

FIGURE 1 MAP SHOWING SEAFLOOR TOPOGRAPHY

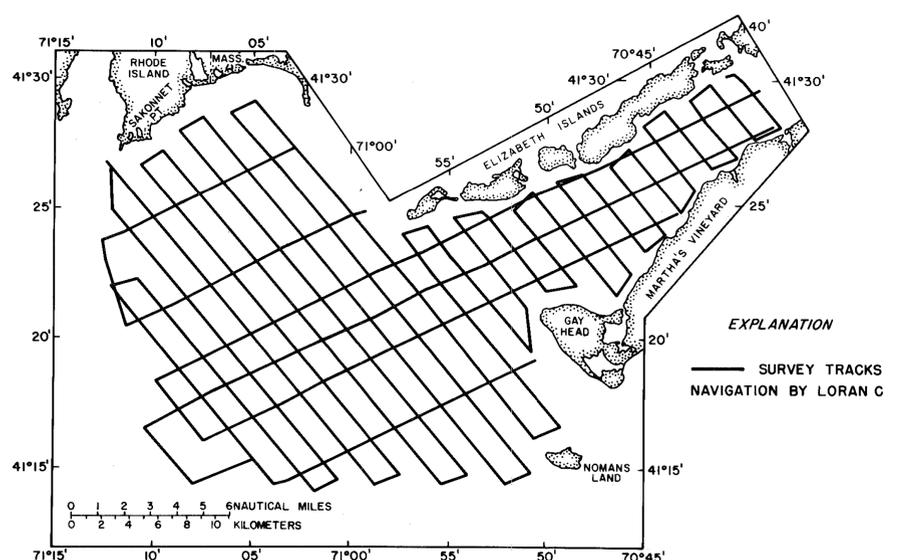


FIGURE 2 MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF HIGH-RESOLUTION SUBBOTTOM PROFILES

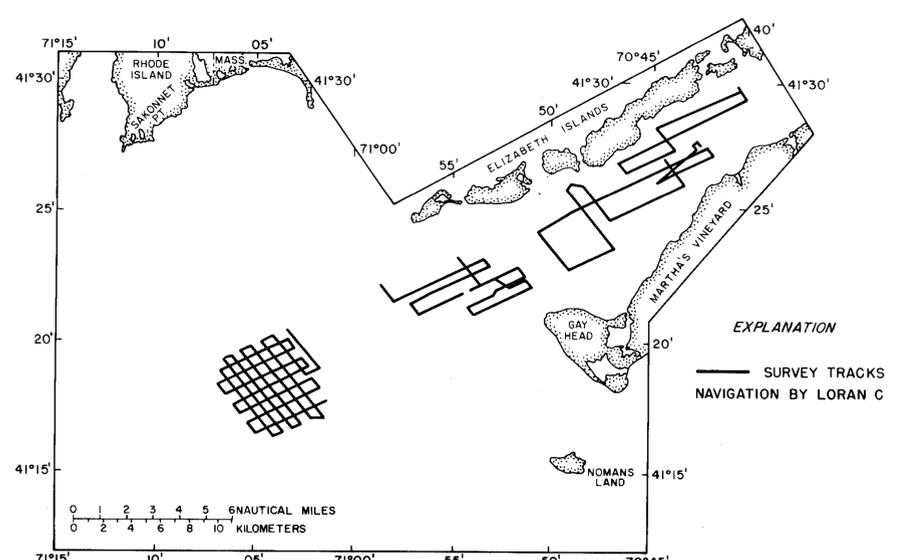


FIGURE 3 MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF SIDESCAN SONOGRAPHS

MAPS SHOWING GEOLOGY AND SHALLOW STRUCTURE OF EASTERN RHODE ISLAND SOUND AND VINEYARD SOUND, MASSACHUSETTS

By
Charles J. O'Hara and Robert N. Oldale
1980

INTRODUCTION

This report presents results of marine studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) during the summers of 1975 and 1976 in eastern Rhode Island Sound and Vineyard Sound (fig. 1) located off the southeastern coast of Massachusetts. The study was made in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and the New England Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It covered an area of the Atlantic Inner Continental Shelf between latitude 41° 15' and 41° 30' N, and between longitude 70° 37' and 71° 15' W (see index map).

Major objectives included assessment of sand and gravel resources, environmental impact evaluation both of offshore mining of these resources and of offshore disposal of solid waste and dredge spoil material, identification and mapping of the offshore geology, and determination of the geologic history of this part of the inner shelf. A total of 670 kilometers (km) of closely spaced high-resolution seismic-reflection profiles, 224 km of side-scan sonar data, and 16 cores totalling 80 meters (m) of recovered sediment, were collected during the investigation.

This report is companion to geologic maps published for Cape Cod Bay (Oldale and O'Hara, 1975) and Buzzards Bay, Mass. (Robb and Oldale, 1977).

REFERENCES CITED

Oldale, R. N., and O'Hara, C. J., 1975, Preliminary report on the geology and sand and gravel resources of Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 75-112, 9 pls., scale 1:80,000.

