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Technical Memorandum 85020

MIZEX-WEST NASA CV-990 Flight Report

D. J. Cavalieri and P. Gloersen

APRIL 1983

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, Maryland 20771



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Frontispiece

MIZEX-WEST

NASA CV-990

FLIGHT REPORT

Donald J. Cavalieri

and

Per Gloersen

Goddard Laboratory for Atmospheric Sciences National Aeronautics and Space Administration Freenbelt, Maryland 20771

April 1983

ABSTRACT

NASA's Convair 990 airborne laboratory made a series of flights over the Bering Sea during February 1983 as part of the Bering Sea marginal ice zone winter experiment (MIZEX-WEST). The experiment was an intensive field study of the oceanography, meteorology, and sea ice properties of the marginal ice zone utilizing surface vessels, aircraft, and satellite. NASA's aircraft flights were coordinated with the NOAA research ship DISCOVERER, the USCG icebreaker WESTWIND, the NOAA P-3 research aircraft, and the Nimbus-7 spacecraft. The purpose of these flights was first to assess the potential of using an extended range of wavelengths for improving passive microwave sea ice observations from spacecraft and second to provide an overview of the MIZ for large-scale processes studies. For these purposes, the aircraft was equipped with both imaging and fixed-beam, dual-polarized passive microwave radiometers ranging from 1.5 millimeter to 3 centimeter wavelengths. Visual, photographic, and thermal (10.7 micron) infrared surface observations were also made from the aircraft to complement the microwave measurements. Following a brief discussion of the flight operations and in-flight observations, a summary of each flight is presented including flight objective and instrument status. Preliminary mosaic images obtained with the ESMR imager, Nimbus-7 orbits over the Bering Sea, ice observations obtained by an ice observer on board, and composite maps of the general ice conditions for the month of February are also presented.

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I Background

During February 1983, NASA participated in the Bering Sea marginal ice zone (MIZ) winter experiment (MIZEX-WESI) field study. MIZEX-WEST is a coordinated program of study involving oceanographers, meteorologists, and remote sensing scientists utilizing ships, aircraft, and satellite to investigate the regional air-sea-ice interactions. The overall goal of this experiment is to understand how the oceanic, atmospheric, and internal ice forces drive the ice movement and control the position of the ice edge. Ultimately, the results of this study are expected to impove short-range forecasts of the Bering MIZ. NASA's participation in MIZEX-WEST consisted of a series of seven Convair-990 airborne laboratory flights over the marginal ice zone in the eastern Bering Sea from February 10 through February 22, 1983. The purpose of these flights was first to assess the potential of using an extended range of wavelengths for improving passive microwave sea ice observations from space platforms and second to provide an overview of the MIZ characteristics for large-scale ice processes studies. For these purposes, the aircraft was equipped with both imaging and fixed-beam, dual-polarized passive microwave radiometers ranging from 1.5 millimeter to 3 centimeter wavelengths. Visual, photographic, and thermal (10.7 micron) infrared surface observations were also made from the aircraft to complement the microwave measurements. The CV-990 also carried a version of the radar altimeter planned for the European Space Agency satellite ERS-1. A summary of the aircraft instrumentation is given in Table I. The CY-990 flights were coordinated with the observational oceanographic and meteorological programs of the NOAA P-3 research aircraft, the USCG icebreaker WESTWIND, and the NOAA research ship DISCOVERER. In addition, ice properties relevant to the microwave remote sensing program were measured from the ships as well

as from the ice surface itself whenever feasible. The combined oceanographic, meteorological, and sea ice data sets will be utilized to provide a cohesive description of the air-sea-ice interactions in the Bering MIZ.

II Flight Operations

A flight summary for each of the CV-990 flights associated with the MIZEX--WEST mission is presented in Appendix A along with a map of the flight tracks for each of the seven Bering Sea overflights. Each summary includes the objective of the individual flight, the latitude, longitude, time in GMT, and altitude for each of the data runs.

Part of the overall aircraft operations plan called for coordination between the CV-990 flights and overpasses by the Nimbus-7 Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR). The coordinated aircraft and satellite observations will be used to validate and improve current sea ice algorithms. On days when a CV-990 flight coincided with a SMMR off-day, the operations supervisor at the Goddard Space Flight Center Nimbus Ground Station was notified the day before the scheduled flight and the SMMR was turned on in time for the Bering MIZEX overpass. Portions of the Nimbus daytime orbit crossing of the Bering Sea for each day the CV-990 was flown are shown in Appendix B.

III In-Flight Observations

One objective of the CV-990 flights was to provide an overview of the experimental area including real-time imagery to assist surface vessels locate the ice edge and ice-edge features such as ice bands. For this purpose, the aircraft Electrically Scanning Microwave Radiometer (A/C-ESMR) was used to generate microwave images of the marginal ice zone. These images were then

displayed on monitors on board the aircraft, hard copies were made, and mosaics were produced while in flight. Analysis of the ESMR imagery provided the required information which was radioed to the vessels below. The real-time imagery also proved valuable in providing information for detailed planning of subsequent flights. Based on both an analysis of the A/C ESMR imagery and visual observations, a decision was made to devote the last three flights to the St. Matthew Island vicinity. This area was observed to exhibit rapid changes in the distribution of sea ice and to serve as an excellent site for conducting thin-ice studies. An earlier plan to extensively overfly Norton Sound, where available infrared and visible satellite imagery indicated a large area of thin (black) sea ice, was changed after in-flight analysis of the real-time data acquired in the initial pass over Norton Sound indicated that no such ice was present. Mosaics generated on five of the seven flights and earth registered with an interim latitude/longitude grid are shown in Appendix C. The coordinates were obtained from the inertial navigation system and correlated with the A/C ESMR through the common GMT code present on both data sets.

On each flight, AG2 Kurt Ritchey of the Naval Polar Oceanography Center provided visual ice observations. Estimates of total ice cover, ice types, amount of snow cover, amount of ice cover with ridging and rafting, and amount of open water were some of the ice characteristics mapped along each flight track. The ice charts for each of the seven flights are presented in Appendix D. Mr. Bruce Webster of the Ocean Services Unit, National Weather Service, Anchorage, Alaska and Dr. Lyn McNutt of F. G. Bercha and Associates Limited provided additional ice observations and interpretations. Composite ice analyses based on (1) visual observations from the NASA CV-990 and NOAA P-3 aircraft, (2) derived ice concentrations from Nimbus-7 SMMR data obtained through

Dr. Rene Ramseier of the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service and Mr. Frank
Thirkettle of Ph.D. Associates Inc., and (3) U.S. Navy ice analyses were prepared
by Mr. Bruce Webster and appear in Appendix E.

