

FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

COMM:	348705	DATE: M	lay 29, 2018
INSPECTORS:	Mr. Mark Hartman, Coastal Sy Ms. Megan Reising, Coastal Sy Mr. Aaron Boehning, Coastal S	ystems	(Coastal Systems)
RE:	SECOND ANNUAL FIELD O Resource and Structural Site 2 in Martin County, Fi	SURVEY OF THE SIROTK	

1. INTRODUCTION

Coastal Systems International, Inc. (Coastal Systems) divers conducted a marine resource survey on April 26, 2018 at the Sirotkin Artificial Reef Site 2 (Reef) in Martin County, Florida between the hours of 1:42 pm and 2:15 pm to obtain general information on the ecological resources present and to document the physical conditions at the Reef. The Reef is located approximately 6.72 nautical miles east by northeast (on a bearing of 69°) from Port Sewall at the mouth of the St. Lucie Inlet. See Figure 1 for a map of the Reef location and survey area. The survey was conducted pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit # SAJ-2006-1955(IP-JWH) Special Condition 16, which requires that the permittee submit a monitoring report annually for two years after each placement. This 2018 monitoring survey represents the second, and final, annual survey of South County Artificial Reef Site 2.

Sirotkin Site 2

- Location: 27° 05' 19.4" N and 80° 02' 20.1" W
- Materials: 112 concrete poles and 28 concrete culverts (Martin County, n.d.)
- Maximum Depth: 90'
- Highest Reef Elevation: 85'
- Deployment Date: August 12, 2016

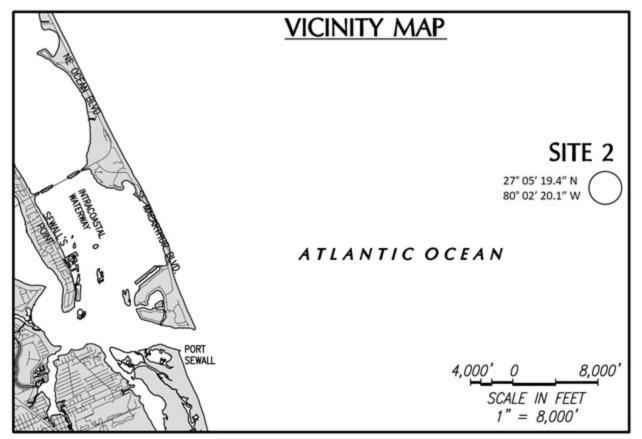


Figure 1. An overview of the location of the Sirotkin Site 2 Reef.

2. METHODOLOGY

Marine Resource Survey

Two Coastal Systems biologists performed the marine resource survey at the Reef. The area surveyed was approximately 17,047 square feet (Coastal Systems International 2017 Multi-beam data). Underwater photographs were taken to document the Reef from the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west views) and biologists visually assessed the overall condition (durability and stability) of the Reef.

Fish identification and abundance was determined using the guidelines established by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). The Roving Diver Technique (RDT, Schmitt and Sullivan 1996) was used for a set time period of 20 minutes at the Reef. The first biologist swam in a completely random pattern around the Reef focusing on locating fish species on the Reef structure and in the water column above the Reef. The biologist identified fish species, noted the abundance of species on the Reef, and recorded physical condition data for the Reef structure on underwater data sheets. Four abundance categories were used based on the approximate number of fish observed throughout the dive [Single (1); Few (2-10), Many (11-100), and Abundant



(>100)]. The second biologist identified benthic invertebrate species and located cryptic fish species found within the interstitial spaces between the Reef components. Biologists were careful to look under various structures and note the details and morphology required to identify organisms to the lowest practical taxonomic level.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Structural Summary

The concrete components of the culverts and poles were intact, and very few of the steel rebar and reinforcing components were exposed or corroded (Photograph 1). It was not apparent if the small amount of damage to the concrete structures was due to the condition before placement, impacts to the structures during placement, or increased corrosion after placement; however, the 2018 monitoring survey structural observations were similar to that of the 2017 monitoring survey. Approximately 6 inches of primarily coarse sand was noted around the bases of the concrete poles, but no settlement/sinking of the Reef as a whole was apparent during the survey (Figure 2).



Photograph 1. No obvious damaged, exposed, or corroded rebar was observed on the concrete culverts and poles at the Sirotkin Artificial Reef Site 2.



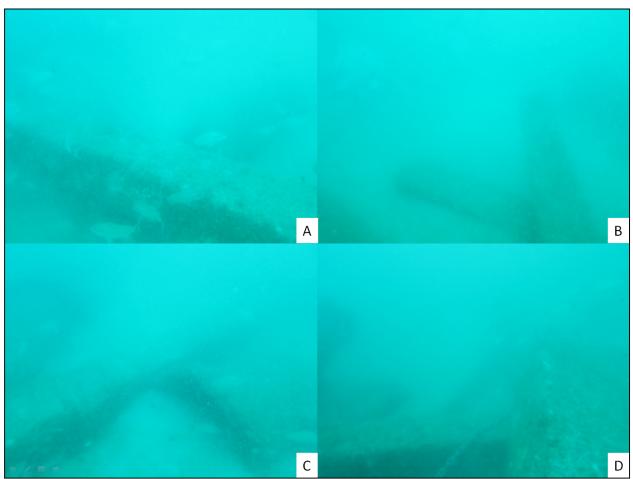


Figure 2. An overview of Sirotkin Artificial Reef Site 2 looking north (A), south, (B), east (C), and west (D) from above the tallest point on the Reef.

3.2 Marine Resource Survey Results

The submerged lands at the Reef site consisted mostly of beach quality sand with silt, shell hash, sand dollar fragments, occasional concrete rubble, and various man-made debris. The Reef contained numerous crevices and small areas for sheltering both small and large fish species. Visibility at the Reef was unusually low during the time of the survey and averaged approximately 5-8 feet. Due to the reduced visibility, the number of species observed during the 2018 monitoring survey was lower than the 2017 monitoring survey. Typical species, which were observed on Site 2 during the 2017 monitoring survey, and also found on Sites 14 and 15 during the 2018 monitoring survey, were not directly observed on Site 2, include red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), cocoa damselfish (*Stegastes variabilis*), and black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*).



Species Observed

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 23 species, indicating a diverse population on the Reef. The most abundant fish observed in high numbers were tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*, Photograph 2). Few goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*, Photograph 3) were observed on the Reef, compared to the approximately 10 observed in 2017, as the 2018 survey was conducted outside of the spawning aggregation season (Robins, n.d.). Unlike the previous annual survey, no invasive exotic red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) were observed among the concrete culverts; this was likely due to the very limited visibility during the time of the fish abundance survey and not a reduction in their prevalence. Many Atlantic spadefish (*Chaetodipterus faber*), gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*), and greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) were observed. Several less common species were observed, including a single southern stingray (Photograph 4) and a few spotted scorpionfish (Photograph 5). The 23 fish species observed during the monitoring survey are presented in Table 1; 9 new species observed this year that were not observed in 2017 are noted in the table.

In addition to the 23 fish species observed, 13 benthic invertebrate organisms (Table 2) were documented on the Reef, including rock boring urchins (*Echinometra lucunter*), various hermit crabs, feather duster worms (*Sabellidae* sp.), and a bearded fireworm (*Hermodice carunculata*, Photograph 6). Growing directly on the Reef were 6 species of macroalgae such as *Dictyopteris justii, Dictyota* sp., *Laurencia* sp., *Botryocladia* sp., and turf algae (Table 3). A total of 42 unique species were observed during the 2018 monitoring survey.





Photograph 2. Numerous tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*) among the concrete culverts at the Reef.