Robb, J. M., and Oldale, R. N., 1977, Preliminary geologic maps, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-889.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are indebted to the staffs of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), the Marine Biological Laboratory, and the Marine Science Consortium for their cooperation in the use of their research vessels. We thank the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the New England Division of the Army Corps of Engineers for partial funding in support of this study. To Captains A. Colburn of the R.V. ASTERIAS, D. Von Arx of the R.V. A. E. VERKILL, and G. Van Tassel and crew of the R.V. ANNANDALE, we are indebted for their assistance during the research cruises. Special thanks are extended to M. Rubin and E. Spiker of the USGS and J. Buckley of Teledyne Geotek for providing radioisotope dates (¹⁴C) to T. Ager, R. Christopher and N. Merrill of the Northeast Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for kindly identifying mollusk assemblages. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of A. Stockel of Woodward-Clyde Consultants for his field supervision of the vibrocoring phase of the study, and C. Eimelstein, formerly of Klein Associates, Inc. and now with Sub Sea Surveys, Inc. for his field supervision of the side-scan sonar survey. W. Ferrobese, J. McLane, P. Forrester, R. Conroy, R. Lewis, C. Franks, E. Winget, S. Purdy, B. Tausky, F. Jennings, R. Sylvester, and K. Parolisi of the USGS, and S. Briggs and J. Austin of WHOI, were particularly generous with their time and assistance on the various cruises and in the laboratory. For their suggestions and helpful discussions during the preparation of this report, we express our gratitude to J. Robb and C. Keys of the USGS, to S. Briggs of WHOI, and to C. Hard and G. Chase of the Army Corps of Engineers. We especially thank J. Moller, P. Warwick, and P. Forrester for drafting the illustrations, and J. Peper and C. Paul for their thorough reviews of the manuscript.

METHODS

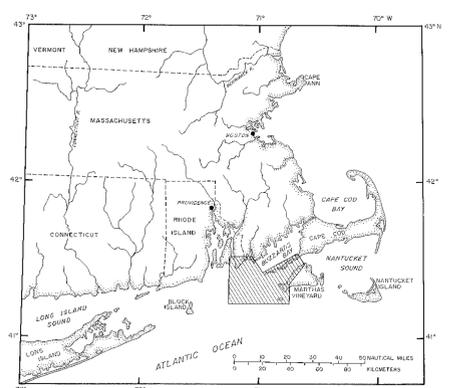
The subbottom seismic-reflection data (fig. 2) were obtained with a surface towed EG&G Unit Pulse Boomer¹ having an energy output of 300 joules nominal at a frequency of 400 Hertz (Hz) to 8 kilohertz (kHz). Reflected acoustic energy was detected by a 4.6-meter, 8-element hydrophone array, amplified, actively filtered (400-4000 Hz bandpass), and graphically displayed on an EPC¹ dry paper recorder. The electromechanical transducer was triggered every 0.3 seconds (s) and the sweep rate of the recorder was 0.25 s. Profiler resolution was generally 1 to 1.5 m.

The side-scan sonograph data (fig. 3) were obtained with a Klein Side Scan Towfish² (sonar frequency, 100 kHz; pulse length, 0.1 millisecond (msec)). Incoming signals from the starboard and port scans were automatically tuned, texture-enhanced, and printed center-out on a Klein¹ wet-paper graphic recorder (75 m and 150 m scan range).

All cores (vibrocores; figures 13 and 14) were obtained with a Woodward-Clyde Vibratory Corer³ designed to provide 9-centimeter (cm) diameter cores up to 12 m in length in water depths of 11 m to 20 m. Selection of core sites was based on the nature and subbottom altitude of the acoustic units defined by the seismic-reflection profiles.

Navigational control for all the cruises was provided by Loran C (positional accuracy within 0.2 km) and was supplemented by radar and visual fixes. Positional information was logged at 15-minute intervals and at major course changes during the geophysical surveys. Average ship speed over the bottom was 9 km/hour (hr) during the seismic-reflection surveys and 7 km/hr for the side-scan survey. Core sites were occupied within 0.03 km of their selected locations from the seismic data.

¹Trade names in this publication are used for descriptive purposes only, and do not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Geological Survey.



INDEX MAP SHOWING STUDY AREA

Units of Measurement

International System (SI or metric) units of measurement herein are used in preference to Customary (English) units. Some conversion factors are given below.

Multiply	By	To obtain
centimeters (cm)	0.3937	inches
meters (m)	3.281	feet
kilometers (km)	0.6214	miles (mi)