IV Acknowledgements

The MIZEX-WEST portion of the NASA CV-990 airborne laboratory 1983 winter program was supported by NASA's Oceanic Processes Branch. The successful completion of the aircraft operations phase of this mission is due largely to George Alger, mission manager, and Earl Petersen, assistant mission manager, through their excellent coordination and skillful integration of aircraft and data system requirements with scientific objectives. We thank also the CV-990 crew and in particular Bob Innis and Glen Stinnett, NASA CV-990 pilots, and Gene Moniz, navigator, for their support and full cooperation in the planning and execution of each of the flights. Finally, the authors gratefully acknowledge the invaluable information for our flight planning activities each day provided by Bruce Webster of the Ocean Services Unit, National Weather Service, Anchorage, Alaska.

TABLE I

CV-990 INSTRUMENTATION

PASSIVE MICROWAVE

Freq (GHz)	View Angle	Polarization	Resolution/ Altitude	Comments
19.35	50°L-50°R	н	1/20	AC/ESMR: Imager for large- scale synoptic maps of ice-edge position; ice-band size and spacing; thin ice and open water resolution
19.35	50°L-50°R	н	1/40	RMR: High resolution imager
10.7 18.0 21.0 37.0	45°R 45°R 45°R 45°R	н,v н,v н,v н,v	1/7 1/7 1/7 1/7	AMMR: Multispectral signa- tures of various ice types
21.0 37.0	uplooker uplooker	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Uplookers: Views atmosphere above aircraft
94.0 183.0	45°L-45°R	Mixed	1/30	AMMS: High frequency signatures of various ice types; evaluation for polar ice studies

RAL RADAR ALTIMETER

13.7 GHz radar altimeter operates in two modes:

 altimeter mode used for ice surface roughness studies
 scatterometer mode used for obtaining directional ocean swell spectra

INFRARED RADIOMETER

10.7 micron nadir viewing infrared radiometer (PRT-5) used for obtaining ice surface temperatures and for discriminating between thin ice and open water during clear atmospheric conditions.

CARTOGRAPHIC CAMERAS

(1) KS-87B 5-inch format nadir viewing (2) KS-87B 5-inch format 45°R view angle

APPENDIX A
Flight Summary

Branch Comment

Flight No. 1

Date Feb. 1, 1983

Objectives: Instrument and data system checkout

Instrument Status: All instruments operational except KS87B nadir camera

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Run 2 End Run 2 Start Run 3 End Run 3 Start Run 4 End Run 4 Start Run 5 End Run 5 Start Run 6 End Run 6 Start Run 7 End Run 7 Start Run 8 End Run 8 Start Run 9 End Run 9 Start Run 10 End Run 10 Start Run 11 End Run 11	37 25.0 38 35.2 38 57.4 41 20.7 41 39.7 41 45.7 41 44.6 41 32.5 40 37.6 37 50.3 37 44.4 37 40.0 37 59.1 39 45.2 39 54.4 40 21.2 40 35.4 40 31.9 40 13.0 39 25.8 39 09.0 37 53.0 37 33.3	122 01.4 123 01.4 123 13.2 124 36.4 124 50.7 124 52.6 124 50.4 124 37.0 119 11.6 118 50.2 119 04.0 119 24.7 125 14.9 125 42.9 126 31.3 126 23.6 126 10.3 125 40.5 124 28.8 124 03.6 122 45.5 122 34.3	18 29 08 18 46 28 18 51 20 19 16 10 19 21 09 19 22 39 19 23 08 19 26 03 19 40 28 20 26 43 20 29 01 20 33 18 20 36 48 21 20 50 21 26 49 21 36 29 22 02 29 22 09 15 22 14 17 22 25 43 22 49 29 22 54 39	5000 5000 5000 5000 5100 5000 2000 2000	Moffett Field, CA
Touchdown	37 25.0	122 01.4	23 04 50		Moffett Field, CA

Flight No. 2

Date Feb. 7, 1983

Objectives: Transit flight to Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska; overfly ocean buoys

Instrument Status: All instruments operational; RMR off at 21:22

Flight Track	Lat	Lon	Time	Alt	Base
Data Runs	(N)	(W)	(GMT)	(Ft)	
Takeoff Touchdown		122 02.9 149 49.0	_		Moffett Field, CA Elmendorf AFB, AK

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Flight No. 3

Date Feb. 10, 1983

Objectives: Obtain overview of Bering MIZ experimental area and overfly buoy array.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Ba s e
Takeoff	61 15.0	149 46.1	22 07 54		Elmendorf AFB, AK
Start Run 1	58 46.6	172 27.8	23 53 41	30900	•
End Run 1	61 15.5	168 47.2	00 16 55	31000	
Start Run 2	61 18.5	169 04.6	00 23 21	31000	
End Run 2	58 50.3	172 45.7	00 49 45	31000	
Start Run 3	58 56.0	172 59.4	00 54 24	30900	
End Run 3	61 21.1	169 25.0	01 17 C7	31000	
Start Run 4	61 24.3	169 43.5	01 22 33	30900	
End Run 4	59 08.9	173 04.7	01 46 23	31000	
Touchdown	61 12.4	149 46.6	03 34 20		Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 4

Date Feb. 12, 1983

Objectives: Determine amount of open water within the MIZ and ice compactness

Instrument Status: All instruments operational; RMR down at 20:24

Flight Track	Lat	Lon	Time	Alt	Base
Data Runs	(N)	(W)	(GMT)	(Ft)	
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Rur 2 End Run 2 Start Run 3 End Run 3 Start Run 4 End Run 4 Touchdown	61 15.0 58 30.1 61 04.8 61 10.1 59 39.7 58 45.8 61 15.1 61 19.3 58 50.2 61 13.2	149 46.1 173 03.9 170 00.6 170 19.8 173 30.2 173 43.0 170 30.6 170 50.6 174 00.0 149 45.7	20 03 32 21 48 59 22 12 17 22 16 13 22 40 29 22 42 57 23 06 05 23 09 29 23 33 33 01 25 20	30900 31000 30900 31000 30900 31000 30900 31000	Elmendorf AFB, AK Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 5