Table 1. Fish species, stage, and abundance observed on the Sirotkin Site 2 Reef. Stage – Adult (A) or Juvenile (J). Abundance (Abd) Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		20	2017		18
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage	Abd	Stage	Abd
Atlantic spadefish	Chaetodipterus faber			Α	Μ
Bandtail puffer	Sphoeroides spengleri			J	F
Belted sandfish	Serranus subligarius	А	Μ		
Black grouper	Mycteroperca bonaci	А	F		
Black margate	Anisotremus surinamensis			А	F
Blue angelfish	Holacanthus bermudensis	А	F	Α	F
Blue runner	Caranx crysos	А	F	Α	S
Blue tang	Acanthurus coeruleus	А	F	А	S
Bluestriped grunt	Haemulon sciurus			А	S
Cobia	Rachycentron canadum	А	F		
Cocoa damselfish	Stegastes variabilis	А	F		



Table 1. Cont.		20	2017		2018	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage	Abd	Stage	Abd	
Cottonwick	Haemulon melanurum	А	F			
Cubbyu	Pareques umbrosus	J, A	Μ	А	F	
Doctorfish	Acanthurus chirurgus	Α	F	А	F	
French angelfish	Pomacanthus paru	А	F			
Goliath grouper	Epinephelus itajara	А	F	А	F	
Gray angelfish	Pomacanthus arcuatus			A	F	
Gray snapper	Lutjanus griseus	J, A	А	А	М	
Gray triggerfish	Balistes capriscus	А	F			
Greater amberjack	Seriola dumerili			A	М	
Highhat	Pareques acuminatus			A	F	
Hogfish	Lachnolaimus maximus			A	S	
Lane snapper	Lutjanus synagris	А	F	А	S	
Porkfish	Anisotremus virginicus	А	Μ	J, A	F	
Rainbow wrasse	Thalassoma lucasanum	J	F			
Red lionfish	Pterois volitans	А	F			
Saddled blenny	Malacoctenus triangulatus	А	F			
Sand perch	Diplectrum formosum	А	F			
Scamp	Mycteroperca phenax	А	S			
Sharksucker	Echeneis naucrates	А	F			
Sheepshead	Archosargus probatocephalus	J, A	Μ	А	F	
Sheepshead porgy	Calamus penna	А	F			
Southern stingray	Dasyatis americana	Α	S	Α	S	
Spotted eel	Gymnothorax moringa	А	S			
Spotted goatfish	Pseudupeneus maculatus	А	Μ			
Spotted scorpionfish	Scorpaena plumieri	Α	F	Α	F	
Tomtate	Haemulon aurolineatum	J, A	А	J, A	А	
Two spot cardinalfish	Apogon binotatus	Α	М			
Whitefin sharksucker	Echeneis naucratoides			Α	S	
Whitespotted soapfish	Rypticus maculatus	Α	М	Α	F	
Yellowtail snapper	Ocyurus chrysurus	А	М			
Total		3	2	2	3	
Unique species over bo	th monitoring surveys		4	1		

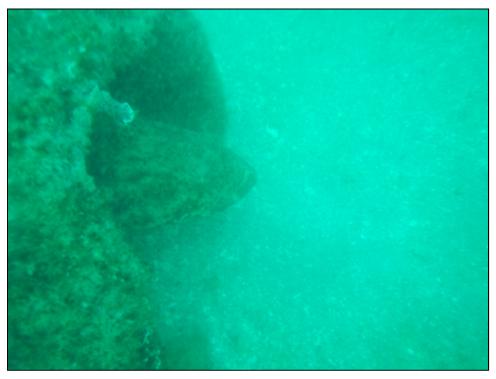
Table 2. Benthic invertebrate species and abundance observed on the Sirotkin Site 2 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one survey but not the other are in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Algae hydroid	Thyroscyphus ramosus	F	F
Barnacles	Balanus sp.	А	А
Bearded fireworm	Hermodice carunculata		S
Caribbean spiny lobster	Panulirus argus	F	
Distaplia	Distaplia bermudensis	F	F
Encrusting sponge	Unidentified species	F	F
Feather duster worm	Sabellidae sp.	F	F
Hermit crabs	Unidentified species	F	F
Red netted barnacles	<i>Megabalanus</i> sp.	А	А
Rock boring urchin	Echinometra lucunter	F	F
Rock snails	<i>Muricidae</i> sp.	F	F
Slate pencil urchin	Eucidaris tribuloides	F	
Three rowed sea cucumber	Isostichopus badionotus	F	S
Variegated sea urchin	Lytechinus variegates	М	F
Yellowline arrow crab	Stenorhynchus seticornis	М	F
Total		14	13
Unique species over bo	th monitoring surveys	1	5

Table 3. Algal species observed on the Sirotkin Site 2 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Dictyopteris	Dictyopteris justii	F	М
Dictyota	Dictyota sp.	М	М
Green sea fingers	Codium sp.	F	А
Laurencia	Laurencia sp.	F	М
Macroscopic red algae	Halymenia sp.	F	F
Red grape kelp	Botryocladia sp.	А	А
Sargassum	Sargassum spp.	F	
Total		7	6
Unique species over both monitoring			
surveys			7





Photograph 3. A goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) in one of the concrete culverts at the site.



Photograph 4. One southern stingray (*Hypanus americana*) was observed on the sandy bottom near a concrete pole at the Reef.





Photograph 5. A spotted scorpionfish (*Scorpaena plumieri*) observed at the base of one of the concrete poles.



Photograph 6. A bearded fireworm (*Hermodice carunculata*) on the surface of a pole on the Reef site.



4. CONCLUSION

There were very few steel rebar and reinforcing components exposed, and the structural relief and sediment accumulation around the Reef did not vary from the previous year's monitoring. It was not apparent if the original damage was present before placement, but given the timeframe and little increase in deterioration, the Reef seems structurally sound. The Reef contained numerous crevices and spaces for both large and small fish species.

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 23 species, as compared to 32 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Nine new fish species were observed during the 2018 monitoring survey, while 17 species were unique to 2017, for a total of 41 species over the two monitoring events.

In addition to the 23 fish species observed, 13 benthic invertebrate organisms were documented on the Reef, as compared to 14 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Two new benthic invertebrate organisms were observed in 2018, while one was unique to the 2017 monitoring survey, for a total of 15 species over the two monitoring events.

Growing directly on the Reef components were 6 species of macroalgae, as compared to 7 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. One new macroalgae species was observed during the 2018 monitoring survey, while none were unique to the 2017 monitoring survey, for a total of 7 species over the two monitoring events.

Overall, the number of fish species, benthic invertebrates, and macroalgae decreased from the 2017 monitoring survey to the 2018 monitoring survey at the Sirotkin Reef Site 2. However, in all three cases, the number of new organisms observed increased over time. Although number of observed species decreased over time, the decrease is indicative of the very limited visibility during the 2018 monitoring survey and not a reduction in species diversity. While fish are mobile and the number of species observed can differ from year to year without indicating a decrease in diversity, a more accurate representation of diversity are benthic species and new benthic species, which have been stable or increasing.

Coastal Systems recommends continued monitoring efforts to determine continued success criteria of the Reef and species diversification. With additional monitoring data, statistical analyses can be performed to compare changes in species richness and diversity over time, and among the existing reef sites, to inform future artificial reef design criteria, structural materials, and placement location to ensure the most cost-effective planning for Martin County's Artificial Reef Program.



5. REFERENCES

Martin County. (n.d.). Retrieved October 16, 2017, from <u>https://www.martin.fl.us/martin-county-services/artificial-reef-locations</u>

Robins, R. H. (n.d.). Goliath Grouper. Retrieved October 16, 2017, from <u>https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/fish/discover/species-profiles/epinephelus-itajara</u>

Schmitt, E. F., and K. M. Sullivan. 1996. Analysis of a volunteer method for collecting fish presence and abundance data in the Florida Keys. Bulletin of Marine Science. 59(2): 404-416.

F:\Project\348705\Reports\Site 2\(18-05-21) FOR Sirotkin Reef Site 2-Final.docx





FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

COMM:	348705	DATE: May 29, 2018
INSPECTORS:	Ms. Megan Reising, Coastal Mr. Mark Hartman, Coastal Mr. Aaron Boehning, Coasta	5
RE:		OBSERVATION REPORT FOR THE MARINE AL SURVEY OF THE SOUTH COUNTY ARTIFICIAL OUNTY, FLORIDA

1. INTRODUCTION

Coastal Systems International, Inc. (Coastal Systems) divers conducted a marine resource survey on April 27, 2018 at the South County Artificial Reef Site 14 (Reef) in Martin County, Florida between the hours of 8:53 am and 9:26 am to obtain general information on the ecological resources present and to document the physical conditions at the Reef. The Reef is located 8.5 miles southeast by east (on a bearing of 123.5°) from Port Sewall at the mouth of the St. Lucie Inlet. See Figure 1 for a map of the Reef location and survey area. The survey was conducted pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit # SAJ-2006-1955(IP-JWH) Special Condition 16, which requires that the permittee submit a monitoring report annually for two years after each artificial reef placement. This 2018 monitoring survey represents the second, and final, annual survey of the South County Artificial Reef Site 14.