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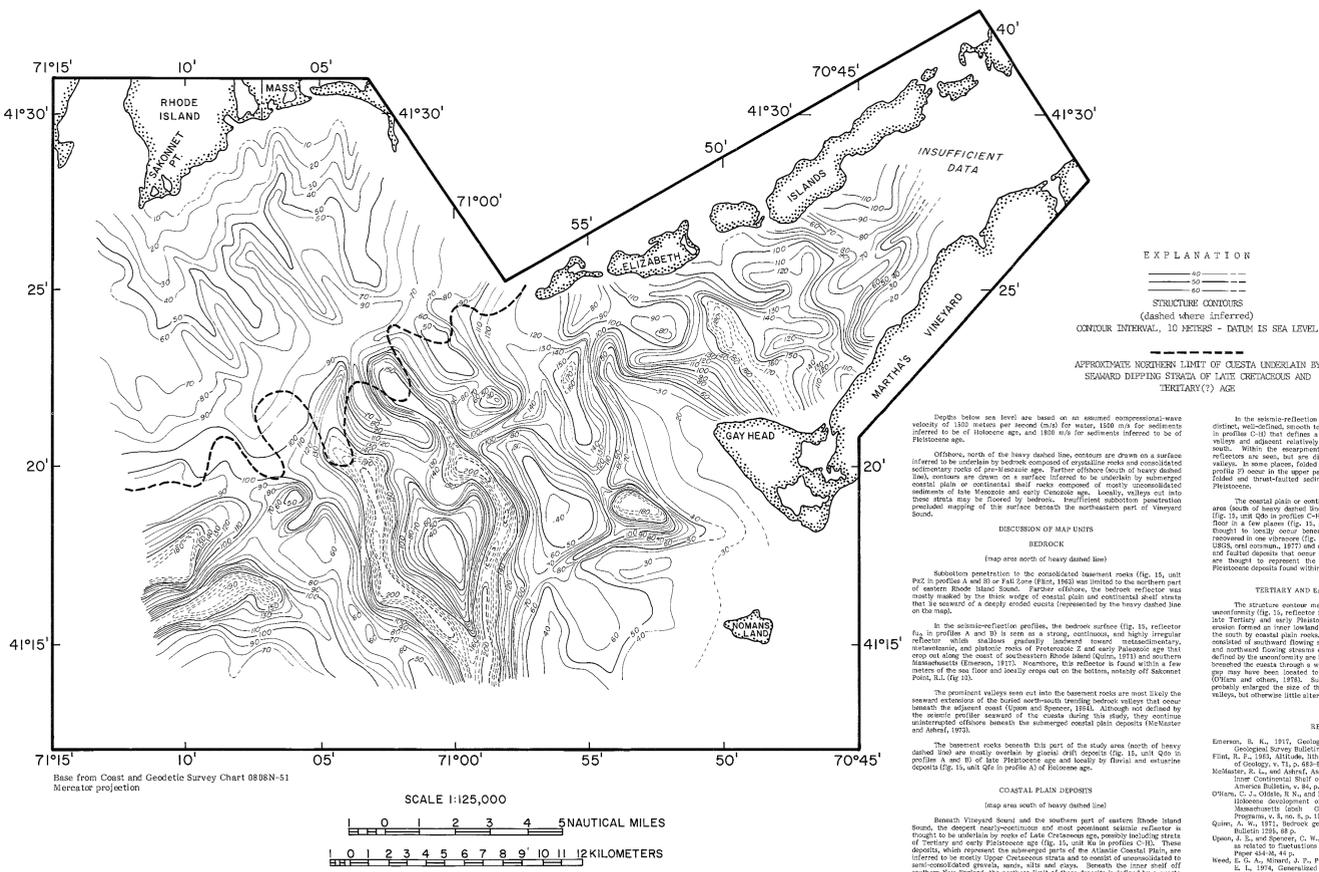