Date Feb. 13, 1983

Objectives: Overfly Norton Sound on ferry legs and fly low level runs over areas of thin ice.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational except RMR

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Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff	61 15.0	149 46.1	20 34 26	21000	Elmendorf AFB, AK
Start Run 1		161 28.6	21 33 59	31000	
End Run 1	62 31.5	170 47.0	22 10 41	31000	
Start Run 2	62 23.2	170 59.5	22 12 03	31000	
End Run 2	59 40.1	172 44.4	22 35 41	31000	
Start Run 3	59 47.0	172 59.6	22 39 53	30900	
End Run 3	61 44.9	171 40.9	22 55 07	31000	
Start Run 4	60 00.6	172 42.9	23 27 05	3500	
End Run 4	62 22.0	170 48.5	00 03 01	3500	
Touchdown	61 13.2	149 45.7	00 33 00		Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 6 Date Feb. 15, 1983

Objectives: Return to Moffett Field, CA for aircraft repairs; data runs for RAL radar altimeter.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational; RMR removed at Moffett Field

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Run 2	42 51.8 42 40.5	149 46.1 126 14.4 126 04.2 125 51.4	23 00 33 23 02 59	2380 2370 2000	Elmendorf AFB, AK
End Run 2 Touchdown	40 50.9	124 26.0 122 94.3	23 26 41	2020	Moffett Field, CA

Flight No. 7 Date Feb. 17, 1983

Objectives: Return to Elmendorf AFB, AK for continuation of MIZEX-WEST; Data runs for RAL radar altimeter.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational except KS87B nadir camera

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff	` '	122 02.9	` '		Moffett Field, CA
Start Run 1	57 17.7	143 42.3	23 32 46	2000	
End Run 1	59 25.5	146 22.4	23 54 46	2000	
Touchdown	61 14.2	149 47.5	00 26 01		Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 8 Date Feb. 17, 1983

Objectives: Overfly the St. Lawrence Island polynya to obtain thin ice signatures; survey ice types from St. Lawrence to ice edge.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational except AMMS

Flight Track	Lat	Lon	Time	Alt	Base
Data Runs	(N)	(W)	(GMT)	(Ft)	
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Run 2 End Run 2 Start Run 3 End Run 3 Start Run 4 End Run 4 Start Run 5 End Run 5 Touchdown	61 15.2 62 47.9 64 06.0 63 59.5 58 55.0 59 02.0 63 50.0 63 08.2 63 05.5 63 08.2 63 21.4 61 14.2	149 46.6 165 02.8 171 16.2 171 31.6 173 15.4 173 31.5 171 53.9 169 54.4 172 04.1 172 00.2 170 25.9 149 47.5	21 51 12 22 58 00 23 24 18 23 25 38 00 03 00 00 06 10 00 47 37 01 09 15 01 22 01 01 29 43 01 43 01 03 10 30	30900 31000 30900 30900 30900 30800 31000 31000 31000	Elmendorf AFB, AK Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 9 Date Feb. 19, 1983

Objectives: Overfly array and ships for coordinated observations of experimental area; 24K rt run for RAL altimeter.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational except AMMS and 37 GHz uplooker

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base	
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Run 2 End Run 2 Start Run 3 End Run 3 Start Run 4 End Run 4 Start Run 5 End Run 5 Start Run 6 End Run 6 Start Run 7 End Run 7 Start Run 8 End Run 8	61 15.2 61 32.2 61 30.2 61 20.7 60 03.9 59 58.5 61 04.3 60 57.2 59 52.4 59 40.9 60 51.6 60 44.4 59 40.5 59 33.9 60 29.8 60 31.3	149 46.6 166 02.0 172 11.0 172 48.0 176 48.0 176 32.2 173 10.4 172 57.5 176 17.2 176 20.2 172 42.5 172 49.9 175 36.6 172 14.5 174 42.2 173 56.3 149 47.5	20 06 54 21 14 13 21 36 53 21 39 29 21 57 15 22 03 13 22 19 57 22 25 15 22 39 57 22 44 59 23 03 05 23 07 49 23 22 35 23 27 59 23 44 49 00 05 09 00 08 27 01 52 40	30900 30900 30900 31000 31000 31000 31000 31000 31000 31000 31000 31000 23900 24000	Elmendorf AFB,	AK
Touchdown	61 14.2	149 4/.5	01 32 40		LINERGOII AID,	M

Flight No. 10 Date Feb. 21, 1983

Objectives: Overfly array and ships for coordinated observations; low level runs over St. Matthew Island polynya for thin ice signatures

Instrument Status: All instruments operational; AMMS failed at 21:52, back on line 22:00; KS87B side viewing camera failure at 23:50

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Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff Start Run 1 End Run 1 Start Run Mos1 End Run Mos1 Start Run 2 End Run 2 Start Run 3 End Run 3 Start Run 4 End Run 4 Start Run 5 End Run 5 Start Run 6 End Run 6 Start Run 7 End Run 7	61 15.2 61 01.9 61 01.9 60 41.6 59 28.6 59 34.5 60 38.0 60 44.6 59 40.3 59 46.8 60 51.0 59 58.8 60 29.2 60 41.7 60 07.1 59 40.1 59 39.8	149 46.6 160 01.3 165 01.2 171 16.5 175 20.0 175 29.5 172 16.6 172 30.6 175 50.0 176 01.6 172 44.3 172 33.9 173 40.0 173 34.5 172 14.5 167 59.1 161 29.6	20 51 19 21 37 33 21 56 45 22 21 07 22 39 21 22 41 41 22 57 37 23 Q1 49 23 16 47 23 20 47 23 36 55 23 55 05 00 06 31 00 15 15 00 27 11 00 47 19 01 13 39	31000 31000 31000 31000 31200 30900 30900 30900 30800 3500 3500 3500 3500 2890 2890	Elmendorf AFB, AK
Touchdown	61 14.2	149 47.5	02 05 40		Elmendorf AFB, AK

Flight No. 11 Date Feb. 22, 1983

Objectives: Fly mosaic pattern over Bering MIZ experimental area and coordinate observations with surface vessels; 500 ft run for RAL radar altimeter.

