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College Station, TX 77843-3146
29-March-2002

Mr. Francis Mitchell
NOAA/NODC SSMC III
Space #4637
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Francis,

Please find enclosed a CDROM containing the full body of quality-controlled data derived from the program entitled "Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Physical Oceanography Program: Chemical Oceanography and Hydrography Study" which was sponsored by the U.S. Minerals Management Service and performed by Texas A&M University under Contract No. 1435-01-97-CT-30851.

The National Oceanographic Data Center has assigned Project Code 0412 to this work.

The field program comprised a series of nine oceanographic surveys between November 1997 and August 2000 over the continental shelf and slope (10m to 1000m isobaths) between New Orleans, LA and Tampa, FL. Data collected include: continuous vertical profiles of temperature, salinity, optical backscatterance, light transmission, irradiance, fluorescence, and dissolved oxygen from probes. Discrete water samples were collected to measure dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pigments, suspended material, and particulate organic nitrogen and particulate organic carbon in the water column. Continuous flow-through systems measured temperature, salinity and fluorescence at 3m depth. Samples from the flow-through system were analyzed for chlorophyll and the results were used to calculate a continuous chlorophyll at 3m depth. Vertical profiles of ocean currents were measured using ADCP while underway and on station.

The CDROM contains data, annual reports, maps, figures, and supporting documentation. All data files are in ASCII text format and each file contains complete metadata in it's header. Reports and figures are in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). The CDROM is a write-once disk (CD-R) written in ISO 9660 format which is readable by UNIX, Macintosh, and Windows computer platforms.

Sincerely,



Matthew Howard

XC: cover letter only Dr. Ann Jochens (TAMU)
XC: cover letter only Dr. Alexis Lugo-Fernandez (MMS)