FIGURE 4 MAP SHOWING DEPTH TO BASEMENT AND SUBMERGED COASTAL PLAIN ROCKS

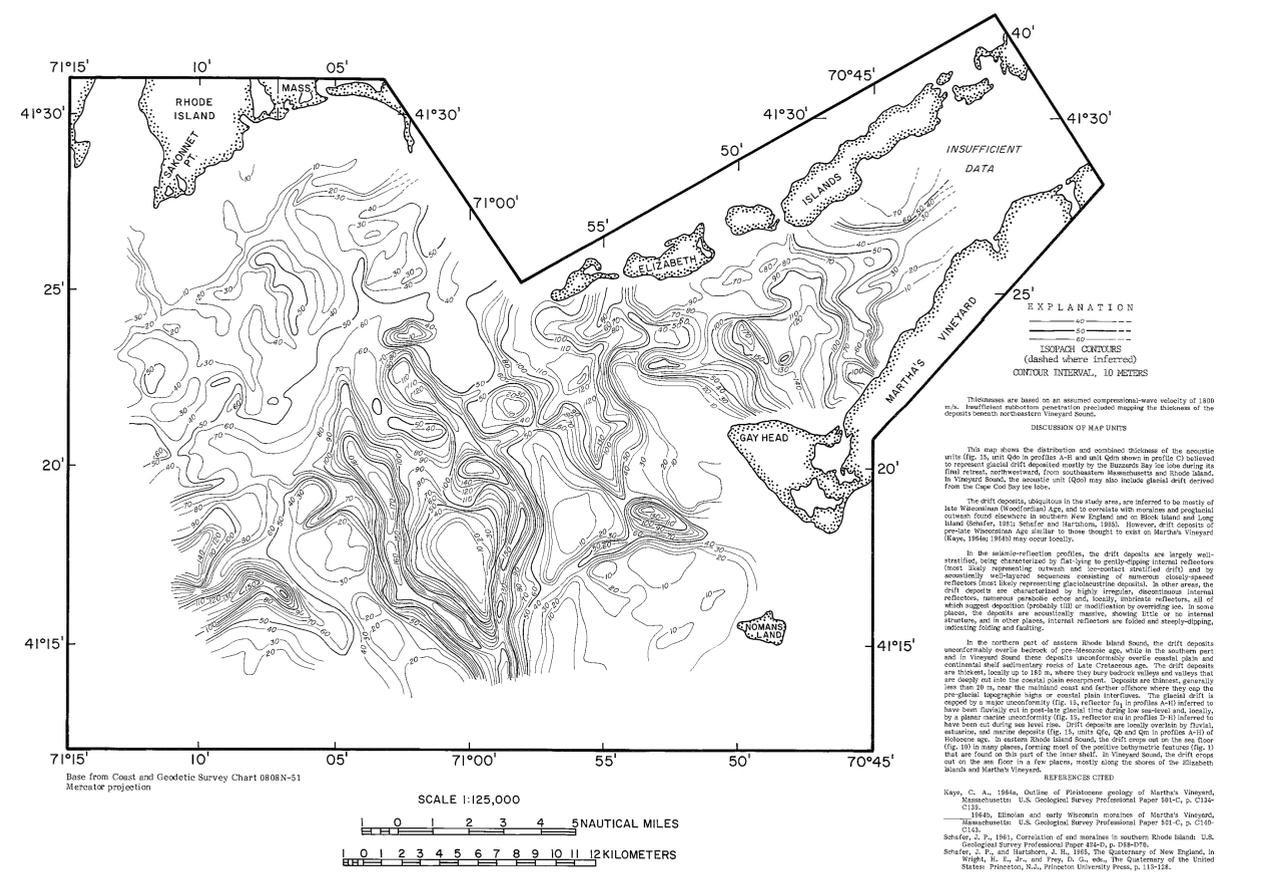


FIGURE 5 MAP SHOWING THICKNESS OF GLACIAL DRIFT DEPOSITS