Site 14

- Location: 27° 05' 47.3" N and 80° 02' 09.3" W
- Materials: 240 concrete culverts and 145 concrete poles and slabs (Martin County, n.d.)
- Maximum Depth: 77'
- Highest Reef Elevation: 65'
- Deployment Date: August 2, 2016

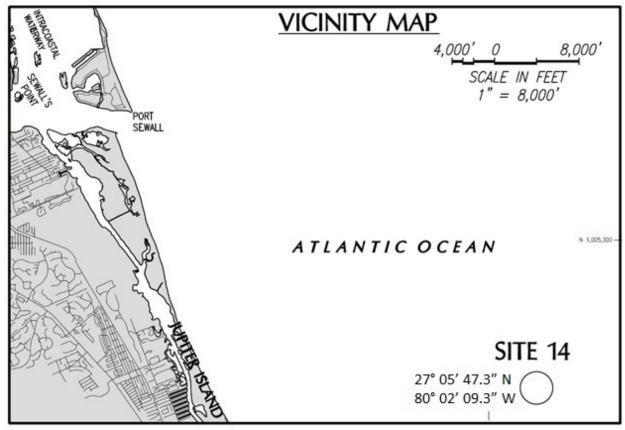


Figure 1. An overview of the location of the South County Site 14 Reef.

2. METHODOLOGY

Marine Resource Survey

Two Coastal Systems biologists performed the marine resource survey at the Reef. The area surveyed was approximately 10,295 square feet (Coastal Systems International 2017 Multi-beam data). Underwater photographs were taken to document the Reef from the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west views) and biologists visually assessed the overall and condition (durability and stability) of the Reef (Figure 2).

Fish identification and abundance was determined using the guidelines established by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). The Roving Diver Technique (RDT, Schmitt and Sullivan 1996) was used for a set time period of 20 minutes at the Reef. The first biologist swam in a completely random pattern around the Reef focusing on locating fish species on the Reef structure and in the water column above the Reef. The biologist identified fish species, noted the abundance of species on the Reef, and recorded physical condition data for the Reef structure on underwater data sheets. Four abundance categories were used based on the approximate number of fish observed throughout the dive [Single (1); Few (2-10), Many (11-100), and Abundant



(>100)]. The second biologist identified benthic invertebrate species and located cryptic fish species found within the interstitial spaces between the Reef components. Biologists were careful to look under various structures and note the details and morphology required to identify organisms to the lowest practical taxonomic level.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Structural Summary

The concrete components of the culverts, poles, and slabs were intact (Photograph 1); however, the steel rebar and reinforcing components were exposed and corroded on many of the structures, especially at the ends of the culverts (Photograph 2). It was not apparent if the damage was due to the condition before placement, due to impacts sustained during placement, or the result of the combination of wave action, erosion, and corrosion after placement. Additionally, approximately two feet of primarily coarse sand was seen built up around the bases of the concrete culverts, poles, and slabs, and the Reef appears to lie in a shallow sandy depression, so some scouring seems to have occurred; however, the 2018 monitoring survey structural observations were similar to that of the 2017 monitoring survey.



Photograph 1. A view of the concrete culverts, poles, and slabs on the Reef.





Photograph 2. Damaged, corroded, and exposed rebar typical of many of the ends of the concrete culverts and poles on the South County Artificial Reef Site 14 showing growth.



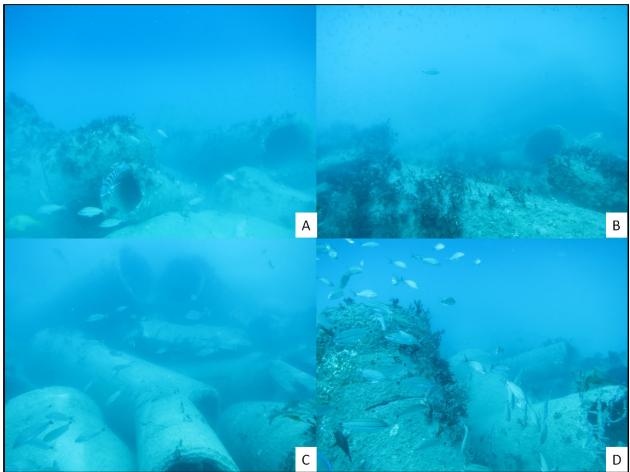


Figure 2. An overview of the South County Artificial Reef Site 14 looking north (A), south, (B), east (C), and west (D) from the tallest point on the Reef.

3.2 Marine Resource Survey Results

The submerged lands at the Reef site consisted mostly of beach quality sand with occasional silt, shell hash, sand dollar fragments, concrete fragments, and various man-made debris. Visibility on the Reef was generally 30-40 feet at the time of the survey.

Species Observed

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 34 species, indicating a diverse population on the Reef. The most abundant fish observed were tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*, Photograph 3) and gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*). Many black margate (*Anisotremus surinamensis*), common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), glass gobies (*Gobiopterus chuno*), porkfish (*Anisotremus virginicus*), sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), and rainbow runner (*Elagatis bipinnulata*) were observed. Fewer black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*) and a single gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) were observed. Few goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) were observed on the Reef, compared to



approximately twenty observed during the 2017 monitoring survey, as the survey was conducted outside of the spawning aggregation season (Robins, n.d., Photograph 4). Few large, invasive exotic red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) were also observed among the concrete culverts (Photograph 5). The 34 fish species observed during the monitoring survey are presented in Table 1.; 14 n ew species observed this year that were not observed in 2017 are noted in the table.

In addition to the fish species, 14 benthic invertebrate organisms (Table 2) were observed on the Reef, including barnacles, sponges, tunicates, hydroids, hermit crabs, and a Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*; Photograph 6). Sea urchins (*Arbacia punctulata* and *Echinometra lucunter*) and feather duster worms (*Sabellidae* sp.) were observed in the interstitial spaces between the culverts and poles. Growing directly on the Reef materials were 7 species of macroalgae such as *Dictyota* sp., *Laurencia* sp., *Botryocladia* sp., *Sargassum* sp., and turf algae (Table 3). A total of 55 unique species were observed during the 2018 monitoring survey.

Table 1. Fish species, stage, and abundance observed on the South County Site 14 Reef. Stage – Adult (A), Intermediate (I), or Juvenile (J). Abundance (Abd) Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		20	2017		18
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage	Abd	Stage	Abd
Bandtail puffer	Sphoeroides spengleri			J	S
Belted sandfish	Serranus subligarius	А	F		
Black grouper	Mycteroperca bonaci			A	F
Black margate	Anisotremus surinamensis	А	Μ	Α	Μ
Blue angelfish	Holacanthus bermudensis	А	F	Α	F
Blue runner	Caranx crysos	А	F		
Blue tang	Acanthurus coeruleus	А	F	A	F
Bluehead wrasse	Thalassoma bifasciatum	А	F	J, A	F
Cocoa damselfish	Stegastes variabilis	А	F	Α	F
Common snook	Centropomus undecimalis	А	F	A	М
Cottonwick	Haemulon melanurum	А	F	Α	F
				J, I,	
Cubbyu	Pareques umbrosus	J, A	Μ	Α	F
Doctorfish	Acanthurus chirurgus	А	F	Α	F
Fairy basslet	Gramma loreto			A	F
French angelfish	Pomacanthus paru	А	F		
Gag grouper	Mycteroperca microlepis			A	S
Glass gobies	Gobiopterus chuno			A	М



Table 1. Cont.		20	17	20	18
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage	Abd	Stage	Abd
Goliath grouper	Epinephelus itajara	А	F*	Α	F
Gray angelfish	Pomacanthus arcuatus	А	F	J, A	F
Gray snapper	Lutjanus griseus	J, A	Α	Α	А
Gray triggerfish	Balistes capriscus	А	S		
Highhat	Equetus acuminatus	Α	F	Α	S
Mackerel scad	Decapterus macarellus	Α	А		
Neon goby	Elacatinus oceanops			A	F
Palehead blenny	Labrisomus gobio	А	F		
Porkfish	Anisotremus virginicus	Α	F	J, A	Μ
Queen angelfish	Holacanthus ciliaris	А	F		
Rainbow runner	Elagatis bipinnulata			A	М
Red lionfish	Pterois volitans	А	F	Α	F
Redband parrotfish	Sparisoma aurofrenatum			Ι	S
Reef butterflyfish	Chaetodon sedentarius			J	S
Scamp	Mycteroperca phenax			A	F
Sergeant major	Abudefduf saxatilis	А	F	Α	F
Sheepshead	Archosargus probatocephalus	J, A	Μ	А	М
Sheepshead porgy	Calamus penna	А	F	Α	F
Spotfin hogfish	Bodianus pulchellus			J	F
Spotted scorpionfish	Scorpaena plumieri	Α	F	А	F
Three spot damselfish	Stegastes planifrons			A	F
Tomtate	Haemulon aurolineatum	J, A	А	А	А
Whitespotted soapfish	Rypticus maculatus			A	S
Yellowtail reeffish*	Chromis enchrysura			A	F
Total		2	7	3	4
Unique species over bo	th monitoring surveys		4	1	



