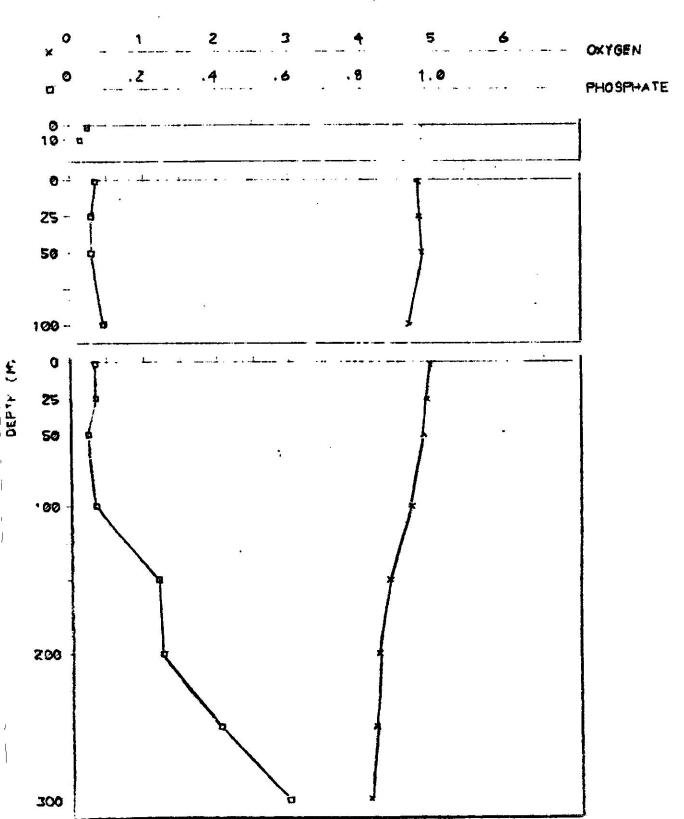
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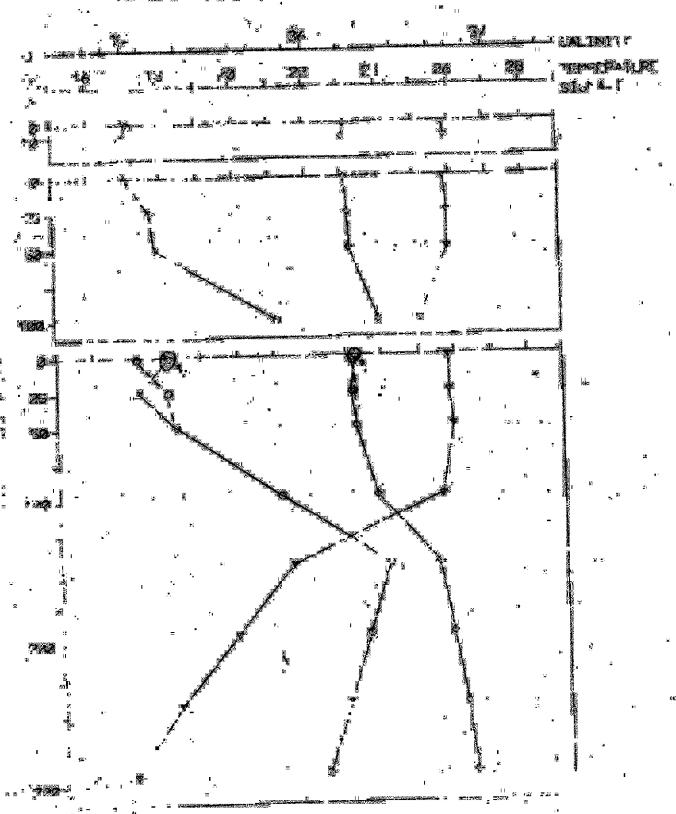
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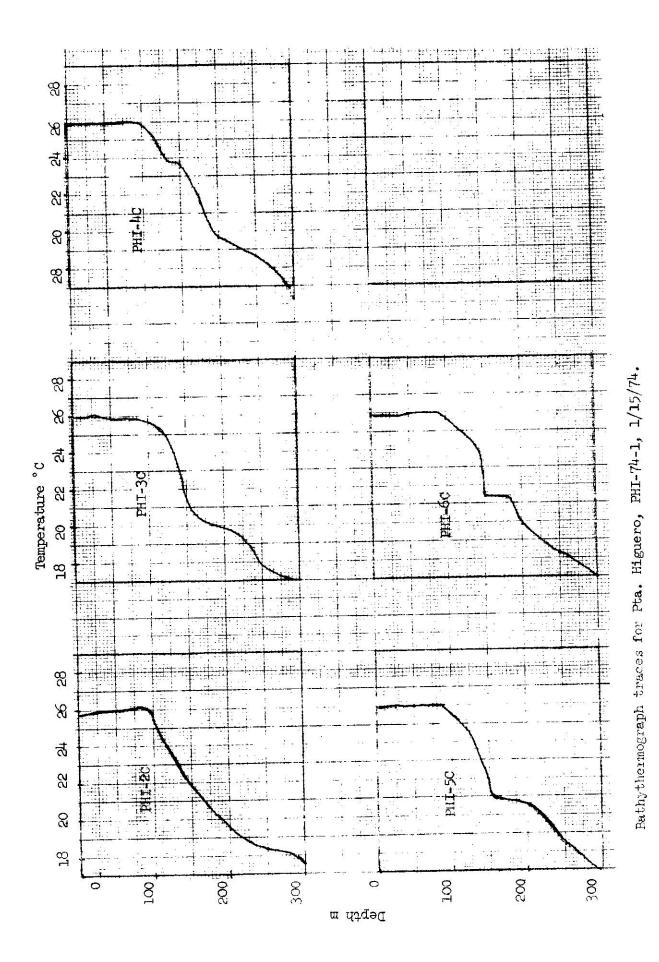
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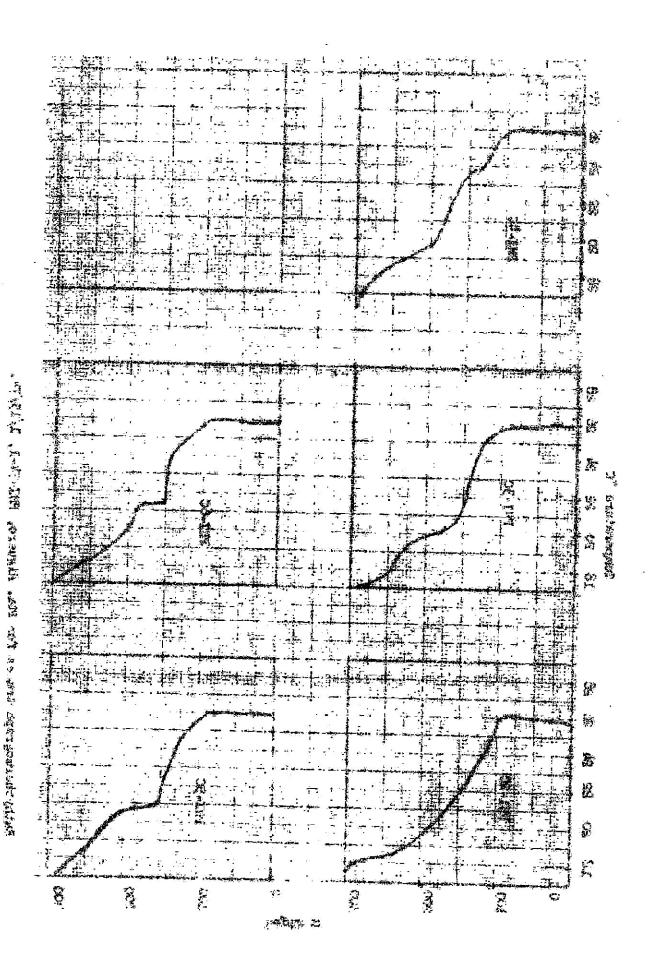