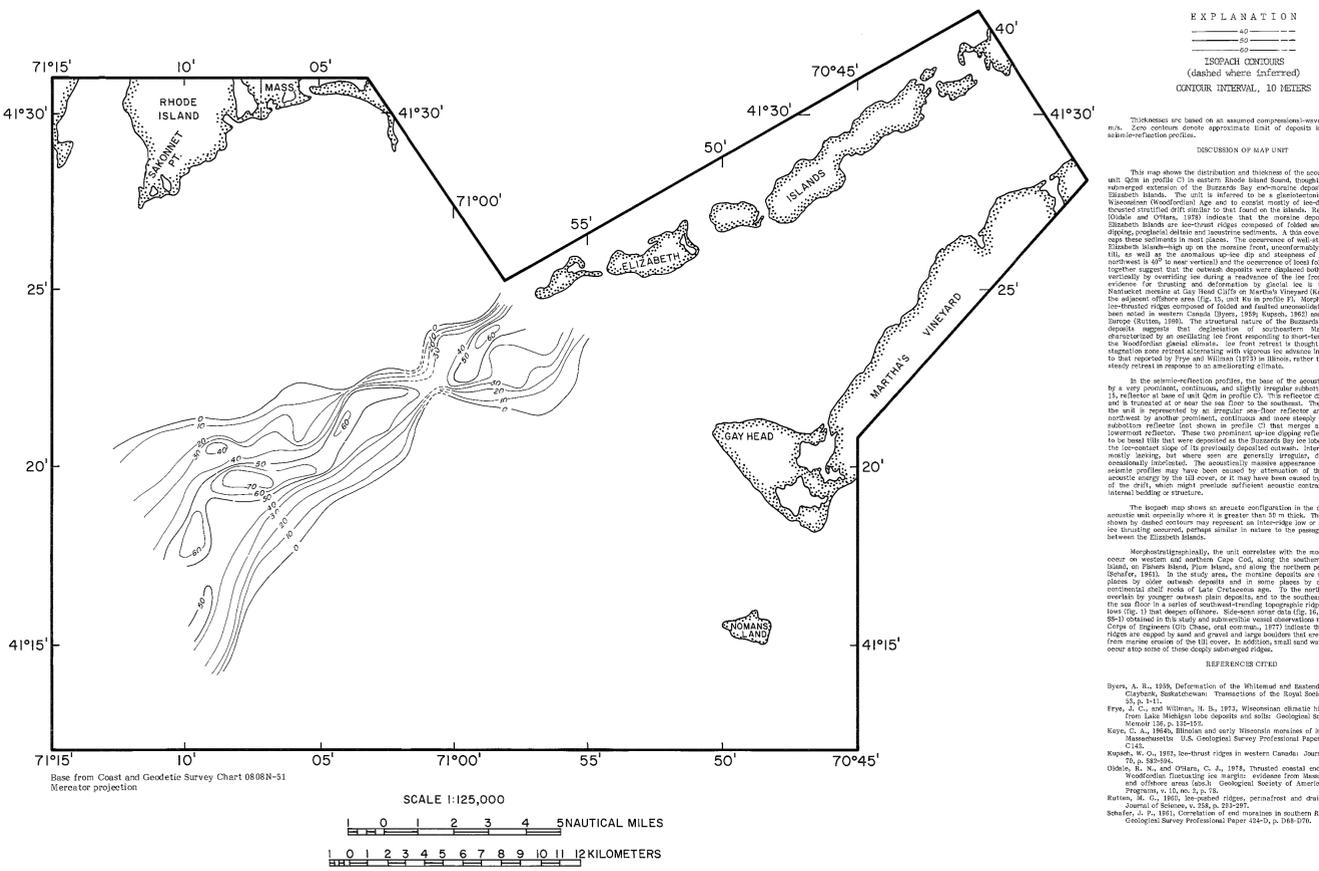


FIGURE 6 MAP SHOWING THICKNESS OF BUZZARDS BAY MORAINÉ DEPOSITS

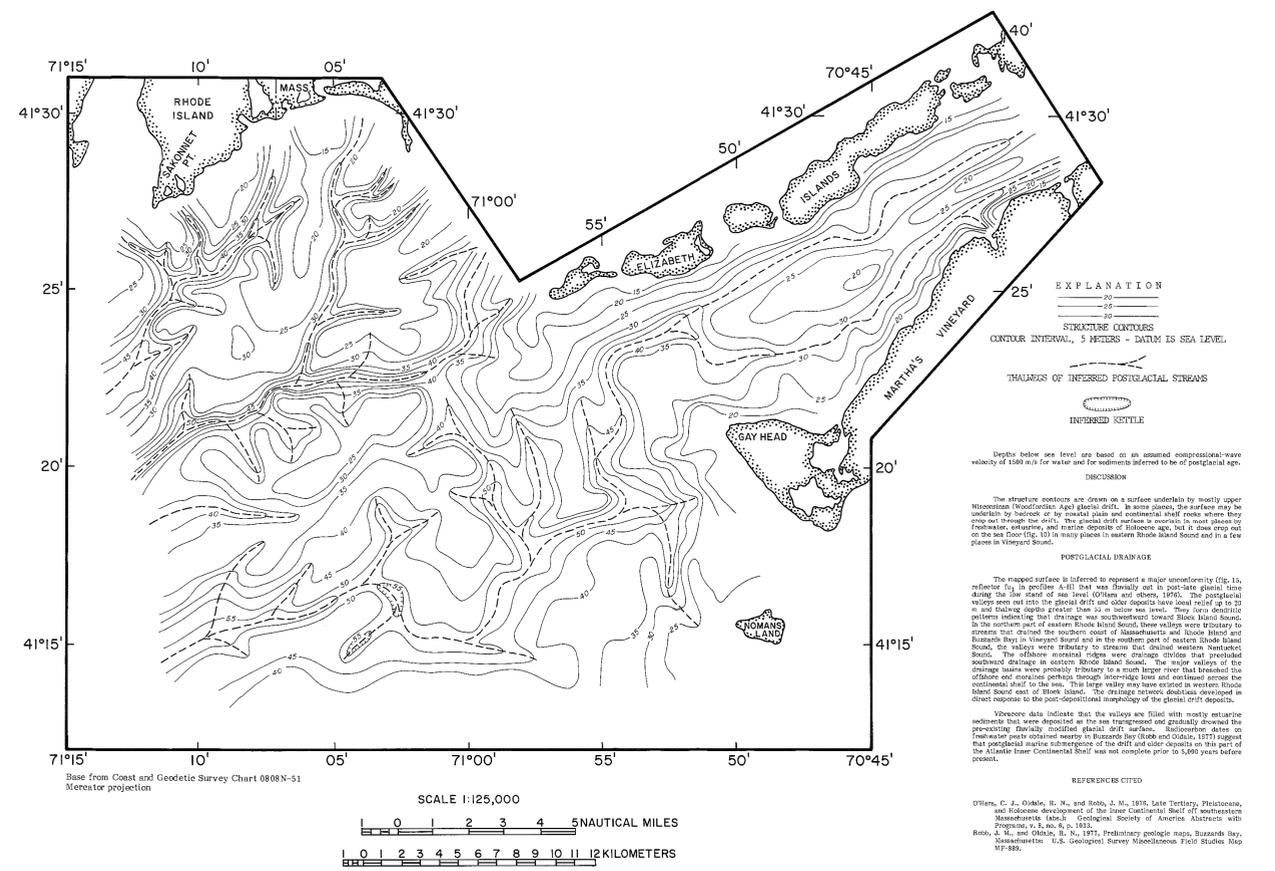
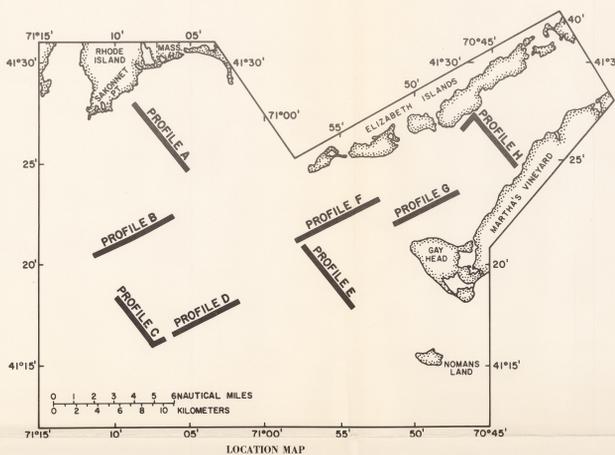