Table 2. Benthic invertebrate species and abundance observed on the South County Site 14 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Algae hydroid	Thyroscyphus ramosus	F	F
Ascidian tunicates	Polyandrocarpa sp.	S	
Barnacles	Balanus sp.	А	А
Bearded fireworm	Hermodice carunculata		F
Black tunicates	Ascidia nigra		F
Branching hydroid	Sertularella speciosa		F
Bulb tunicate	<i>Clavelina</i> sp.		F
Button tunicates	Distaplia corolla	F	
Caribbean spiny lobster	Panulirus argus		S
Clavelina tunicates	<i>Clavelina</i> sp.	F	
Distaplia	Distaplia bermudensis	F	
Encrusting sponge	Unidentified species	F	F
Feather bush hydroid	Dentitheca dendritica		М
Feather duster worm	Sabellidae sp.	F	F
Half-naked pen shell	Atrina seminude	S	
Hermit crabs	Unidentified species	F	F
Purple sea urchin	Arbacia punctulata		S
Red netted barnacles	<i>Megabalanus</i> sp.	А	
Rock boring urchin	Echinometra lucunter		F
Sand dollar	Clypeaster subdepressus	М	М
Sea biscuit	Clypeaster rosaceus	М	
Yellowline arrow crab	Stenorhynchus seticornis	М	
Total		14	14
Unique species over bot	th monitoring surveys	2	2



Table 3. Algal species observed during the South County Site 14 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S); Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Dictyopteris	Dictyopteris justii	М	М
Dictyota	Dictyota sp.	М	М
	Dasycladus		
Fuzzy finger alga	vermicularis		F
Green sea fingers	Codium sp.	А	
Laurencia	Laurencia sp.	М	М
Macroscopic red algae	Halymenia sp.	F	F
Oval-blade alga	Caulerpa prolifera		А
Red grape kelp	Botryocladia sp.	А	
Sargassum	Sargassum sp.	М	М
Total		7	7
Unique species over bo	th monitoring surveys)



Photograph 3. Numerous tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*) above the concrete culverts at the Reef.





Photograph 4. A goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) among the concrete culverts at the Reef.



Photograph 5. Several red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) were among the concrete culverts at the Reef.





Photograph 6. A Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) under the culverts and pipes on the Reef.

4. CONCLUSION

The concrete components of the culverts and poles were intact; however, the steel rebar and reinforcing components were exposed and corroded on many of the structures, especially at the ends of the culverts. Approximately two feet of coarse sand was seen built up around the bases of the concrete culverts and poles, and the Reef appears to lie in a shallow sandy depression, indicating some scouring seems to have occurred. This is consistent with the condition of the Reef during the 2017 monitoring survey.

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 34 species, indicating a diverse population on the Reefs compared to 27 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Fourteen new fish species were observed in 2018, while 7 species were unique to 2017, for a total of 41 species over the two monitoring events.

In addition to the 34 fish species, 14 benthic invertebrate organisms were observed on the Reef, the same number as observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Seven new benthic invertebrate organisms were observed in 2018, while 8 were unique to 2017, for a total of 22 species over the two monitoring events.



Growing directly on the Reef were 7 species of macroalgae, the same number as observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Two new macroalgae was observed in 2018, and two were unique to 2017, for a total of 9 species over the two monitoring events.

Overall, the number of fish species increased from the 2017 monitoring survey to the 2018 monitoring survey, and the number of benthic invertebrates and macroalgae remained the same, at the South County Reef Site 14. Additionally, the number of fish species observed increased over time. Given the increased diversity of species observed during the 2018 monitoring event, the Reef is showing increased attraction/recruitment. If monitoring of the Reef were continued, it is assumed that there will be an increasing number of species every year. Furthermore, the Reef is exhibiting a good variety of cryptic/reef dependent fish species, coastal/pelagic fish species, and recreationally and commercially important fish species, in addition to a good range of juvenile and adult stages.

While fish are mobile and the number of species observed can differ from year to year without indicating a decrease in diversity, a more accurate representation of diversity are the non-mobile benthic species and new benthic species, which have been stable or increasing.

Coastal Systems recommends continued monitoring efforts to determine continued success criteria of the Reef and species diversification. With additional monitoring data, statistical analyses can be performed to compare changes in species richness and diversity over time, and among the existing reef sites, to inform future artificial reef design criteria, structural materials, and placement location to ensure the most cost-effective planning for Martin County's Artificial Reef Program.



5. REFERENCES

Martin County. (n.d.). Retrieved October 16, 2017, from <u>https://www.martin.fl.us/martin-county-services/artificial-reef-locations</u>

Robins, R. H. (n.d.). Goliath Grouper. Retrieved October 16, 2017, from <u>https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/fish/discover/species-profiles/epinephelus-itajara</u>

Schmitt, E. F., and K. M. Sullivan. 1996. Analysis of a volunteer method for collecting fish presence and abundance data in the Florida Keys. Bulletin of Marine Science. 59(2): 404-416.

F:\Project\348705\Reports\Site 14\(18-05-21) FOR South County Reef Site 14.docx





FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

COMM:	348705	DATE:	May 29, 2018
INSPECTORS:	Mr. Mark Hartman, Coastal S Ms. Megan Reising, Coastal Mr. Aaron Boehning, Coasta	Systems	nc. (Coastal Systems)
RE:	SECOND ANNUAL FIELD Resource and Structura Reef Site 15 in Martin Co	L SURVEY OF THE SOUT	

1. INTRODUCTION

Coastal Systems International, Inc. (Coastal Systems) divers conducted a marine resource survey on April 26, 2018 at the South County Artificial Reef Site 15 (Reef) in Martin County, Florida between the hours of 11:30 am and 12:00 pm to obtain general information on the ecological resources present and to document the physical conditions at the Reef. The Reef is located approximately 8.7 miles southeast by east (on a bearing of 123°) from Port Sewall at the mouth of the St. Lucie Inlet. See Figure 1 for a map of the Reef location and survey area. The survey was conducted pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit # SAJ-2006-1955(IP-JWH) Special Condition 16, which requires that the permittee submit a monitoring report annually for two years after each placement. This 2018 monitoring survey represents the second, and final, annual survey of South County Artificial Reef Site 15.

Sirotkin Site 15

- Location: 27° 05' 53.0" N and 80° 01' 52.2" W
- Materials: 203 concrete culverts and 112 concrete poles (Martin County, n.d.)
- Maximum Depth: 77'
- Highest Reef Elevation: 67'
- Deployment Date: August 5, 2016

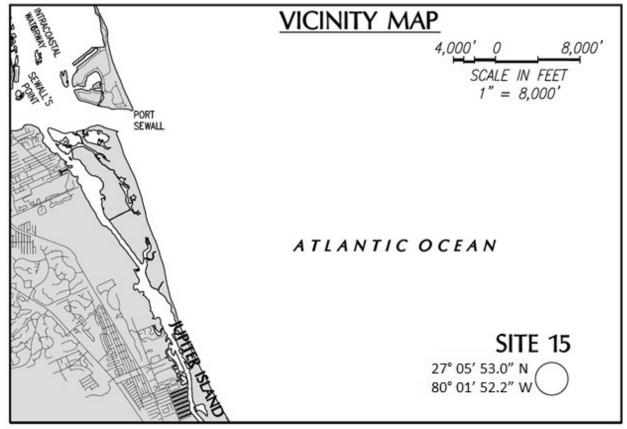


Figure 1. An overview of the location of the South County Site 15 Reef.

2. METHODOLOGY

Marine Resource Survey

Two Coastal Systems biologists performed the marine resource survey at the Reef. The area surveyed was approximately 3,247 square feet (Coastal Systems International 2017 Multi-beam data). Underwater photographs were taken to document the Reef from the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west views) and biologists visually assessed the overall and condition (durability and stability) of the Reef (Figure 2).

Fish identification and abundance was determined using the guidelines established by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). The Roving Diver Technique (RDT, Schmitt and Sullivan 1996) was used for a set time period of 20 minutes at the Reef. The first biologist swam in a completely random pattern around the Reef focusing on locating fish species on the Reef structure and in the water column above the Reef. The biologist identified fish species, noted the abundance of species on the Reef, and recorded physical condition data for the Reef structure on underwater data sheets. Four abundance categories were used based on the approximate number of fish observed throughout the dive [Single (1); Few (2-10), Many (11-100), and Abundant



(>100)]. The second biologist identified benthic invertebrate species and located cryptic fish species found within the interstitial spaces between the Reef components. Biologists were careful to look under various structures and note the details and morphology required to identify organisms to the lowest practical taxonomic level.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Structural Summary

The concrete components of the culverts and poles were intact, and very few of the steel rebar and reinforcing components were exposed or corroded (Photograph 1). It was not apparent if the small amount of damage to the concrete structures was due to the condition before placement, impacts to the structures during placement, or increased corrosion after placement; however, the 2018 monitoring survey structural observations were similar to those of the 2017 monitoring survey. Approximately 6 inches of primarily coarse sand was noted around the bases of the concrete poles, but no settlement/sinking of the Reef as a whole was apparent during the survey.