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APPENDIX B

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PIANT KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

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	Fhaeophyta:	Dictyopteris delicatula Dictyopteris justeii Dictyopteris sp.	Dictyota cernicornis Dictyota dentata Dictyota dichotoma	Dictyota divaricata Dictyota linearia Dictyota sp.	Pocockiella sp. Sargassum polyceratium Sargassum sp. Stypopodium zonale	Rhodophyta: Arearsia multifida	Amphica fragilissima Amphica rigida var. antillana	Amphiroa tribulus Bryothamnion seaforthii Bryothamnion triquetrum

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PLANT KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

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	Marine Grasses:	Halophila baillonis Fam. Hydrocharitaca Thalassia sp. Thalassia testudinum
	Mari	Halo Fam. Thal

APPENDIX TABLE 2

PLANT KINGDOM 14-16 JANUARY 1974

STATION C	20, 60,	** **	××	×××	×××
STATION A	50, 60,	** **	**	: ××	× ×
	Phylum Chlorphyta	Anadyomene stellata Caulerpa microphysa Caulerpa vickersiae Caulerpa sp. Cladophora sp. Halimeda sp.	Phylum Phaeophyta Dictyopteris delicatula Dictyopteris hoytii Dictyopteris plagiograma Dictyopteris sp.	Dictyota divaricata Dictyota linearis Dictyota sp. Padina sp.	Amensia multifida Amphiros fragilissima Amphiros sp. Bryothamnion seaforthii Coelarthrum albertesii

PLANT KINGDOM 14-16 JANUARY 1974

	STATION A	¥.	STATE	STATION C
	.8	. 09	ୟ	.09
Rhodophyta:				
Corallina cubensis	×	×		×
Cryptonemia sp.	* *			×
Dicydras Occidendais Calexanra marcinata	4	×		ı
Gelidium pusillum	×		×	×
Gelidium sp.		×		
Hildenbrandia prototypus		×		
Hildenbrandia sp.	×			į
Jania adhaerens				¥
Jania rubens	×			×
Jania sp.			×	
Lithothamnion occidentalis		×		ļ
Martensia pavonii	×	×	×	×
Thuretia borneti		×		;
Unid rhod	×	×	×	×

		0.2	STATION A	N A			-	STATION B			Ø	STATION C	ຽ	
Portfera;	101	8	20. Ito	601	8	101	8	10, 60,	8	10.	8		,09 ,0 1 7	. 08
Xestospongia muta Xextospongia sp.				××	××			×		×	×	×		×
Unid sp. A Unid sp. B Unid sp. 9 (Higginsia strigilata:)		76		× ×	×		B		×					
Unid sp. 15		0			×				×					
(Cuidaria) Phylum (Coelenterata) Class Hydrozoa Order Athecata							27		35	(*)	*			
Millepora sp. Stylaster rosea Unid. sp. 1			×	88	×				×		×	×		>
Unid. sp. 3									i i		4		×	4
Order Thecata Pennaria sp.		•							×					
Class Anthozos Subclass Octocorallia Diodogorgia nodulifera Eunicea laxispica		×	×	×	××	E	×	×	×		××		××	
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ANTWAL KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

		ST	STATION	A A		SI	STATION	60 Z				ŝ	STATION	Z		
Class Anthozoa Subclass Octocorallia	10,	20,	• 0	601	-08	10,	20.	40.	.09	208	10.	201	- 04	.09	208	
Eunicea tourneforti Emicea tourneforti f. tourneforti Eunicea sp. 1 (young colony) Eunicea sp. 2		××					×		×		×		×			
Gorgania mariae f. plumosa Gorgonia ventalina Muricea atlantica Muricea elongata Muricea laxa		×	×				××		× ×			×	××		×	
Muricea pinnata (young colony) Muricea sp. (elongata?) Muriceopsis flavida Muriceopsis petila		× :					×	×	<			××	×			
Muriceopsis sp. Muriceopsis sulphurea Plexaura sp. Plexaurella grisea Plexaurella sp. Pseudopterogorgia acerosa		××		××	·		×		×	ā	××	×× ×	×		×	
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Phylum Chidaria Class Anthozoa	Subclass Zoantharia Order Scleractinia	Dendrogyra cylindricus Dichocoenia stokesii Diploria sp. Isophyllia sp. Meandrina sp. Montastrea amnularis Montastrea cavernosa Porites asteroides Siderastrea radians Siderastrea siderea Siderastrea siderea	Order Zoanthidea Parazoanthus sp. Phylum Annelida Class Polychaeta	Ammotrypane fimbrata Eunice rubra Furythoe complanata Glycera abranchiata Glycera sp. Glycera tessellata Hermenia verruculosa Heteconereis (epitoise of Nereid) Lysidice sulcata Nereid

ANTWAL KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

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Phylum Arthropoda	Suborder Natantia	Periclimen americanus Sicyonia brevirostris Synalpheus fritzmuelleri Synalpheus mcclendoni	Synalpheus minus Synalpheus pandionis Synalpheus sp.	Synalpheus townsendii Bhid, natantians	Suborder Anomura	Clibanarius cubensis	Suborder Brachyura	Epialtus sp. Eurypanopeus sp. Mithrax forceps Mithrax pleuracanthus	Panopeus bermudensis Panopeus herbstii f. crassa Fam. Portunidae	Unid. crab

STATION C	80' 10' 20' 40' 60' 80'	×	×	× × ×
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STATION	40.		×	×
່ດ	201		×	×
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	80			× ×× × ×
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VJ	201	× ×	×	×
	10,	×	×	* * *
Phylim Arthropoda	Order Isopoda	Accalathura crenulata Suborder Anthuridea Apanthura sp. Cirolana parva Paracereis caudata Stenetrium occidentale Unid. isopod	Order Tanaidacea Phylum Mollusca Class Gastropoda	Alaba incerta Alvania gradata Arene tricarinata Bittium varium Crithiopsis sp. Columbella mercatoria Coralliophila aberrens Coralliophila caribaea Crassispira fuscescens Cylichna Krebsi Cyphoma intermedium Drillia interpleura Drupa nodulosa Fuchelus guttarosea Eulina auricincta Eulina bifasciata

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Phylum Mollusca	Class Gastropoda	Heliacus bisulcatus	Mitrella fenestrata	Mitrella lunata	Modulus sp.	Nassarius albus	Olivella acteocina	Persicula pulcherrima	Persicula sp.	Pusia hanleyi	Pusia sp.	Retusa candei	Rissoina fischeri	Rissoina sp.	Rissoina striatocostata	Stombus pugilis	Tricolia sp.	Triphora melanura	Triphora nigrocineta	Zebina browniara	Unid. gastro 7	thid gastro