FIGURE 7 MAP SHOWING STRUCTURE OF GLACIAL DRIFT SURFACE

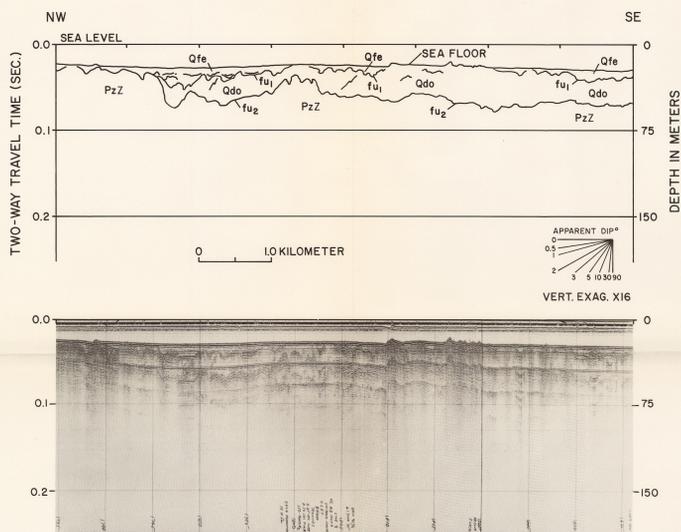
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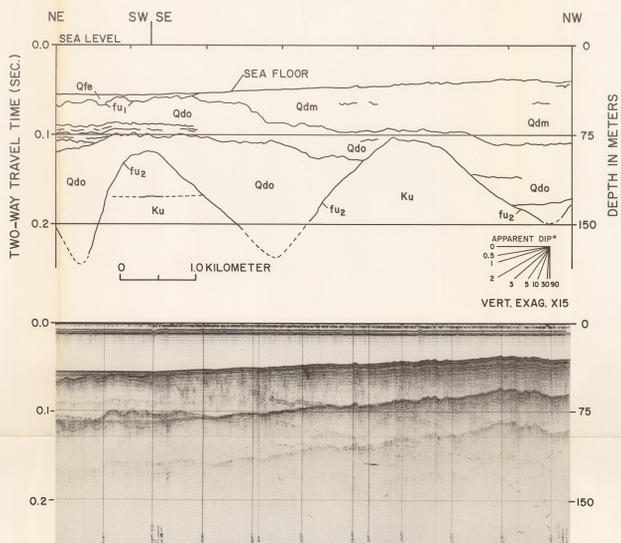


KEY TO ACOUSTIC UNITS AND MAJOR UNCONFORMITIES

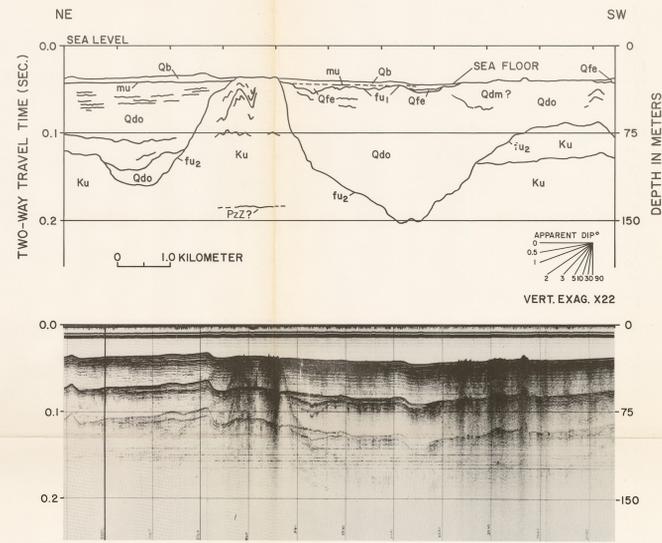
- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Qm | Quiet-water marine deposits | Qdo | Glacial drift deposits |
| Qb | Marine beach and bar deposits | Qdm | Buzzards Bay moraine deposits |
| mu | Marine unconformity | fu ₂ | Late Tertiary-early Pleistocene
fluvial unconformity |
| Qfe | Fluvial and estuarine deposits | Ku | Coastal plain deposits |
| fu ₁ | Postglacial fluvial unconformity | PzZ | Bedrock |