Instrument Status: All instruments operational; power failure at 22:05, back on line at 22:20

Flight Track	Lat	Lon	Time	Alt	Base
Data Runs	(N)	(W)	(GMT)	(Ft)	
Takeoff Start Run 1	61 15.2 61 46.5	149 46.6 166 06.2	19 49 53 20 57 19	30800	Elmendorf AFB, AK
End Run 1	59 47.5	176 33.0	21 42 53	31000	
Start Run 2	59 44.9	176 07.3	21 46 11	31000	
End Run 2 Start Run 3	60 50.2	172 46.3	22 01 21	31000	(power failure)
End Run 3	59 28.0	176 26.1	22 25 27	31000	(power variate)
Start Run 4	59 25.9	176 00.0	22 28 45	31000	
End Run 4	60 28.9	172 44.6	22 43 45	31000	
Start Run 5	60 16.2	172 51.4	22 47 49	31000	
End Run 5	59 21.9	175 39.0	23 01 07	31000	
Start Run 6	58 39.7	173 30.2	23 14 53	15000	
End Run 6	58 10.0	170 45.1	23 33 35	15000	
Start Run 7	58 19.0	171 33.4	23 46 27	551	
End Run 7	58 12.7	170 57.5	23 51 37	485	
Touchdown	61 14.2	149 47.5	01 34 40		Elmendorf AFB, AK

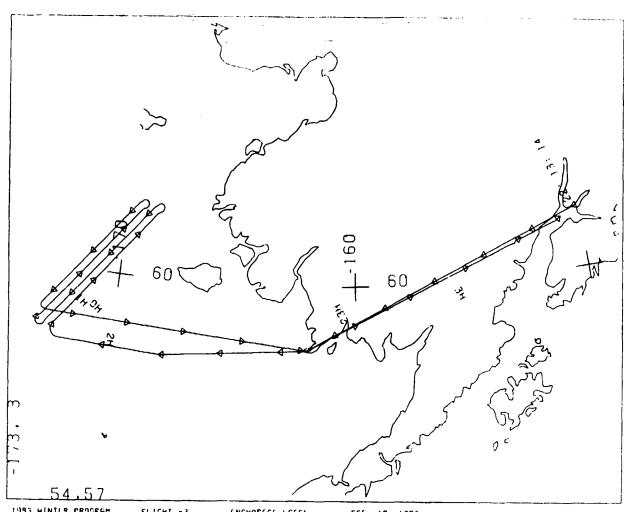
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Date Feb. 23, 1983 Flight No. 12

Objectives: Return to Moffett Field, CA; overfly NOAA buoys; 15K ft run for RAL $\,$

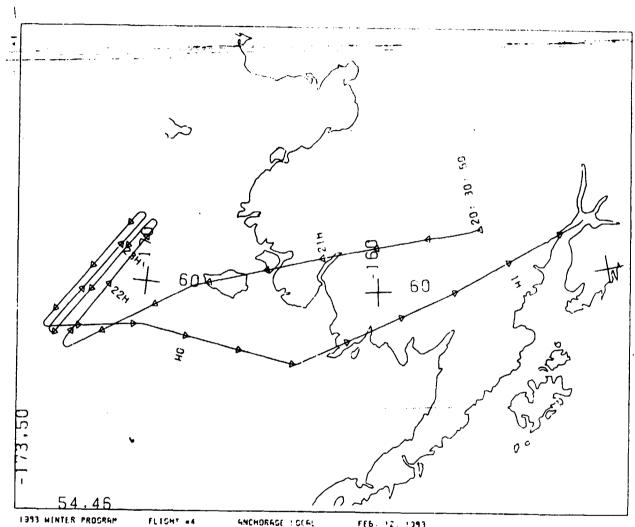
Instrument Status: All instruments operational

Flight Track Data Runs	Lat (N)	Lon (W)	Time (GMT)	Alt (Ft)	Base
Takeoff Start Run 1		149 46.6 130 46.8		14900	Elmendorf AFB, AK
End Run 1 Touchdown	42 11.1	129 08.6		15300	Moffett Field, CA



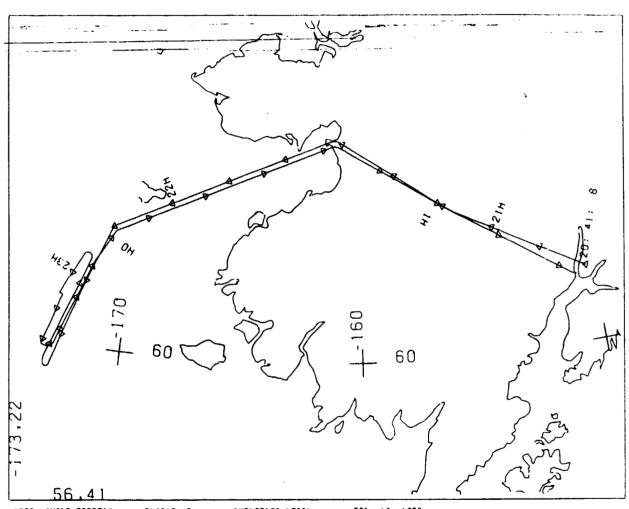
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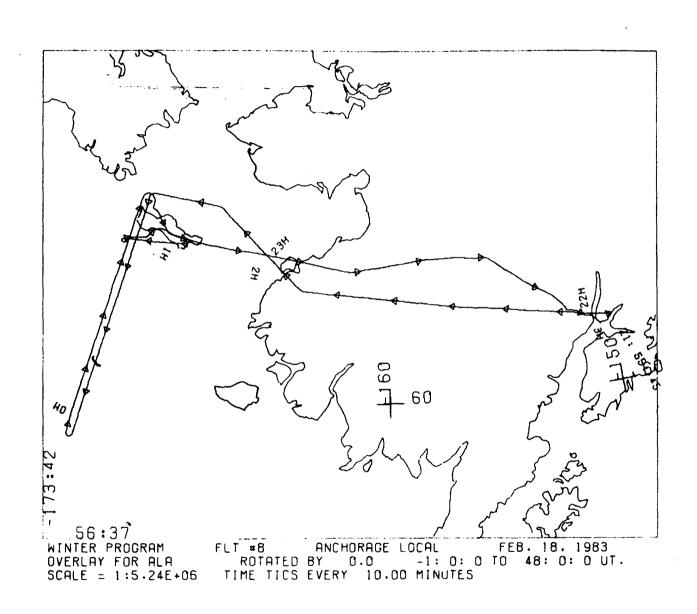