Class Amphineura Acanthochitona elongata Class Pelecypoda Arca imbricata Arcapsis adamsi Brachidontes citrinus Glycymeris sp. Lima lima (juv.) Musculus lateralis Class Amphineura X X X X Arcapsis adamsi Brachidontes citrinus Glycymeris sp. Lima lima (juv.) Actor from S	¥ ×	508 ××× ×	10.		40.	601	\$0¢	10,	201	40 1	109	\$0.
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Firma sp. Pteria colymbus Semele nuculoides Spondylus americanus Unid. pelecy		×××	1				×					
Subclass Opisthobrarchia Order Nudibranchia Upid, nodibranch			×									
Phylum Echinodermata Subphylum Eleutherozoa Class Ophiuroidea Fam. Amphiuridae					×		×					

ANIMAL KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

Phylum Echinodermata		STATION A	NOI	₫:			ST/	STATION	æ			ί	STATION C	ON C	
Suppny lum Eleutherozoa Class Ophiuroidea	10.	201	404	•09	*08	101	201	401	109	208	101	-201	401	109	804
Ophiactis savignyi Ophiolepsis paucispina Ophionereis sp.		×				×	•	×							
Upniophragmus sp. Ophiostigma isacanthum Ophiothrix angulata Ophiothrix hrachvactis		>				×		××	×						
Ophiothrix oerstedii Ophiothrix sp. (juv.) Ophiothrix svensonii	,	4			×		×	××	×			×	××		
Class Echinoidea Order Cidaroidea															
Bucidaris tribuloides				¥1					×						
Order Diadematoidea															
Diadema antillarum						×									
Order Temnopleuroidea															
Lythechinus variegatus							×								
Phylum Bryozoa				140											
Bryozoan sp. 1 Bryozoan sp. 2 Unid. bryozoans			×		××				×						××

ANIMAL KINGDOM 26-28 JUNE 1973

		STAT	STATION A	⋖ ¹			STA	STATION	æ			STAT	STATION C	U		
Phylum Sipunculida	10.	201	40.	.09	\$04	10.	201	40.	.09	80 ،	101	20.	404	109	80 ⁴	
Unid Sipunculida									×	×		×		×		
Phylum Arthropoda Class Amphipoda	¥															
Gammarid amphipods	×		×	×				×	×	×						
Foraminifers																
Amphistegina gibbosa Archais angulatus f. compressa Zuinqueloculina sp. Heterostegina antillarum		×		××									××××			

TABLE 4

NEW SPECIES ADDED TO THE CUMULATIVE LIST. 14-16 JANUARY 1974

14-16 JANUARY 1974 ANTMAL KINGDOM

STATION A

-09 8

9

,

STATION C

Subclass Malacostraca

Subclass Copepoda

Arthropoda:

Cirolana sp.

Order Stonatopoda Gonodactylus sp.

Phylum Arthropoda

Mithrax hispidus Section Brachyura

Order Decapoda Class Crustalea

Sphaeromatidae Order stometopoda Order Isopoda Fam.

Fhylum Echinodermata

Eucidaris tribuloides Ophiothrix angulata Unid ophiuroid Ophioderma phoenium Ophiopsila riisei Ophiophragmus sp. Ophiocoma pumila Ophiopsila st. Class Echinoidea Class Ophiuroidea Fam. Amphiuridae

×

14-16 JANUARY 1974 ANTMAL KINGDOM

STATION A

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90

9

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STATION C

Order Poecilosclerina

Xestospongia sp.

Verongia sp.

Phylum Chidaria

Cynachira sp. Ircinia fasciculata

Class Demospongiae

Phylum Porifera

×

Pseudopterogorgia acerosa Pterogorgia citrina Subclass Octocorallia Plexaurella sp. Class Anthozoa

Diploria labyrinthiformis Montastrea anularia Siderastrea siderea Porites asteroides Subclass Zoantharia Siderastres sp.

Phylum Arthropoda

Alpheus cristulifrons Suborder Natantia Alphens sp. Synalphens sp. Class Crustalea Order Decapoda

XX

×

×

 \times

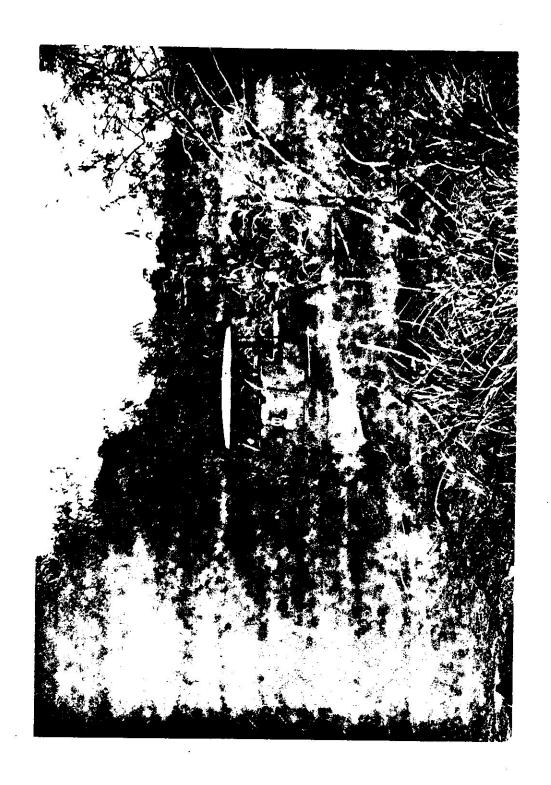
ANIMAL KINGDOM 14-16 JANUARY 1974

APPENDIX C

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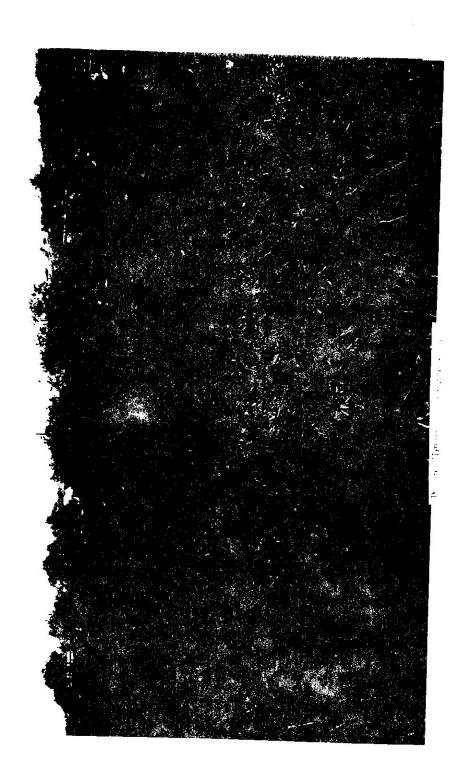