Photograph 1. No obvious damaged, exposed, or corroded rebar was observed on the concrete culverts and poles at South County Artificial Reef Site 15.



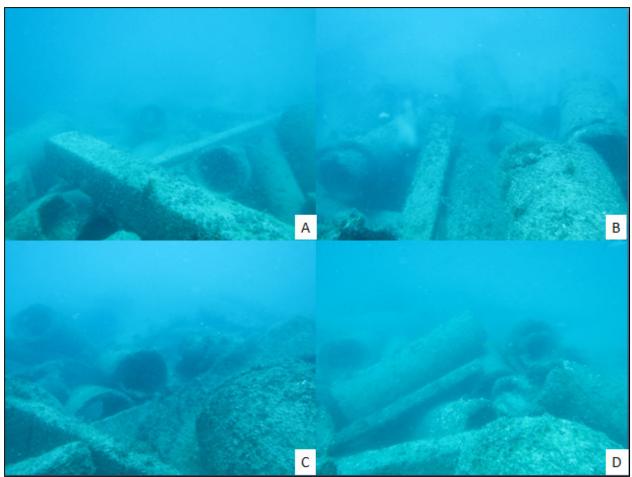


Figure 2. An overview of the South County Artificial Reef Site 2 looking north (A), south, (B), east (C), and west (D) from above the tallest point on the Reef.

3.2 Marine Resource Survey Results

The submerged lands at the Reef site consisted mostly of beach quality sand with silt, shell hash, sand dollar fragments, occasional concrete rubble, and various man-made debris. Visibility at the Reef averaged approximately 30-40 feet at the time of the survey.

Species Observed

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 43 species, indicating a diverse population on the Reef. The most abundant fish observed in high numbers were tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*, Photograph 2). Bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*, Photograph 3), gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*), mackerel scad (*Decapterus macarellus*), and rainbow runner (*Elagatis bipinnulata*) were also found in abundance. Few goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) were observed on the Reef, compared to approximately twenty observed in 2017, as the survey was conducted outside of the spawning aggregation season (Robins, n.d.). Few townsend angelfish (*Holacanthus townsendi*), many porkfish (*Anisotremus virginicus*, Photograph 4) and



many sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*, Photograph 5) were present on the Reef. Like the previous annual survey, invasive exotic red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) were observed among the concrete culverts. The 43 fish species observed during the monitoring survey are presented in Table 1; 21 new species observed this year that were not observed during the 2017 monitoring survey are noted in the table.

In addition to the 43 fish species observed, 15 other benthic invertebrate organisms (Table 2) were documented on the Reef, including hydroids, sea cucumbers, hermit crabs, feather duster worms, (*Sabellidae* sp.) and bearded fireworms. Additionally, one very small soft coral was observed colonizing the reef, a sea rod (*Eunicea* sp., Photograph 6). Growing directly on the Reef were 6 species of macroalgae such as *Dictyopteris justii*, *Dictyota* sp., *Laurencia* sp., and *Sargassum* sp. (Table 3). A total of 64 unique species were observed during the 2018 monitoring survey.



Photograph 2. Tomtate (*Haemulon aurolineatum*), in the background, and a porkfish (*Anisotremus virginicus*), in the foreground, on the Reef site.



Table 1. Fish species, stage, and abundance observed on the South County Site 15 reef. Stage – Adult (A) or Juvenile (J). Abundance (Abd) Categories – Single (1, S), Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017		2018		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage	Abd	Stage	Abd	
Atlantic trumpetfish	Aulostomus strigosus			J	S	
Bandtail puffer	Sphoeroides spengleri			J	F	
Bar jack	Caranx ruber	А	F			
Barred hamlet	Hypoplectrus puella	А	F			
Bay anchovy	Anchoa mitchilli			A	А	
Belted sandfish	Serranus subligarius	А	Μ	A	F	
Black grouper	Mycteroperca bonaci			A	F	
Black margate	Anisotremus surinamensis	А	Μ	Α	Μ	
Blue angelfish	Holacanthus bermudensis	А	F	Α	F	
Blue runner	Caranx crysos	А	F	Α	F	
Blue tang	Acanthurus coeruleus	А	F	Α	F	
Bluehead wrasse	Thalassoma bifasciatum			J, A	Μ	
Bull shark	Carcharhinus leucas	А	S			
Cocoa damselfish	Stegastes variabilis			A	F	
Cottonwick	Haemulon melanurum	А	F			
Cubbyu	Pareques umbrosus	J, A	М	Α	М	
Doctorfish	Acanthurus chirurgus	А	F	Α	Μ	
Fairy basslet	Gramma loreto			A	F	
French angelfish	Pomacanthus paru	А	F	А	S	
Gag grouper	Mycteroperca microlepis			Α	S	
Glass goby	Gobiopterus chuno			Α	Μ	
Goliath grouper	Epinephelus itajara	А	M*	А	S	
Gray angelfish	Pomacanthus arcuatus	А	F	Α	F	
Gray snapper	Lutjanus griseus	J, A	А	J, A	А	
Gray triggerfish	Balistes capriscus	А	S	А	F	
Graysby	Cephalopholis cruentata	А	S			
Greater amberjack	Seriola dumerili			A	F	
Highhat	Equetus acuminatus	А	F	А	F	
Longfin damselfish	Stegastes diencaeus			Α	S	
Mackerel scad	Decapterus macarellus	А	F	А	А	
Porkfish	Anisotremus virginicus	J, A	М	J, A	М	



Table 1. Cont.		2017		2018	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Stage Abd		Stage	Abd
Queen triggerfish	Balistes vetula			A	S
Rainbow parrotfish	Scarus guacamaia	А	F		
Rainbow runner	Elagatis bipinnulata	А	F	Α	А
Red grouper	Epinephelus morio	А	S		
Red lionfish	Pterois volitans	А	М	J, A	F
Rockhind	Epinephelus adscensionis			A	S
Sergeant major	Abudefduf saxatilis			A	F
Sharksucker	Echeneis naucrates	А	F		
Sharpnose puffer	Canthigaster rostrata			A	S
Sheepshead	Archosargus probatocephalus	J, A	М	Α	М
Slippery dick	Halichoeres bivittatus			J	М
Spanish hogfish	Bodianus rufus			J, A	F
Spotfin butterflyfish	Chaetodon ocellatus			A	F
Spotfin hogfish	Bodianus pulchellus			J	F
Spotted eel	Gymnothorax moringa	А	S		
Spotted scorpionfish	Scorpaena plumieri	А	F	Α	F
Tomtate	Haemulon aurolineatum	J, A	А	J, A	А
Townsend angelfish	Holacanthus townsendi			A	F
White grunt	Haemulon plumierii	А	F		
Whitefin sharksucker	Echeneis naucratoides	А	F		
Whitespotted soapfish	Rypticus maculatus	А	М	А	F
Yellow jack	Caranx bartholomaei	А	F	А	F
Yellowtail reeffish	Chromis enchrysura			A	F
Total		33		43	
Unique species over both monitoring surveys			5	54	



Table 2. Benthic invertebrate species and abundance observed on the South County Site 15 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S), Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Algae hydroid	Thyroscyphus ramosus	F	F
Ascidian tunicates	Polyandrocarpa sp.	S	
Barnacles	Balanus sp.	А	А
Bearded fireworm	Hermodice carunculata		F
Black tunicates	Ascidia nigra		F
Branching hydroid	Sertularella speciosa		F
Button tunicates	Distaplia corolla	F	
Caribbean spider crab	Mithrax spinosissimus		S
Clavelina tunicates	<i>Clavelina</i> sp.	F	
Distaplia	Distaplia bermudensis	F	
Encrusting sponge	Unidentified species	F	F
Feather bush hydroid	Dentitheca dendritica		М
Feather duster worm	Sabellidae sp.	F	F
Half-naked pen shell	Atrina seminude	S	
Hermit crabs	Unidentified species	F	F
Marine snail	Unidentified Species		F
Netted olive	Oliva reticularis		S
Red netted barnacles	Megabalanus sp.	А	
Sand dollar	Clypeaster subdepressus	М	
Sea biscuit	Clypeaster rosaceus	М	
Sea cucumber	Unidentified Species		F
Sea rod	<i>Eunicea</i> sp.		S
Three-rowed sea cucumber	Isostichopus badionotus		F
Yellowline arrow crab	Stenorhynchus seticornis	М	
Total		14	15
Unique species over bo	2	4	

Table 3. Algal species and abundance observed the South County Site 15 Reef. Abundance Categories – Single (1, S), Few (2-10, F), Many (11-100, M), and Abundant (>100, A). Species observed during one monitoring survey but not the other are indicated in gray.