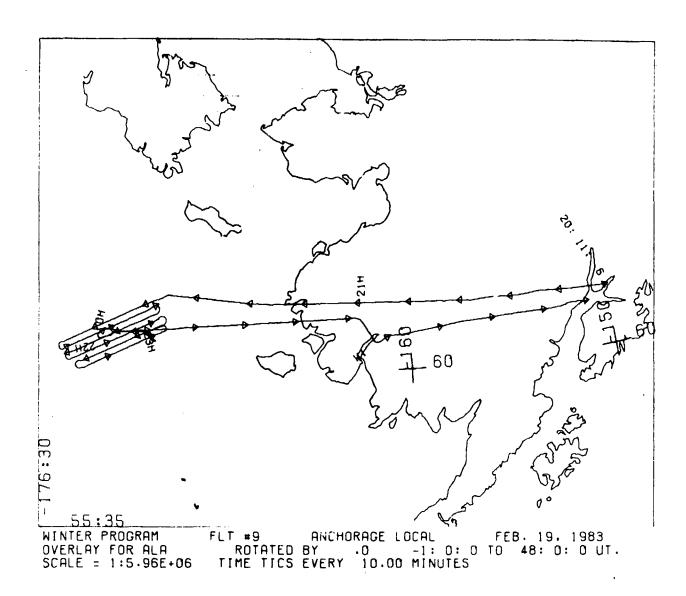
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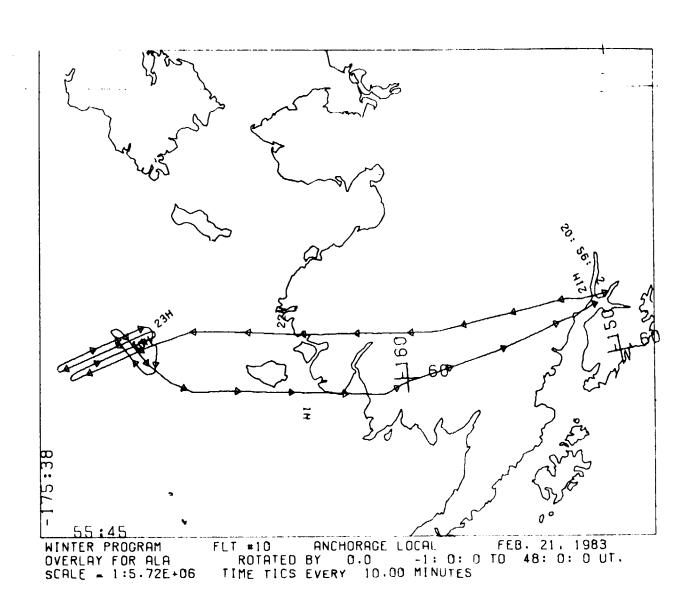
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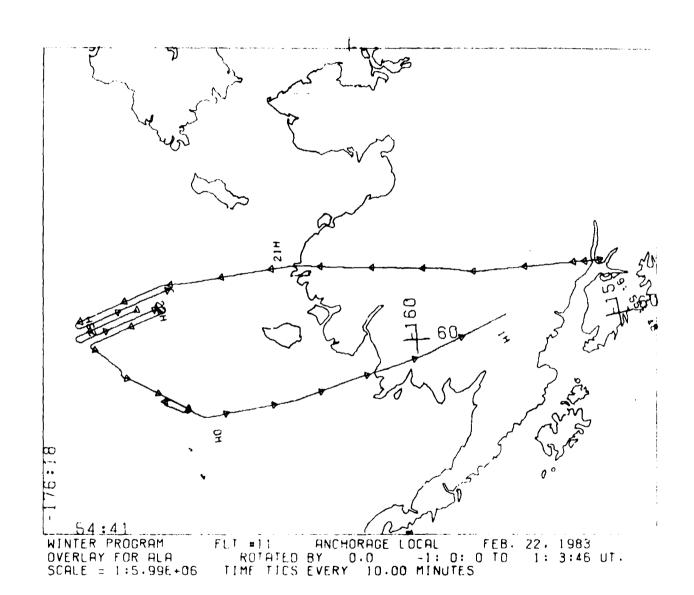