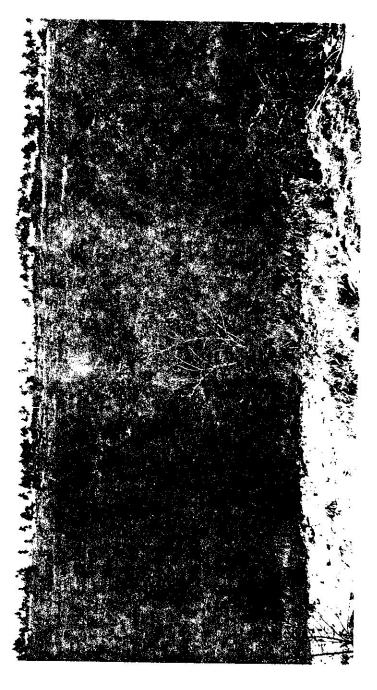




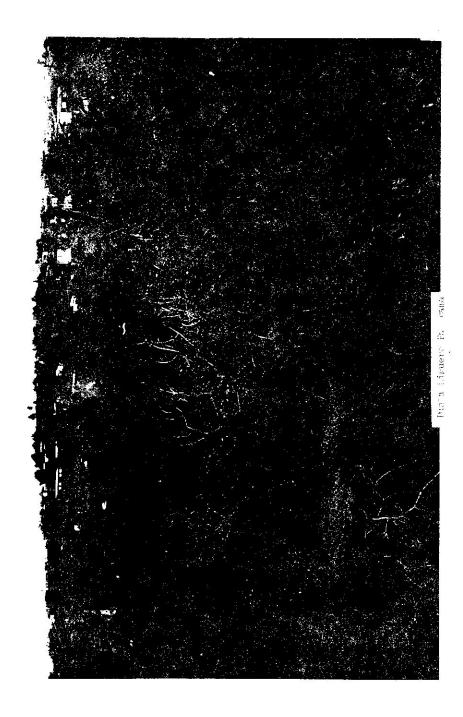




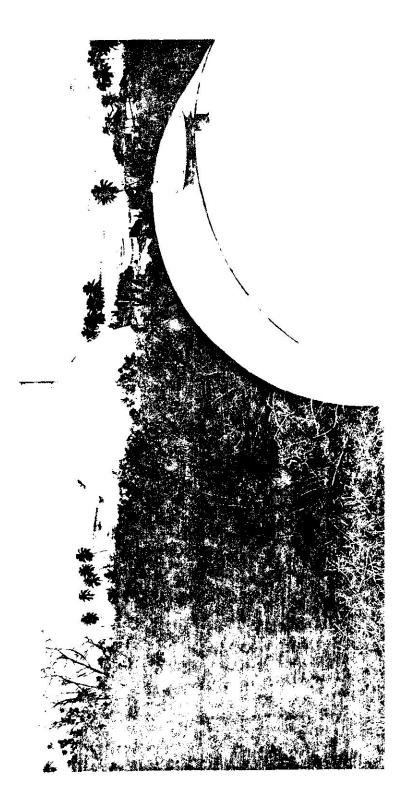




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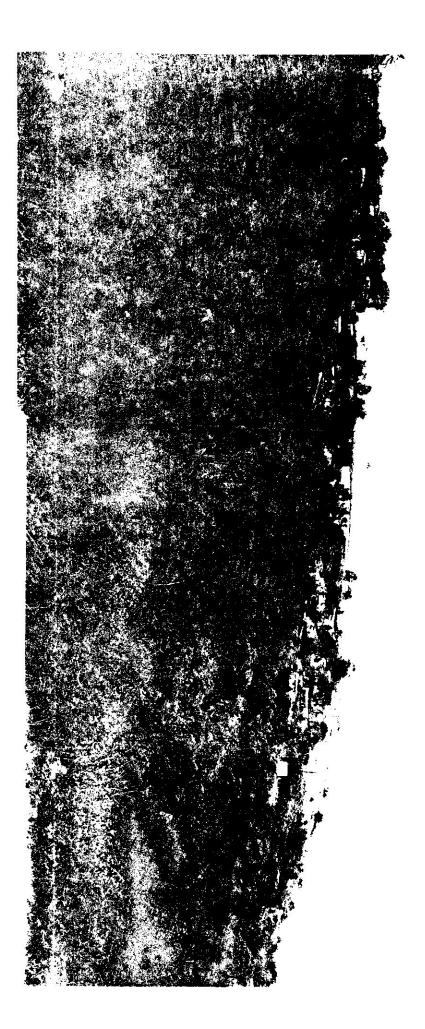
Punta Hignere Panerama - West

.

29



Punta Physica Parchama Charles



Passa Higuers Pancrama - Worth Northeast

Rest d Successional Screen - Inna Filmero

APPENDIX D

	93			
				10

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE BENTHIC

COMMUNITIES OF THE PUNTA HIGUERO SITE

By

Alina Szmant Froelich, Stephen Martin, Beverly Buchanan, Robert Castro

INTRODUCTION

The Punta Higuero area is under consideration as a possible site for the construction of a fossil fuel power plant. Sea water is to be utilized as a coolant and is later to be discharged into the immediate environment at an elevated temperature. This action may have detrimental effects on the shallow water communities of the insular shelf surrounding the Punta Higuero site. Unlike fishes and some of the plankton, the benthic organisms, in most cases, cannot relocate themselves permanently or even temporarily if they are being adversely affected by the increased temperature. It is therefore important to determine what benthic assemblages are present, their areal extent, their sensitivity to increased temperatures, and their economic importance to the nearby human communities. The insular shelf surrounding Punta Higuero is very narrow, ranging in width from approximately one to four kilometers. It is an open unprotected area, influenced by the large North Atlantic swell north of the Point and by the Caribbean Sea and Mona Passage currents south of the Point, resulting in a complex current pattern most of the year. The majority of the coastline in this area consists of rocky outcrops and unprotected beaches and there are few protected areas. Also, although no large rivers discharge into the area, it may be influenced occasionally by the Añasco River south of the Point and the Culebrinas River north of the Point.

suggested that the benthic communities north of the Point might be different those south of the Point. Therefore, our group first swam transects pundicular to shore in areas north and due west of the Point, and also abserved areas south of the Point, to determine the community types present and specifically the areas that would be sampled in detail. Observations from these and subsequent dives seem to confirm that there is a transition from a predominately benthic algal community north of the Point to a predominately coral-sponge community south of the Point. As will be further discussed later, this may be an important consideration in the design and location of the plant.

METHODS

Benthic communities in the near and offshore vicinity of Punta Higuero were observed and sampled from January 16-19, 1973. Preliminary observations began with visual and photographic observations approximately one nautical wile northeast of Punta Higuero, utilizing SCUBA apparatus and swimming a bransect perpendicular to the shoreline from 60 to 15 foot depths, covering a bottom area of approximately 4,000 square meters (m²). Similar bottom observations were obtained adjacent to Punta Higuero (20 to 40 foot depths) observing an area of approximately 2,000 m², and also approximately one nautical mile south of Punta Higuero (35 to 45 foot depths) observing an approximate 500 m² area (Figure 1). Divers recorded basic information relative to benthic community types, dominant organisms, bottom composition, and physical observations, including current strength and direction, and visibility on plexiglass slates. Also, the area was photographed and representative organisms collected for subsequent Laboratory study.