		2017	2018
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance	Abundance
Dictyopteris	Dictyopteris justii	М	М
Dictyota	Dictyota sp.	М	М
Green sea fingers	<i>Codium</i> sp.	А	
Laurencia	Laurencia sp.	М	М
Macroscopic red algae	Halymenia sp.	F	F
Oval-blade alga	Caulerpa prolifera		А
Red grape kelp	Botryocladia sp.	А	
Sargassum	Sargassum sp.	М	М
Total		7	6
Unique species over both monitoring surveys		8	8



Photograph 3. A school of bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*) above the Reef site.





Photograph 4. Townsend angelfish (*Holacanthus townsendi*) and porkfish (*Anisotremus virginicus*) among the concrete poles at the site.



Photograph 5. Sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) observed on the sandy bottom near a concrete pole at the Reef.





Photograph 6. A sea rod (Eunicea sp.) on the Reef site.

4. CONCLUSION

There were very few steel rebar and reinforcing components exposed, but the structural relief and sediment accumulation around the Reef did not vary from the 2017 monitoring survey. It was not apparent if the original damage was present before placement, but given the timeframe and little increase in deterioration, the Reef seems structurally sound. The Reef contained numerous crevices and spaces for both large and small fish species.

The fish identification and abundance survey resulted in the observation of 43 species, as compared to 33 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Twenty-one new fish species were observed in 2018, while 11 species were unique to 2017, for a total of 54 species over the two monitoring events.

In addition to the 43 fish species observed, 15 other benthic invertebrate organisms were documented on the Reef, as compared to 14 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey Nine new benthic invertebrate organisms was observed in 2018, while 10 were unique to 2017, for a total of 24 species over the two monitoring events.



Growing directly on the Reef components were 6 species of macroalgae, as compared to 7 species observed during the 2017 monitoring survey. Two new macroalgae species were observed in 2018, while one was unique to 2017, for a total of 8 species over the two monitoring events.

Overall, the number of fish species and benthic invertebrates increased from the 2017 monitoring survey to the 2018 monitoring survey, and the number of macroalgae decreased slightly, at the South County Reef Site 15. Additionally, the number of new fish species and macroalgae observed increased over time. Given the increased diversity of species observed during the 2018 monitoring event, the Reef is showing increased attraction/recruitment. If monitoring of the Reef were continued, it is assumed that there will be an increasing number every year. Furthermore, the Reef is exhibiting a good variety of cryptic/reef dependent fish species, coastal/pelagic fish species, and recreationally and commercially important fish species, in addition to a good range of juvenile and adult stages.

While fish are mobile and the number of species observed can differ from year to year without indicating a decrease in diversity, a more accurate representation of diversity are the non-mobile benthic species and new benthic species, which have been stable or increasing. In particular, one soft coral, a sea rod (*Eunicea* sp.) was observed colonizing the structure, indicating that subsequent colonization by coral species is likely to occur over time. Stony coral recruitment and growth is a topic still under investigation, given its dependence on many factors including light attenuation, wave action, and water temperature. However, artificial reefs are measured in their ability to recruit marine flora and fauna. With the new presence of an octocoral, the Reef appears to be recruiting new species and showing signs of success.

Coastal Systems recommends continued monitoring efforts to determine continued success criteria of the Reef and species diversification. With additional monitoring data, statistical analyses can be performed to compare changes in species richness and diversity over time, and among the existing reef sites to inform future artificial reef design criteria, structural materials, and placement location to ensure the most cost-effective planning for Martin County's Artificial Reef Program.



5. REFERENCES

Martin County. (n.d.). Retrieved October 16, 2017, from <u>https://www.martin.fl.us/martin-county-services/artificial-reef-locations</u>

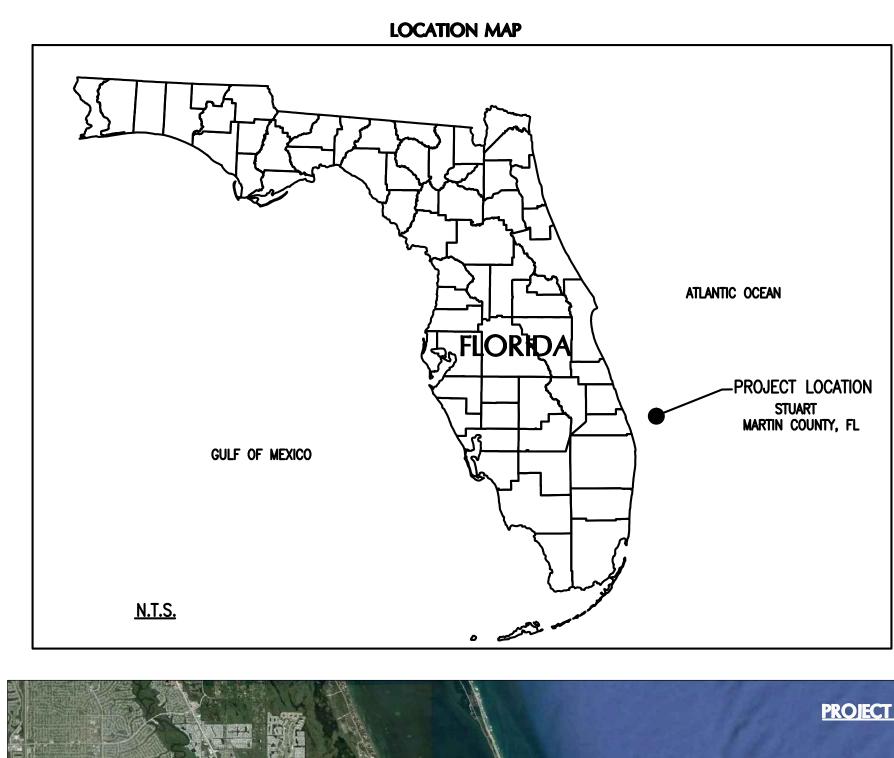
Robins, R. H. (n.d.). Goliath Grouper. Retrieved October 16, 2017, from https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/fish/discover/species-profiles/epinephelus-itajara

Schmitt, E. F., and K. M. Sullivan. 1996. Analysis of a volunteer method for collecting fish presence and abundance data in the Florida Keys. Bulletin of Marine Science. 59(2): 404-416.