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APPENDIX B

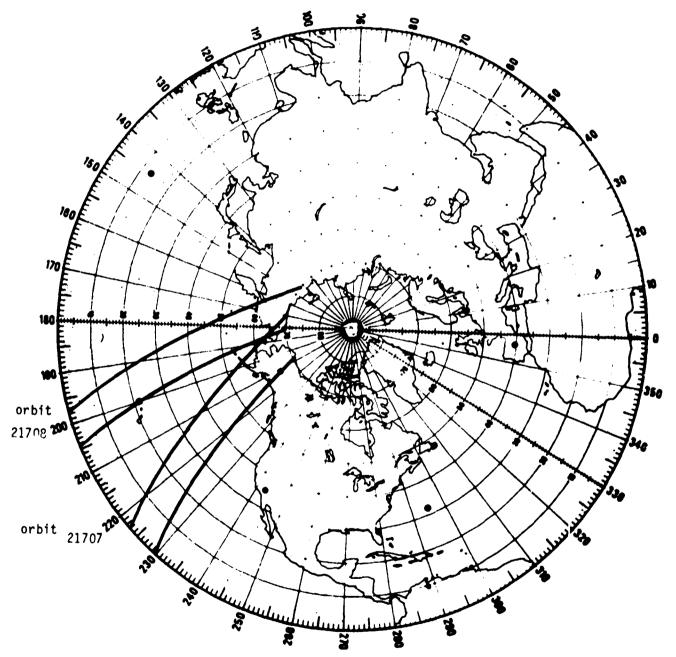
Nimbus-7 Orbits

CF . C to

NIMBUS-7 SMMR

ORBITAL SWATH LOCATER

February 10, 1983



OR POINT

NIMBUS-7 SMMR

ORBITAL SWATH LOCATER

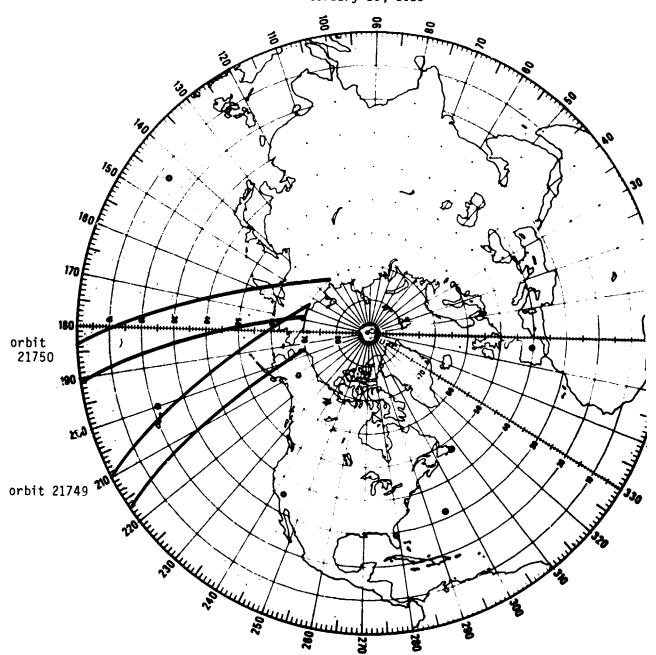
February 12, 1983 orbit 21736 orbit 21735

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NIMBUS-7 SMMR

ORBITAL SWATH LOCATER

February 13, 1983

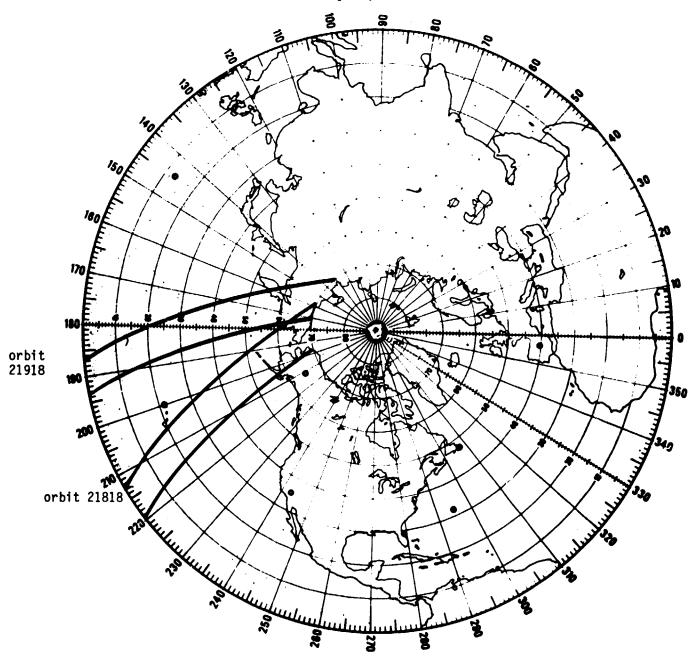


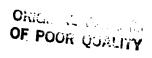
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NIMBUS-7 SMMR

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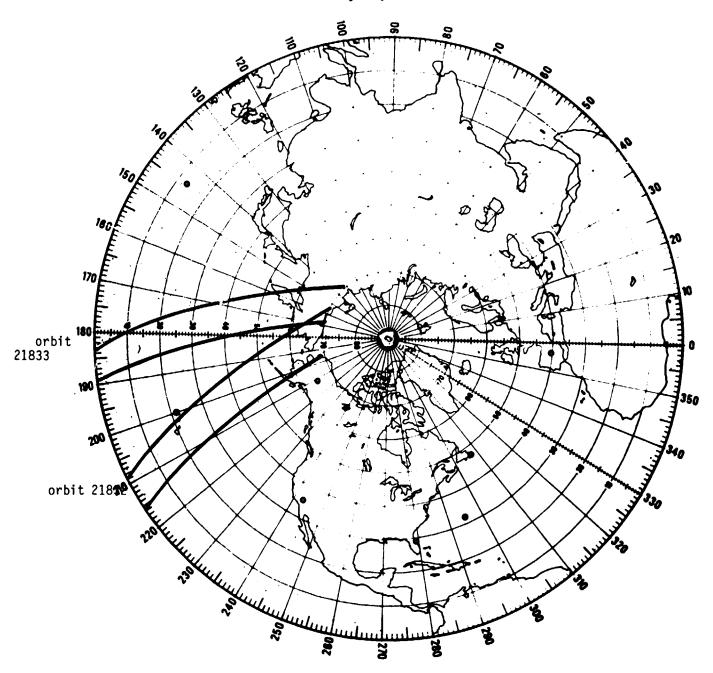
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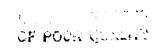