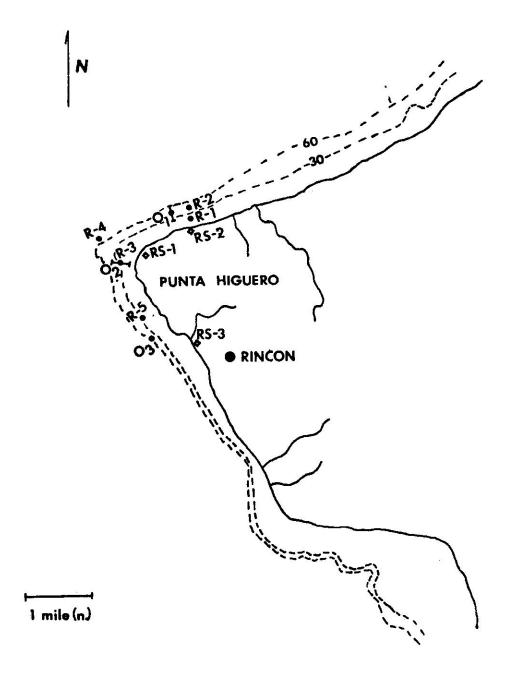


Figure 1. Location of shore and offshore sampling stations at Punta Higuero. Shore stations are listed as RS-1, RS-2, and RS-3, while offshore stations are numbered R-1 through R-5. Observation dives are shown as O, to O3. Dashed lines represent 30 and 60 foot contour lines.

A. Station selection:

Based on these observations and on other previous preliminary observations conducted by Puerto Rico Nuclear
Center biologists (PRNC, 1972) five offshore stations
were established for more detailed study: Stations R-1
(25 feet depth) and R-2 (45 feet depth) approximately one
nautical mile northeast of Punta Higuero; Stations R-3
(35 feet depth) and R-4 (65 feet depth) directly adjacent
to Punta Higuero; and Station R-5 (25 feet depth) approximately one nautical mile southeast of Punta Higuero(Fig.1).
Also, three shore stations were established, one at Punta
Higuero, RS-1, and two others, located one nautical mile
northeast and southeast of this point, RS-2 and RS-3,
respectively (Fig. 1).

B. Station sampling:

The sampling techniques at Stations R-1, R-2, R-4, and R-5 were conducted as follows: three divers descended to the sample area and assembled the two meter-square quadrat apparatus, consisting of four metal rods, each two meters in length, and six nylon lines connected to the rods at one-half meter intervals, establishing 16 quarter-meter square areas. While one diver photographed each small (1/4 m²) quadrat in sequence and then the immediate surrounding area, the others recorded observations of bottom organisms on plexiglass tablets and collected representative organisms from the immediate area. Then all divers reassembled and removed the benthic assemblage from a representative 1/h n² quadrat, often using a hammer and chisel

to remove sections containing encrusting and/or boring organisms that were impossible to remove otherwise. The samples were immediately placed in large plastic bags, held next to the collecting site by one diver, in order to ensure that small free-living forms such as crabs and brittle stars could not escape. As the bottom area at Station R-3 was composed almost entirely of sand, with little biomass, quadrat samples were not obtained but rather three 400 cm² samples were taken with a standard Eckman dredge. These samples were sieved through a series of screens, mesh sizes 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch, and the retained organisms placed in small plastic vials. As for the shore stations, benthic organisms were observed and/or collected from a variety of habitats, including tide pools, attached to rocky substrata, and burrowed in sand. Also, organisms washed up on the beach were collected, usually from the upper sandy beach zone.

C. <u>laboratory</u> analyses:

All samples were returned to the laboratory, sorted into phylogenetic groups, weighed, and preserved in 70% ethanol for later identification. Corals were weighed, subjected to clorox digestion, dried, and weighed again to estimate the amount of living animal and plant material present.

Also, large pieces of rock were split apart and various organisms removed for identification. Finally, pieces of rubble that remained after most encrusting and boring organisms had been removed were weighed and the weights multiplied by a factor obtained from previous work (Szmanu, 1972) to estimate the total organics left in the rubble sample.

All major groups of benthic organisms, including sponges, corals, gorgonians, molluscs, annelids, crustaceans, and echinoderms were classified to genus and species when possible. However, due mainly to time limitation, the classification of sipunculids and other minor phyla was not attempted. Therefore, information was obtained on species composition and total biomass for each 1/4 m² quadrat sample collected.

D. Photographic analyses:

To augment the laboratory studies, photographs obtained from the transect observations and from station areas surrounding each quadrat were studied and those with representative communities were selected for inclusion in the report. In addition, photographs from the station quadrats were projected onto specially prepared graph paper, and corals, sponges, and algae cover outlined. Then the percentage bottom areas occupied by these groups were calculated and reported as percent 2 m - quadrat cover.

RESULTS

A total of 27 man-diving hours were spent observing and collecting the benthic communities. Two transects, one spot check and five quantitative samples were obtained. In addition, six man hours were spent observing and collecting organisms from the beaches and rocky shore areas. The results will be divided into descriptions of the communities observed and an evaluation of the quantitative data obtained.

Description of Benthic Comminities:

1. Sandy bottom:

Very few organisms seem to live in or on this botto

type. No sand dollars, sea pansies, sea pens, or other usual sandy bottom organisms were observed.

This bottom type was found near shore, out to 15-20 feet in depth, and interspersed with higher and harder bottom types farther offshore (20 to 40 foot depths) in other areas. In the future, aerial photographs will be used in determining the areal extent of the sandy areas.

2. Shallow algal (soft bottom):

This bottom type was observed in the shallow (15-25 feet) near shore area north of the Point. Figure 2 is a photograph of a 1/4 m² section from this area. Tufts of benthic algae on a sandy bottom characterizes this community type. Only an occasional sponge or gorgonian interrupt the fairly homogeneous substratum.

3. Shallow algal (hard bottom):

This bottom type extends outward from the previous one, from approximately 20 to 35 feet in depth. Less sand is present which permits gorgonians and sponges to become much more abundant. In addition, loose cobbles provide many invertebrates (brittle stars, crabs, etc.) with shelter. Only occasional encrusting coral colonies were present. This type of bottom was observed both north and due west of the Point in the above mentioned depth range. Most areas where this community type was found had fairly irregular bottom topographies.

4. Deep algal (hard bottom):

Sponges become increasingly more important with depth.

Many of the algae in this zone are small and encrusting.

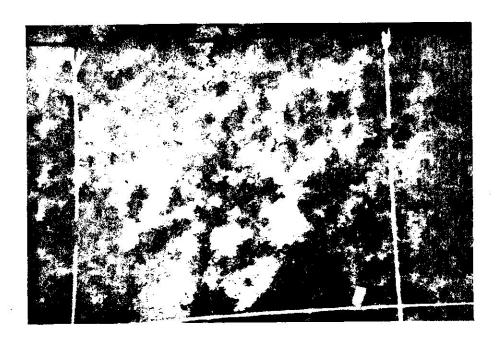


FIGURE 2. Photograph of a 1/4 m² area of bottom at Station R-1, showing macroalgae cover and comparatively bare sandy regions. Photography by A.S. Froelich.

Gorgonians also increase in importance. Occasional heads of Montastrea cavernos and Siderastrea siderea emerge from a gently sloping bottom and many fish were observed swimming in the area, utilizing the corals for food and protection. The transition between the three algal zones is, of course, gradual and the relative extent of each zone depends on the bathymetry and on the wave pattern affecting each particular area.