F:\Project\348705\Reports\Site 15\(18-05-21) FOR South County Reef Site 15.docx

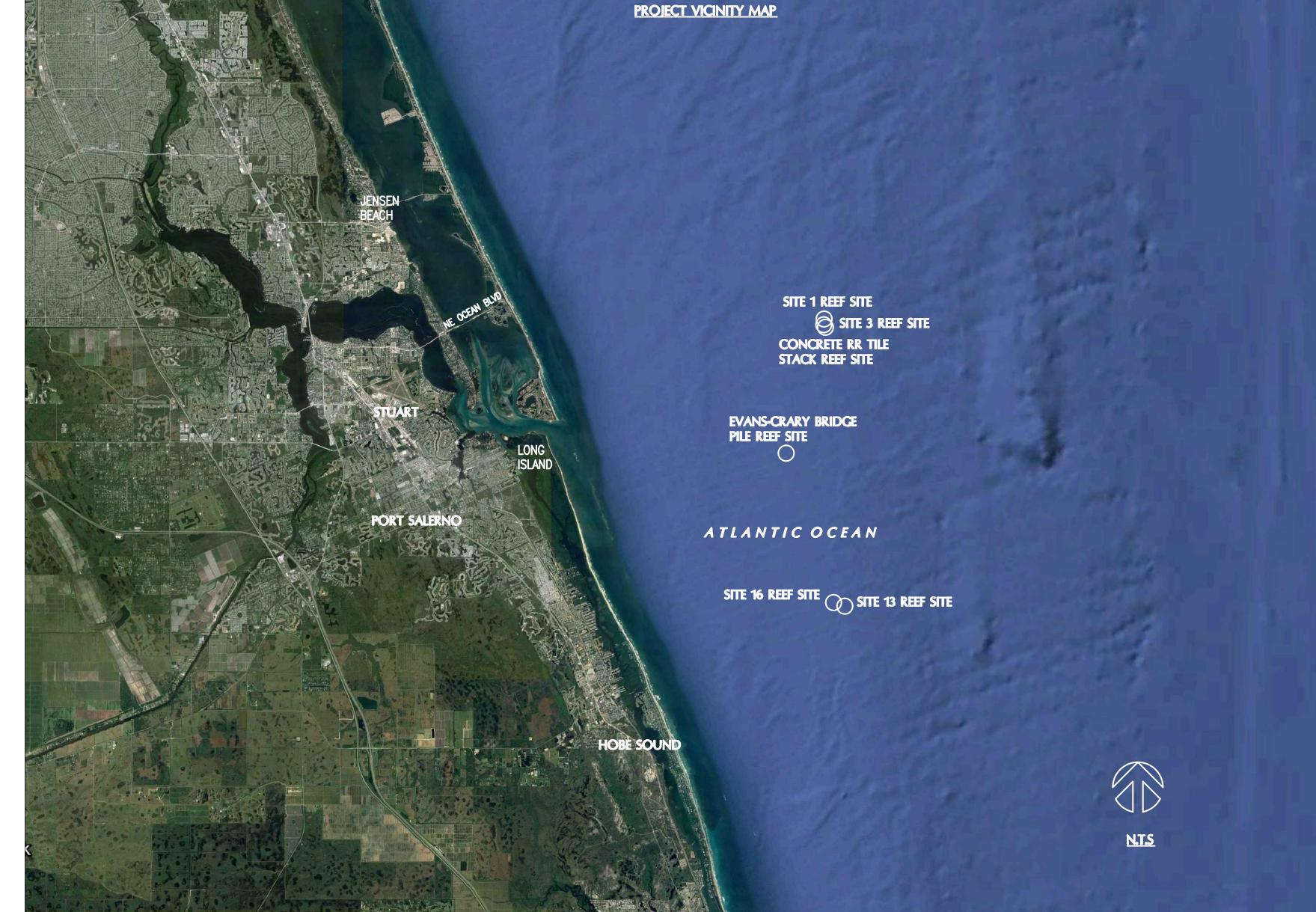






2

1



3

4

5

MARTIN COUNTY ARTIFICIAL REEF MONITORING JUNE 2017 - 2018

REEF INFORMATION TABLE

REEF	EASTING	NORTHING	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	MAX EL.
evans—crary bridge Pile	963,104.7	1,027,001.6	27°09'21.3"	80°03'21.9"	-52.0'
SITE 13	971,401.7	1,005,480.5	27°05'47.6"	80°01'51.9"	-70.0'
SITE 16	969,835.2	1,006,016.1	27°05'53.0"	80°02'09.2"	-69.0'
Concrete RR Tile Reef	968,702.5	1,044,273.7	27°12'11.9"	80°02'18.5"	-76.0'
SITE 1	968,461.3	1,045,406.0	27°12'23.1"	80°02'21.1"	-89.0'
SITE 3	968,632.5	1,044,687.8	27°12'16.0"	80°02'19.2"	-83.0'

SURVEY NOTES 2. MULTI-BEAM DATA COLLECTED WITH A RESON SEABAT T50-R CONNECTED TO A VALEPORT SWIFT SVP PROFILER AND AN APPLANIX 220 WAVEMASTER POS MV INU. 3. AUXILIARY TIDE DATA COLLECTED WITH A HOBO LEVELOGGER ELECTRONIC TIDE GAUGE. 4. REFERENCE MONUMENT IS PID DF9408. MONUMENT ELEVATION IS 1.00 FT NAVD 88. 5. HORIZONTAL POSITIONING OF BATHYMETRIC SURVEYS WAS OBTAINED USING DUAL TRIMBLE RTK 6. ALL REAL-TIME MULTI-BEAM AND POSITIONING DATA WERE COLLECTED IN HYPACK MAX AND . HORIZONTAL COORDINATES ARE IN FEET AND BASED STATE PLANE NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 8. ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET AND REFERENCED TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM 1988 9. THE INFORMATION DEPICTED ON THIS MAP REPRESENTS THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON THE NOTE: ALL SCALES INDICATED PERTAIN TO FULL SIZE DRAWINGS (24"x36")

7

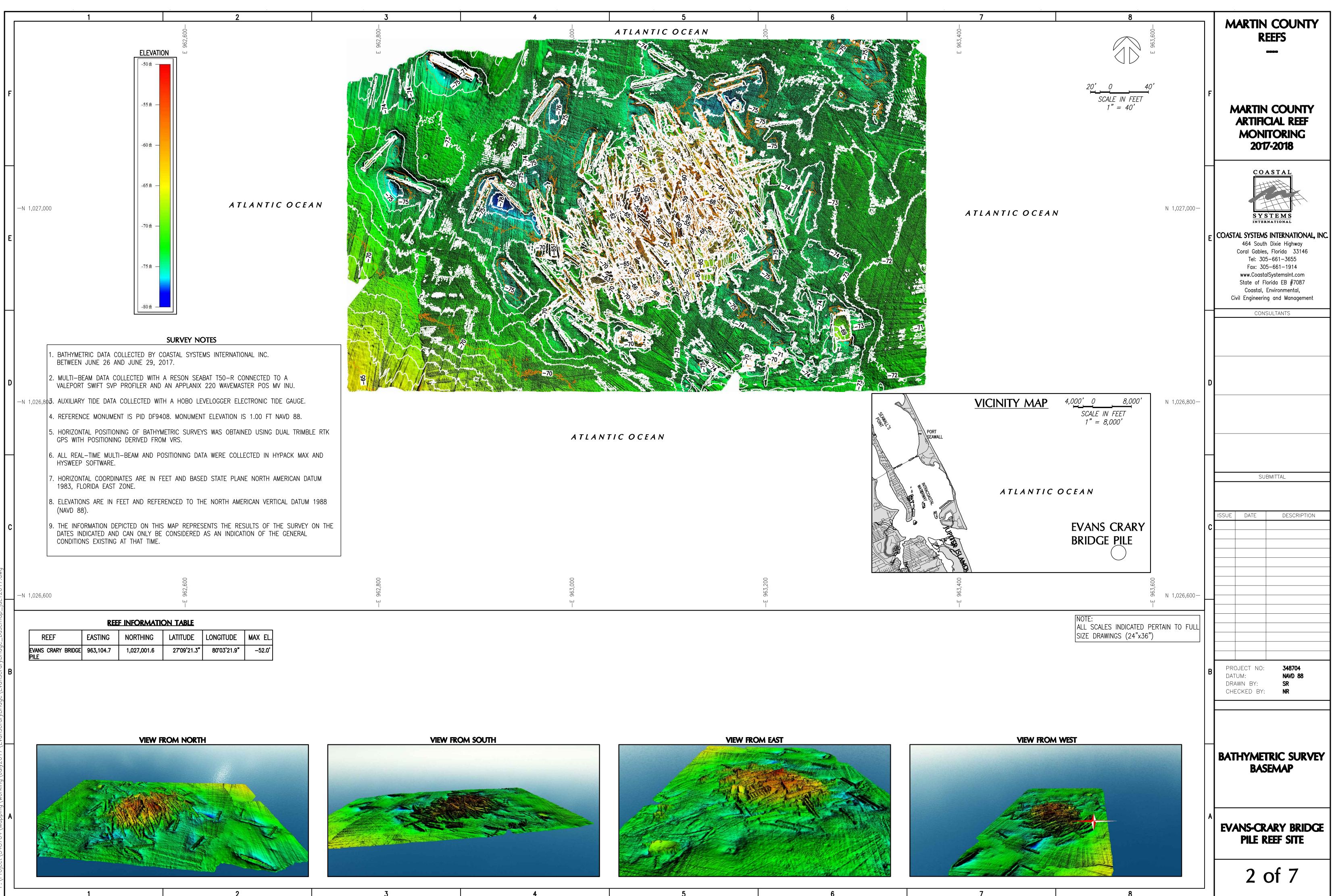
- . BATHYMETRIC DATA COLLECTED BY COASTAL SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL INC. BETWEEN JUNE 26 AND JUNE 29, 2017.