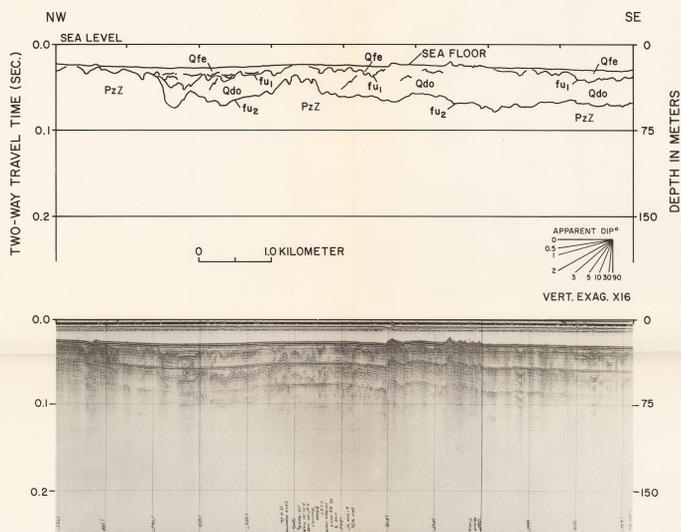
SEISMIC PROFILE A



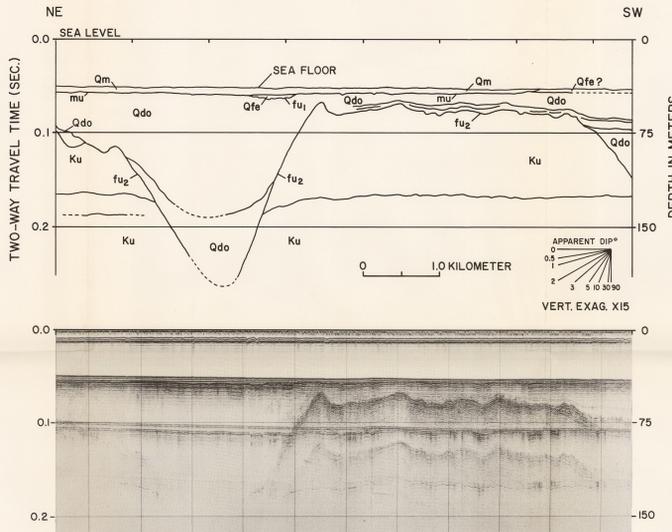
SEISMIC PROFILE C



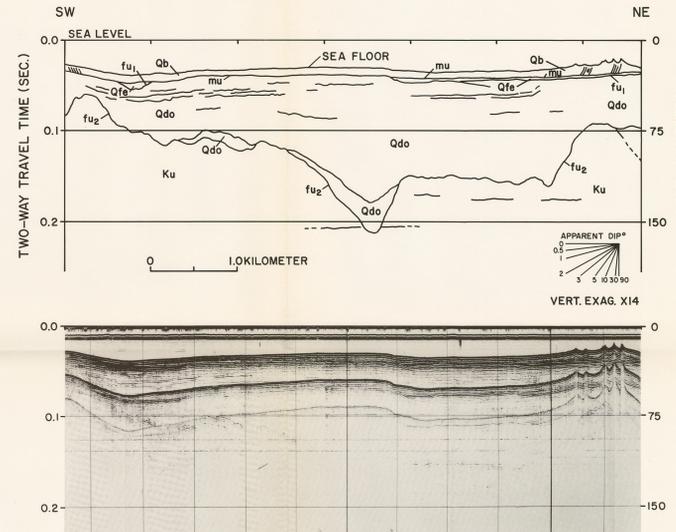
SEISMIC PROFILE F



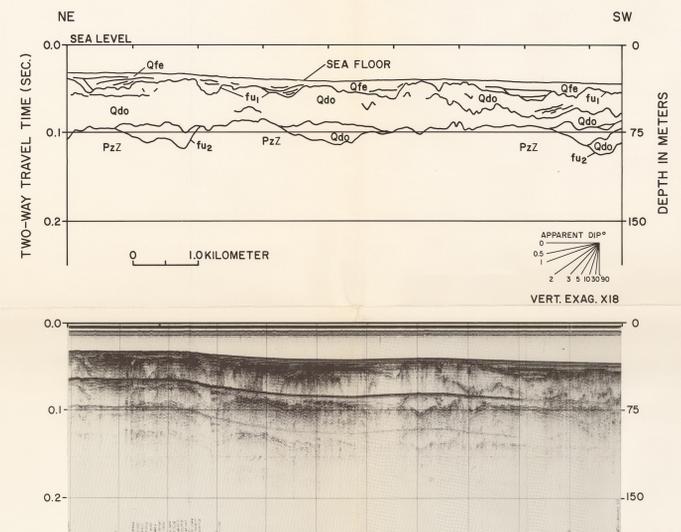
SEISMIC PROFILE D



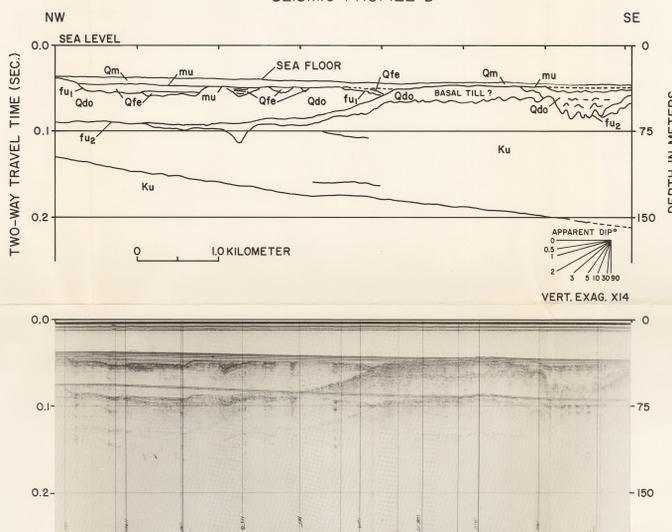
SEISMIC PROFILE E



SEISMIC PROFILE G



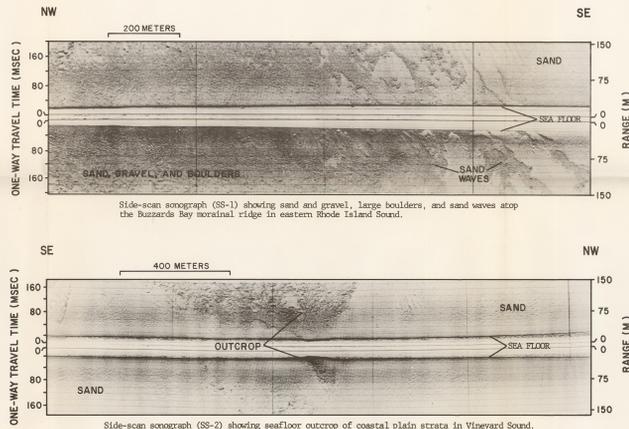
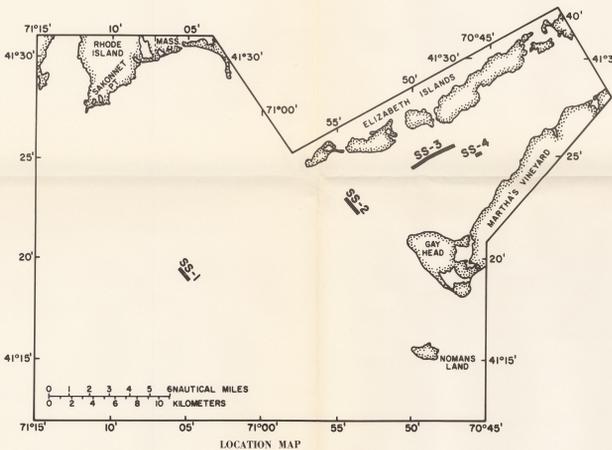
SEISMIC PROFILE B



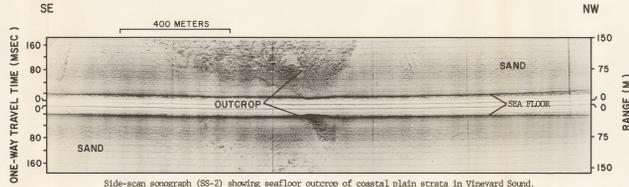
SEISMIC PROFILE H

Horizontal scales are approximate.
Vertical scales are based on 1500 m/s.
Reflectors are dashed where extrapolated.
Vertical exaggeration is abbreviated vert. exag.

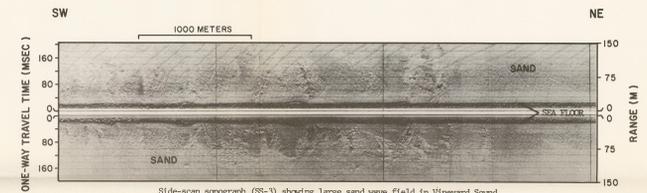
FIGURE 15 SELECTED SEISMIC PROFILES AND INTERPRETIVE SECTIONS



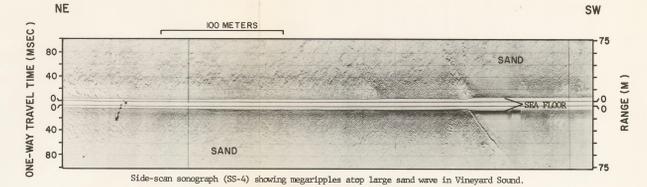
Side-scan sonograph (SS-1) showing sand and gravel, large boulders, and sand waves atop the Buzzards Bay moraine ridge in eastern Rhode Island Sound.



Side-scan sonograph (SS-2) showing seafloor outcrop of coastal plain strata in Vineyard Sound.



Side-scan sonograph (SS-3) showing large sand wave field in Vineyard Sound.



Side-scan sonograph (SS-4) showing megaripples atop large sand wave in Vineyard Sound.

Horizontal scales are approximate.
Scan ranges are based on 1500 m/s.
Millisecond is abbreviated msec.

FIGURE 16 SELECTED SIDESCAN SONOGRAPH RECORDS

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October 28-9, 2008

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June 16, 2009

Sheets 2 and 3 were recreated as pdfs using Adobe Acrobat Pro 9.1.0 from the original tifs.

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