5. Deep gorgonian-sponge-coral:

This bottom type was found only west of Punta Higuero, at a depth of approximately 65 feet, and was characterized by a sparse overall bottom cover. The area was different from other coral communities observed because of a much lower density of cover organisms. Most of the encrusting corals, such as M. cavernosa, Diploria spp., Agaricia agaricites, Favia fragum, Isophyllia spp., Mussa angulosa, Porites astreoides and Mycetophyllia lamarkiana were present, as well as large gorgonians (many Euniceas and Gorgonias) and several large basket sponges. The bottom was very irregular with up to 10-foot variations in depth. The deeper areas were covered with soft silty sediment and only a few gorgonians and sponges. Figure 3 is a 1/4 " section of the bottom in this area.

6. Shallow coral-sponge:

This bottom type was encountered south of the Point from approximately 20 feet to 35 feet in depth. It is not known how far towards shore this zone continues, nor how far north towards the Point. Figure - is a photograph of a few of the many large sponges found in this area.

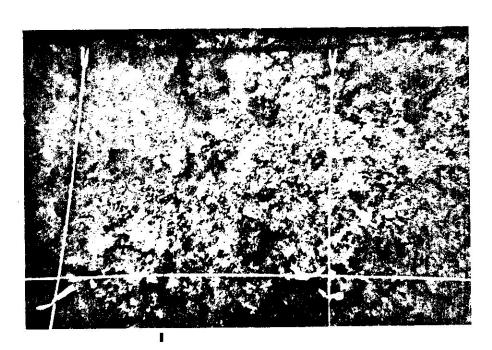


FIGURE 3. Photograph of a 1/4 m bottom area at Station R-4, showing macroalgae interspersed with occasional sponges, rubble and hard sandy substratum. Photograph by A.S. Froelich.



FIGURE 4. Photograph of the bottom at Station R-5. Note the large sponges, including two large basket sponges (Xestospongia sp.) and the smaller sponges at left center and lower right. The remainder of the area is primarily algae on rocky bottom.

Photograph by A.S. Froelich.

Diploria clivosa, the octocoral Briareum asbestinum, the hydrocoral Millepora alcicornis and the sea urchin Diadema antillarum are some of the more abundant organisms present. Small encrusting algae and sponges covered most of the bottom between the larger corals and sponges. In addition, many encrusting organisms, such as bryozoans, sponges, tubiferous polychaetes, and gastropods live under large, semi-loose boulders. Reef fish were much more common here than around the algal areas and several large lobsters were also sighted.

7. Deep coral:

This type of coral community probably exists from around 35 to 40 feet to the edge of the shelf. The area we examined was 45-55 feet deep, with a few deeper holes. Figures 5, 6 and 7 show typical scenes from this area. The bottom is heavily encrusted with M. cavernosa, Diploria strigosa, Porites asteroides and gorgonians, and encrusting algae were observed growing among the colonies. Coral coverage here was approximately 50 percent of the bottom area and is similar to coral communities found on the outer shelf south of Puerto Rico. Fishes were very abundant, especially large parrot fish, snappers, surgeon fish and grunts (Table II). Bottom depressions or holes contained many large schools of the grunts and snappers. A map of the possible distribution of the above bottom types is presented in Figure 8. The short was in the vicinity of Punta Miguero are a



FIGURE 5. Photograph of coral formations observed at Station R-6, comprised mainly of Montastrea cavernosa and gorgonians. Photograph by A.S. Froelich.



Figure 6. Photograph of the bottom at Station 6. Present are two porkfishes (Anisotremus virginicus), corals (M. cavernosa and Porites astreoides) and gorgonians. Photo by A.S. Froelich.

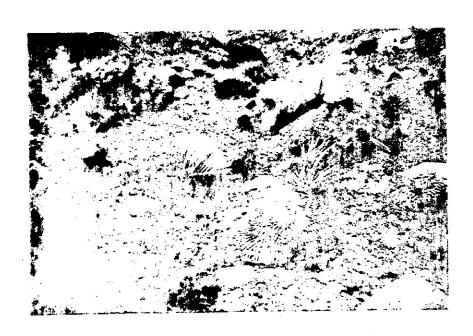
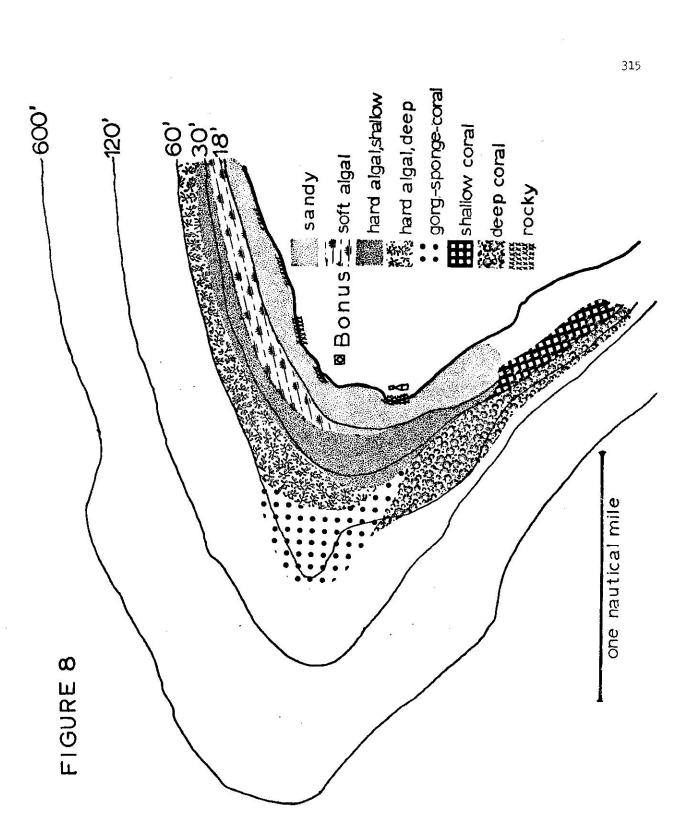


Figure 7. Photograph of the bottom at Station R-6. Note the pink
from of the encrusting coral M. cavernosa, the coral Diploria sp.,
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rocky shore communities were similar to those of other rocky shores around the north and eastern coasts of Puerto Rico. A good description of rocky shore biota, which applies as well to the rocky outcrops at Punta Higuero, is that of Glynn (1964). No large tide pools were found on the rocks, but tide pool type organisms were found in the pool behind the breakwater of the old Bonus plant intake.

A shelf of algae-covered beach rock was found a few meters from shore along much of the beach near the Bonus plant. It was not possible to adequately sample this shelf due to high wave action. It was noticed, however, that much of the algal cover on the shelf consisted of Padina sp. Some invertebrates from this area were collected by Dr. F.D. Martin (PRNC) while rotenone poisoning for fish. They are included in Table 1 under the heading, "Tide Pool".

Finally, a few samples of beach sand from the swash zone were sieved for beach organisms, however, only a few individuals of <u>Hippa cubensis</u> were found. We were not able to examine the sandy area just offshore due to rough weather conditions. Table II is a compendium of organisms that were sighted at various times during the dives or shore work, although they were not collected and identified in the laboratory. They are included here for completeness.