NIMBUS-7 SMMR

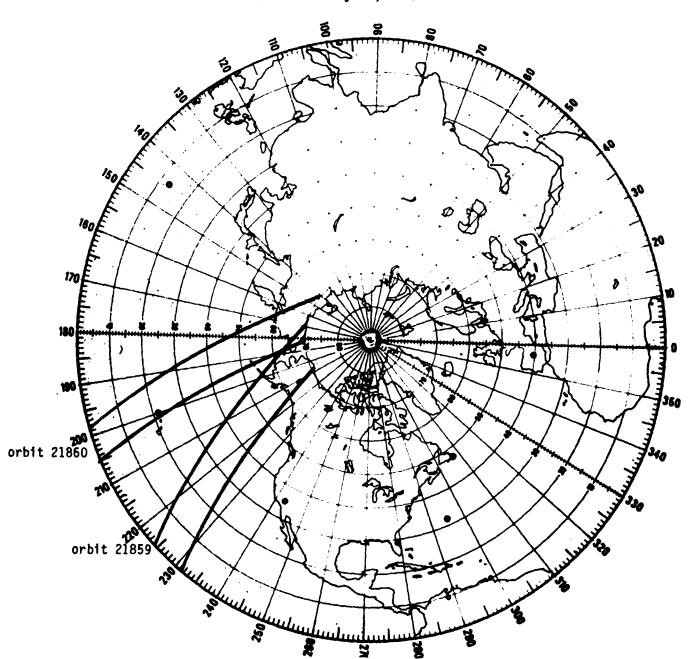
ORBITAL SWATH LOCATER February 19, 1983

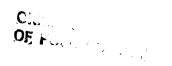




NIMBUS-7 SMMR

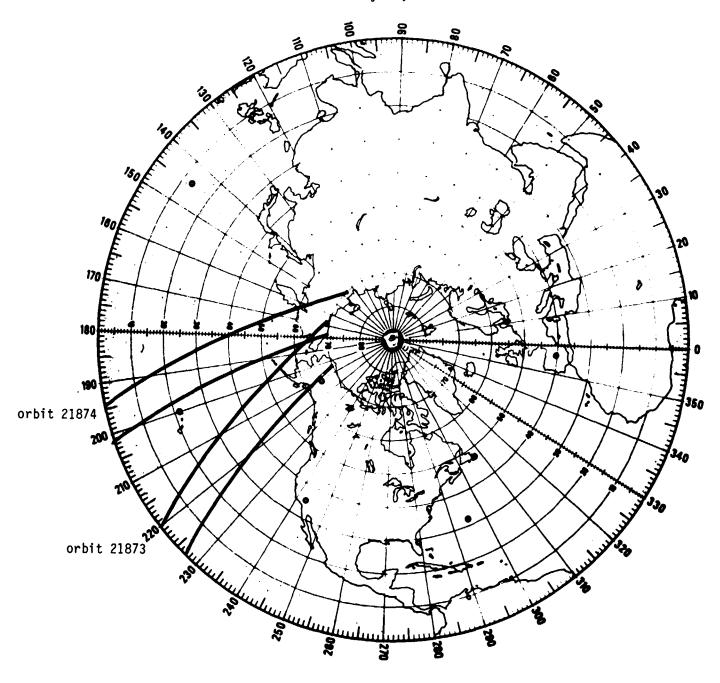
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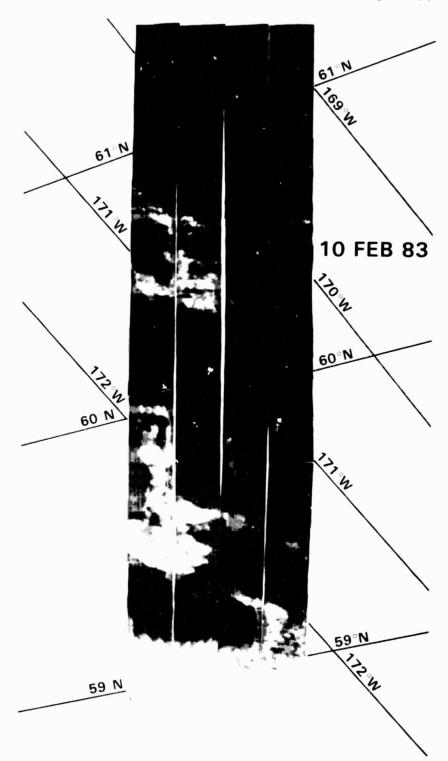
NIMBUS-7 SMMR