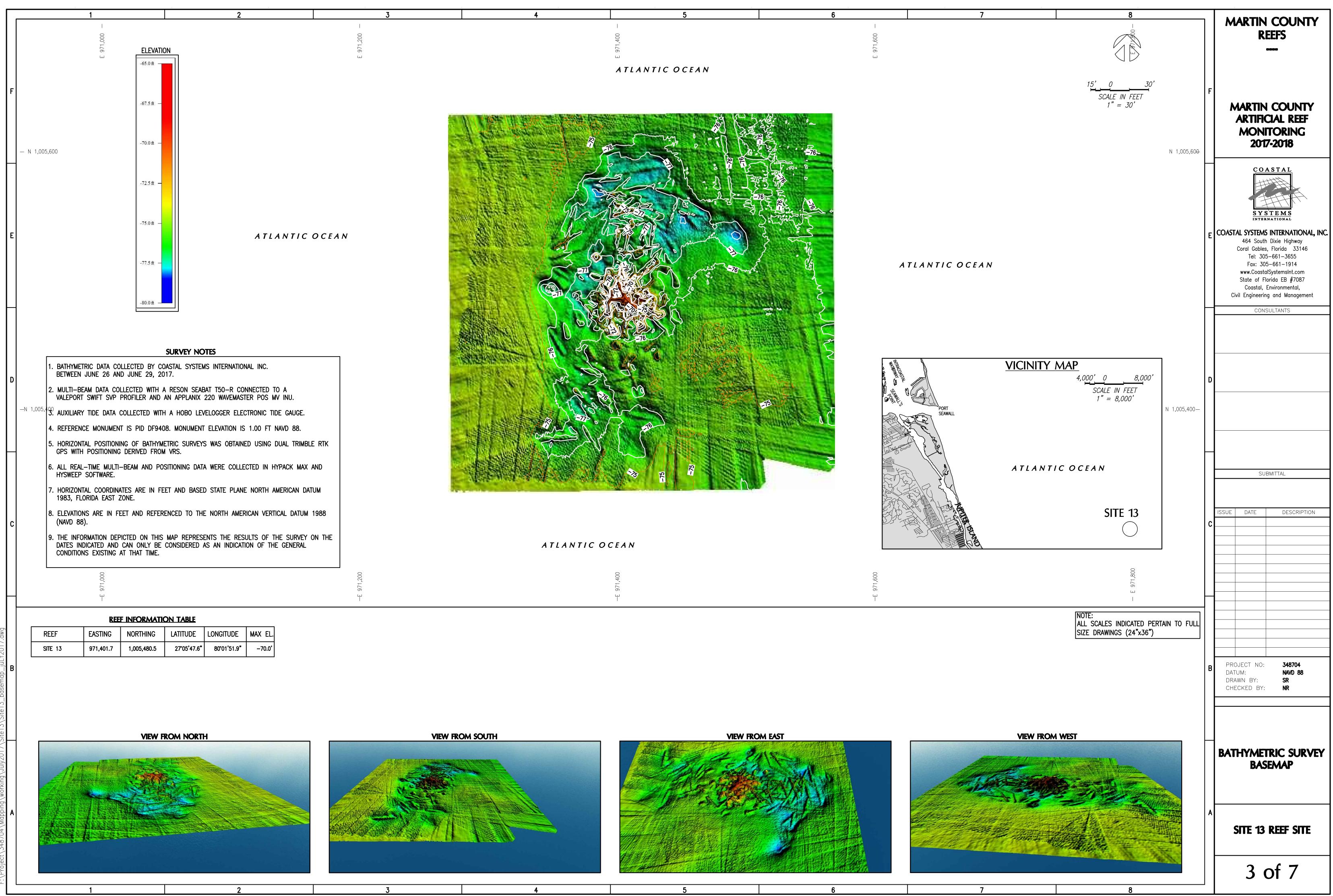
- GPS WITH POSITIONING DERIVED FROM VRS.
- HYSWEEP SOFTWARE.
- 1983, FLORIDA EAST ZONE.
- (NAVD 88).
- DATES INDICATED AND CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS AN INDICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITIONS EXISTING AT THAT TIME.

6

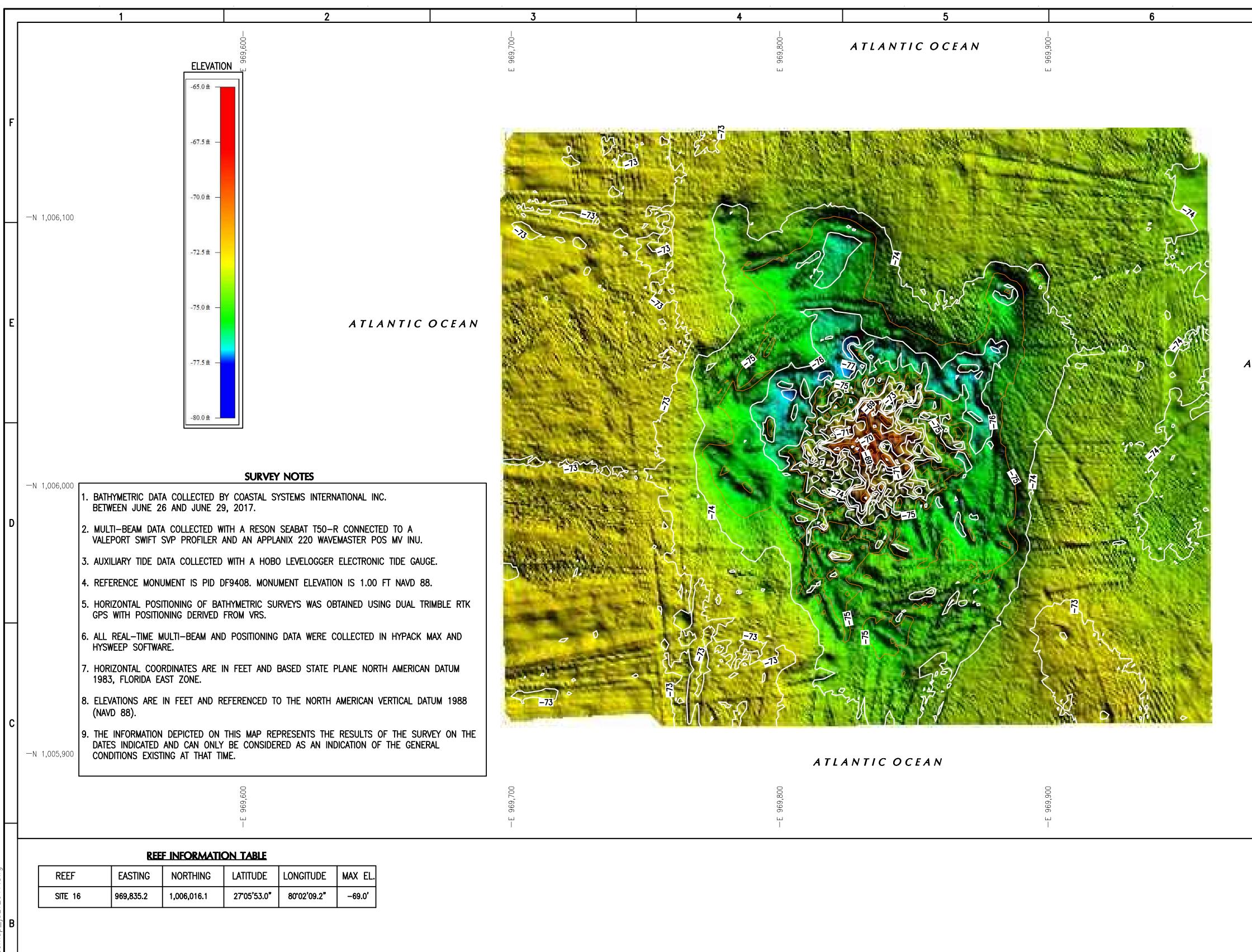
Sheet List Table			
SHEET #	SHEET TITLE		
1	COVER SHEET		
2	EVANS-CRARY BRIDGE PILE		
2 3 4	SITE 13		
4	SITE 16		
5	CONCRETE RR TILE STACK		
6	SITE 1		
7	SITE 3		

		MARTIN COUNTY REEFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION		
	F	MARTIN COUNTY ARTIFICIAL REEF MONITORING 2017-2018		
	E	CONSULTANTS		
	D			
	С	SUBMITTAL ISSUE DATE DESCRIPTION ISSUE DATE DESCRIPTION I I		
	В	PROJECT NO: 348704 DATUM: NAVD 88 DRAWN BY: SR CHECKED BY: NR		
		BATHYMETRIC SURVEY		
	A	COVER SHEET		
-		1 of 7		





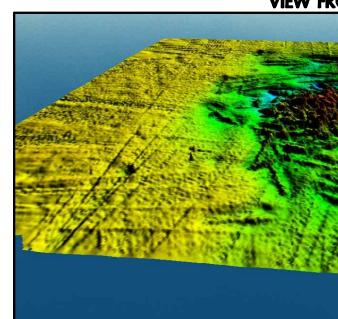




VIEW FROM NORTH



4



3

VIEW FROM EAST VIEW FROM SOUTH

5