Table 1

Organisms collected at various sampling stations. (See fig. 1 for station locations). R-1, R-2, R-4 and R-5 are 1/4 m quadrat stations; R-3 is from 3 Eckman dredge hauls on a sandy bottom; Organisms collected at various sampling stations. "Miscellaneous" are specimens collected washed up on the beach at 3 sites; "Tide Pool" includes organisms collected by Rotenone poisoning and by hand collecting; "65 ft. Transect"

Tide R-1 R-2 R-3 R-4 R-5 Misc. Pool Transect Algae Chlorophyta Anadiomene stellata X X Caulerpa racemosa Caulerpa sertularioides Caulerpa verticillata XXXX Dictyospaeria cavernosa Halimeda sp. X X Halimeda discoidea X Penicillus capitatus X Spyridia aculeata X Udotea flabellum X X Ulva lactuca Valonia ventricosa X X X X Phaeophyta Dictyopteris sp. X X Dictyopteris delicatula X Dictyota sp.
Dictyota bartayresii
Dictyota cervicornis
Dictyota dichotoma
Dictyota divaricata X X X X X X X X Dictyota jamaicensis Dictyota linearis X X Padina sp. X X Sargassum sp. X X Rhodophyta Amansia multifida X Amphiroa brasiliana Amphiroa fragilissima X X X X Amphiroa rigida Amphiroa tribulus X X X Botryocladia pyriformis X Bryocladia sp. X Bryothamnion triquetrum

X

Alele 1 (cont.)							
	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Tide 65' Pool Transect
Rhodophyta						Case Special Personal Processor (1994)	- voz zransect
Ceramium sp.						х	
Corallina sp.		X		X		X	x
Corallina cubensis Galaxaura sp.	X X					5.5.2	^
Glacilaria sp.	X	X		X		х	
Gracilaria ferox Gracilaria verrucosa					••	X	
Gracilarionsis sp.					Х	x	
Jania sp. Jania adherens		X X					
Jania capillacea		A			X	X	
Laurencia sp. Laurencia papillosa	v					X	
Polysiphonia sp.	X					X X	
Pterocladia pinnata Wrangelia sp.						X	
						X	
Angiosperma							
Thalassia testudium	x		B				
Foraminifera							
Amphiostegna gibbosa Archaias angulatus for	ma co	mnres	go V	X	X		
Quinqueloculina sp.		mpr co	<u>5a</u> A	A	X	<u> </u>	
Porifera							
Callyspongia sp.		10		X			8
Chondrilla nucula		x		x	X		x
Craniella sp.		4.		Ŷ			
Erylus ministrogylus Geodia gibberosa				x	X		
Higginsia strigilata		X				x	
Verongia fistularis Xestospongia muta	X	X		X X	X		
Zvgomycale pariehii	X			Λ	•		
Axinella sp. Anthosignella sp.						X	92°
MICIOCINA MICHOCHEIS		*			X		
Microcina sp. Clathrina canariensis					X		
					X		
Coelenterata							8 1
Hydrozoa Cnidoscyphus marginatus				x			
Diphasia digitalis	<u>-</u>			Λ.			X X
							4.

Table 1 (cont.)	,	ם_ס	p_3	R_4	R_5	Misc.	65' nsect
Hydrozoa Millepora alcicornis Sertularella speciosa	- 1	X X	n-j	X		X	
Anthozoa							
Actiniaria Zoanthus sp.						X	
Scleractinia Agaricia agaricites Astrangia solitaria Diploria clivosa		X			X X X		
Isophyllia multiflora Meandrina brasiliensis Montastrea cavernosa Siderastrea radians		X		5	X X		
Octorallia Eunicea tourneforti Muricea atlantica Muriceopsis flavida Plexaura flexuosa Plexaurella sp.		x		X	X X X	x	
Annelida							
Polychaeta Eunice sp. Eunice cariboea Eunice fucata Eunice rubra	x x	x		x x	X		
Glycera sp. Hermenia verruculosa Hesione proctochona					X		X
Laetmonice kinbergii		X			X		X
Lepidonotus branchiatu Lumbrinereis floridana Lysidice sulcata Marphysa regalis	a X	X		X X	х		v
Nerels sp.	X X				x		Х
Nereis bairdii Nereis dumerilii Nicidion sp. Nicidion kinbergii Onuphis sp. Pontogenia sericorna	X X X			X	X X		X

tole 1 (cont.)

	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Tide Pool T	65' ransect
Polychaete Sabella sp. Sabella alba Scoloplos sp. Stylaroides glabra Syllis sp. Syllis prolifera Terebella sp.	X X	x x	x	X X X X	X X X X			
Sipunculida Unidentified	х				x			-
Mollusca	600 is							X
Amphineura Acanthopleura granulai Chiton marmoratus Chiton squamosus Gastropoda Acmaea antillarum Aequipecten gibbas Arca zebra Astraea sp. Astraea tuber Bulla striata Cheilea equestris Cantharus sp. Cantharus lautus Cardita gracilis Colubraria obscura Columbella mercatoria Conus daucus Conus mus Coralliophila aberrans Cymatium pileare Cyphoma intermedium Cyprea cassis testicula Cyprea spurca Diodora sp. Diodora arcuata	x		X	X X	X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	X X X	x
Diodora listeri Drillia interpleura Drupa nodulosa	x	•				x x	¢.	

Table 1 (cont.)

							Tide	65'
	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Pool	Transect
							11	
Contropodo								
Gastropoda Epitomium lamellosum						X		
Eulima auricincta							X	
Eulima patula			X					
Heliacus bisulcatum	X					х		
Hemitoma octoradiata			X			^		
Hipponix antiguatus			A			X		
Hyalina tenuilabra Littorina ziczac							X	
Lucapinella limatula		• *			35	X		25
Marginella sp.			X					
Melampus coffeus	-				v	X		
Mitra sp.	Х				X	x		
Mitra crenata			Х					
Mitra nodulosa			А				X	
Nerita peloronta Nerita tessellata							X	
Nerita versicolor							X	
Nitidella nitida						X		
Nodolittorina tubercu	lata		45			X X		
Odostomia laevigata			X X			Λ		
Odostomia seminuda			X			χ		
Oliva reticularis			X					
Olivella dealbata Olivella petiolita						X	X	5.0
Persicula sp.						X		
Persicula lavalleean	<u>a</u>		X			10		
Persicula pulcherrim	<u>a</u>		X		x	x		
Petaloconchus erectu	<u> </u>			X	Λ	Λ.		
Petaloconchus florid	anus			А		x		
Phalium sp. Pisania pusta						X		
Planaxis lineatus						Х		
Planaxis nucleus						X		, in
Polinices lacteus	X					X	v	
Purpura patula				77		X X	X	
Pussia gemmata	X X			X		v		
Pussia hanleyi	Λ					Х		
Pyrene ovulata Rissoina multicostat	a X							
Serpulorois decussat	a					X		
Serpulorbis riisei					Х	•		
Smaragdia virides		37				X X		
Smaragdia virides Strombus gigas						X		
Strombus raninus						X	X	
Tectarius muricatus						x	X	.55
Tegula excavata Tegula lividomacula	ta.					X		
Tegula IIVIdomacula								

Table 1 (cont.)

Gastropoda	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Tide 65' Pool Transect
Thais sp. Thais rustica Trachycardium muricate Tricolia thalassicola Trimusculus goesi Trivia antillarum	<u>um</u>		x		2 g	X X X	X
Trivia nix Trivia pediculus Trivia suffusa Trivia quadripunctata Tonna maculosa Turritella sp. Vermicularia knorri		x	x	x		X X X X X	
Mollusca							
Anadara lienosa florio Anadara notabilis Arca imbricata Barbatia dominguensis Banchidontes exustus Chama sp. Chama macerophylla Chione sp. Chione cancellata Columbella mercatoria Gastrochaena hians Lyonsiabeana Lima lima Musculus lateralis Papyridea semisulcata Scallops Sphenia antillensis Spondylus americanus	X X	x x x x	X X	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x
Scaphopoda <u>Dentalium</u> sp.					x		
Arthropoda Crustacea							
Isopoda Excorallana sp. Excorallana tricornis Cirolana parva	х	х		X X	x		k N

Table 1 (cont.)

	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Tide Pool	65' Transect
Isopoda Paracereis sp. Paracereis caudata	¥		22	x		20		
Stomapoda Gonodactylus oerstedi	<u>i</u>	x			x			e
Decapoda		.00						
Reptantia Alpheus cristulifrons Synalpheus sp. Synalpheus minus Synalpheus rathbunae Synalpheus tanneri Periclemenaeus sp. Periclemenaeus americ		X X	,	x x x x	x x x			
Periclimenaeus schmit	ti A				x			
Anomura Albunea gibbesii Coenobita clypeatus Hippa cubensis Paguristes sericeus			x			X X X		
Brachyura Actaea sp. Epialtus longirostris Eurypanopeus abbrevia Mithrax sp. Mithrax forceps Pachygrapsus gracilis Pachygrapsus transver Podochela grossipes	tus X X	x x					X X	
Echinodermata								
Asteroidea Asterias forbesii	x							
Echinoidea Echinometra lucunter Echinometra viridis Eucidaris tribuloides	X	x				x	x	
Ophiuroidea Amphiura fibulata Coniactis mulleri		x			x			

	 8	/ 1
TBD.	1	(cont.)
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	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Misc.	Tide Pool	65' Transect
Ophiuroidea Ophiactis savignyi Ophiocoma chinata Ophiocoma riisei Ophioderma sp.	x x	X		x	x x	at		
Ophioderma rubicundum Ophiopsila riisei Ophiothrix sp. Ophiothrix angulata Ophiothrix suensonii	x	х	22	X X	X X X	x		x
Holothuroidea <u>Holothuria</u> sp.	x						3*	ř
Bryozoa								3
Unidentified Schizoporella sp.		X X		Х	Х	=		
Chordata								*
Ascidiacea Microcosmus exasperat Stylea plicata Trididemnum sp.	tus	х		x	x			
Total #spp. 268 collected	49	49	2	48	62	108	17	13

Table II - Organisms sighted at the Punta Higuero site.

Porifera:

Callyspongia sp. Haliclona sp.

Coelenterata:

Anthozoa: Hexacorallia
Palythoa caribaorum
Diploria strigosa
Diploria labyrinthiformis
Faviafragum
Montastrea annularis
Siderastrea siderea
Eusmilia fastigiata
Colpophyllia natans
Manicina sp.
Meandrina meandites
Dichocoenia stokesii
Mycetophyllia lamarkiana
Isophyllastrea rigida
Mussa angulosa
Agaricia agaricites
Porites porites
Porites asteroides

Eunicea laxispica
Plexaura homomalla
Pterogorgia guadalupensis
Gorgonia flabellum
Pseudopterogorgia sp.
Briareum asbestinum

Annelida

Pomastegus sp. Spirobranchus sp.

Arthropoda, Crustacea
Panulirus argus
Grapsus grapsus

Madracis decactis Octocorallia

Fish

Melichthys niger
Balistes vetula
Acanthurus spp.
Scarus spp.
Thalassoma bifasciatum
Halichoeres bivittatus
Halichoeres pictus
Bodianus rufus
Chromis spp.

Table II (cont.)

Fish

Eupomacentrus partitus
Eupomacentrus fuscus
Pomacanthus arcautus
Pomacanthus paru
Chaetodon striatus
Anisotremus virginicus
Haemulon spp.
Lutjanus jocu
Lutjanus spp.
Scomberomorus regalis
Caranx ruber
Cephalopholis fulva
Holocentrus spp.

Quantitative data:

As yet the quantitative data collected is not sufficient to make conclusions from them about the communities present and the differences between them. At most, only one sample was collected from each bottom type and in some cases none were collected. The bottom types for the five photographed and collected quadrats were as follows:

Station	Bottom Type
R-1	Shallow algal (soft bottom)
R-2	Deep algal (hard bottom)
R-3	Sandy bottom (dredge samples)
R-4	Deep gorgonian - sponge - coral
R-5	Shallow coral - sponge

Total biomass for the stations were (in gms. net weight $1/4 \text{ m}^2$):

Station	Biomass
R-1	320.8
R-2	1667.6
R- 3	3 . 6
R-4	1173.6
R-5	2346.55

The biomass estimates indicate that the sandy and shallow soft bottom algal communities were much lower in biomass than the coral and deeper algal communities. However, the number of species present was approximately the same for all samples except R-3 (Table 1). Insufficient data is available at the present time to look at distribution of biomass among the various phylogenetic groups or to compile trophic level diagrams. Examination of the results of the photographed quadrats Table III) shows the predominance of algae at Stations R-1 and R-2. The category "scattered algae" includes all areas where encrusting or foliaceous algae were growing

.....le III - Percentages of bottom cover for the Rincon 2x2 m quandrats

Station Number						
R-1 %	R-2	R-4 %	R - 5			
49	49	7	12			
50	33	65	55			
0.3	1	9	7			
	2	.1	16			
	•3		.1			
			•1			
			.4			
			5			
le .	2		2			
		.1				
			.1			
		.2	¥			
			1			
			.1			
		.2	•2			
	4	1	1			
99•3	99•3	99.9	100.0			
	49 50 0.3	R-1 R-2 % 49 49 50 33 0.3 1 2 .3	R-1 R-2 R-4 % 49 49 7 50 33 65 0.3 1 9 2 .1 .3 2 .1 .3 .2 4 1 .99.3 99.3 99.9			

^{**} This includes areas where the algal tufts were too little or too diffuse to distinguish and outline them.

Amount of algae/area varies in this category, but it would be very difficult to quantify.

in very small patches so that it was not possible to distinguish the actual areas covered by algae and the areas where nothing was growing. Most of this area had around a 30-50% algal coverage on it. Therefore, around two-thirds to one-half of the category "scattered algae" could be added to "no coverage". Although Station R-2 had a few corals, R-4 and R-5 had much more variety in the corals present there.

DISCUSSION

Although the existing data are insufficient for an in-depth analysis of the situation, it is apparent that the benthic communities north of the Point are mostly algae; while in those south of the Point corals predominate.

Algae are usually considered fairly resistant to thermal alterations, while corals have been shown not to be. Also, siltation can usually be overcome more easily by algae than by corals. Since the major possible detrimental effects to the environment by the plants would be 1) sediment disturbance during construction of the plant, 2) sediment disturbance and suspension at the discharge channel of the plant, and 3) discharge of heated sea water into the environment, care should be taken that the heat and sediment laden waters do not affect the coral areas which are of more economic importance to the nearby inhabitants as fishing grounds. Therefore, it is recommended that the discharge channel be well to the north of the Point where it will have time to 1) cool off thru mixing, and 2) drop its sediment load before crossing the highly productive coral - sponge communities.

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