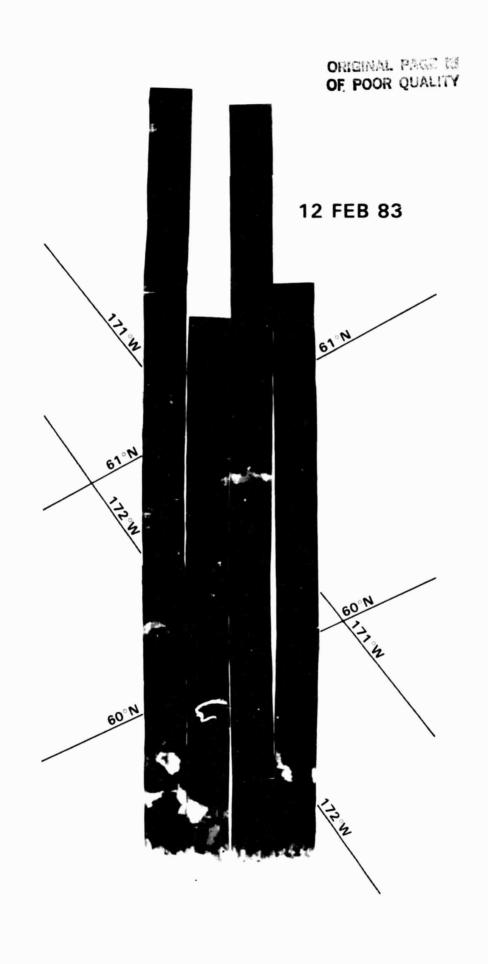
ORBITAL SWATH LOCATER February 22, 1983

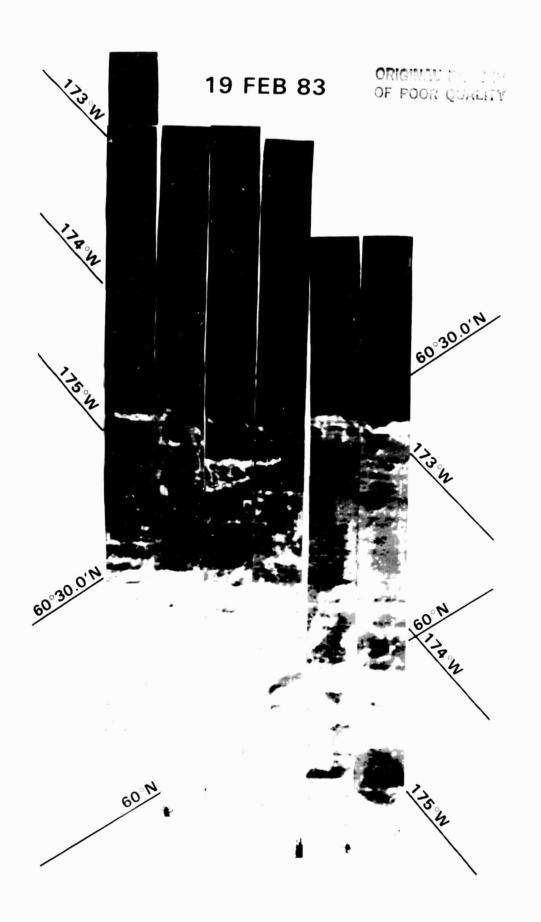


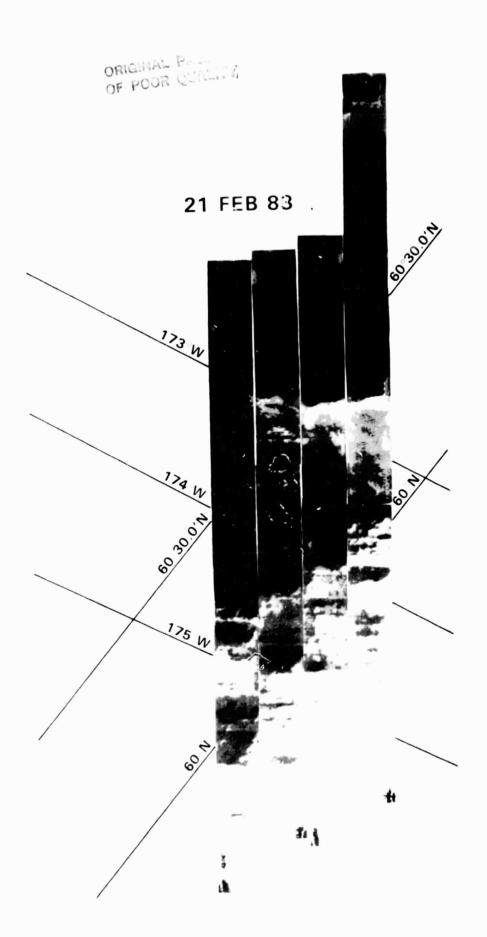
APPENDIX C

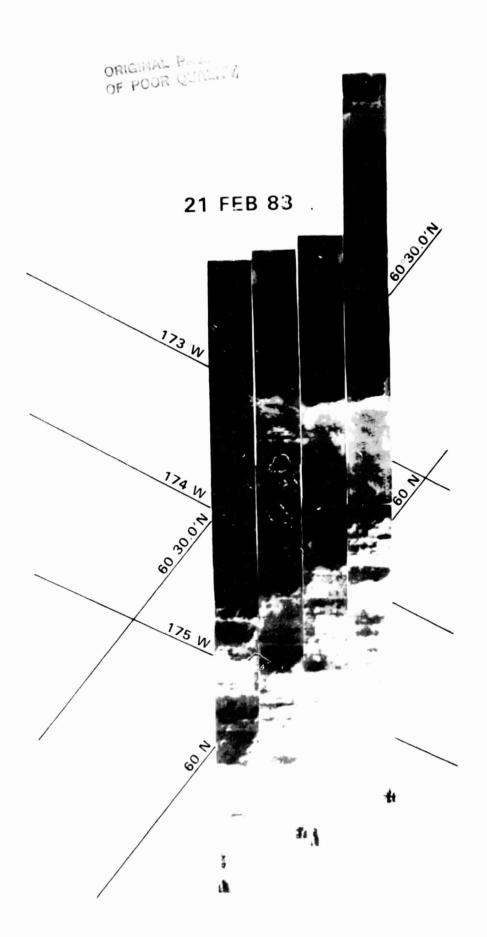
A/C ESMR Mosaics

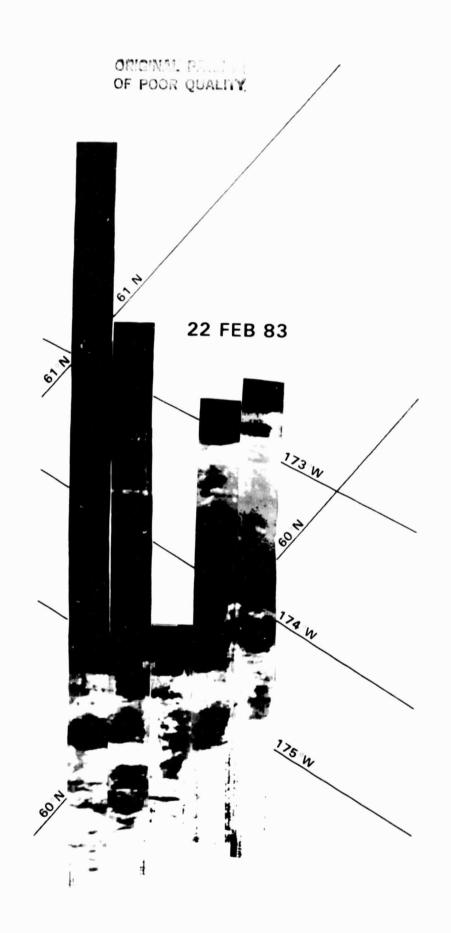






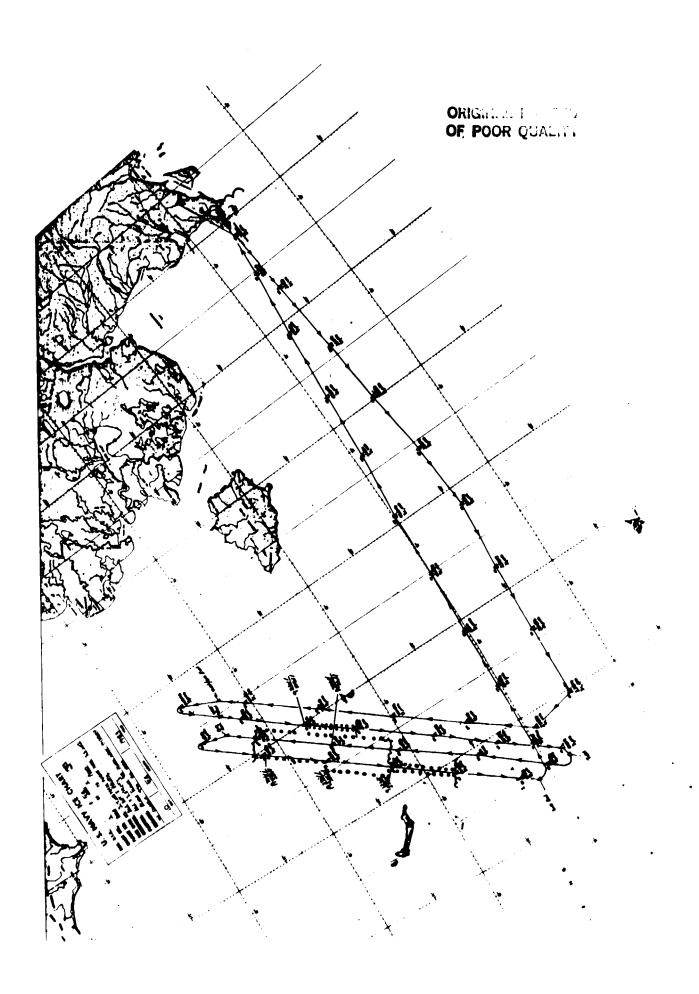


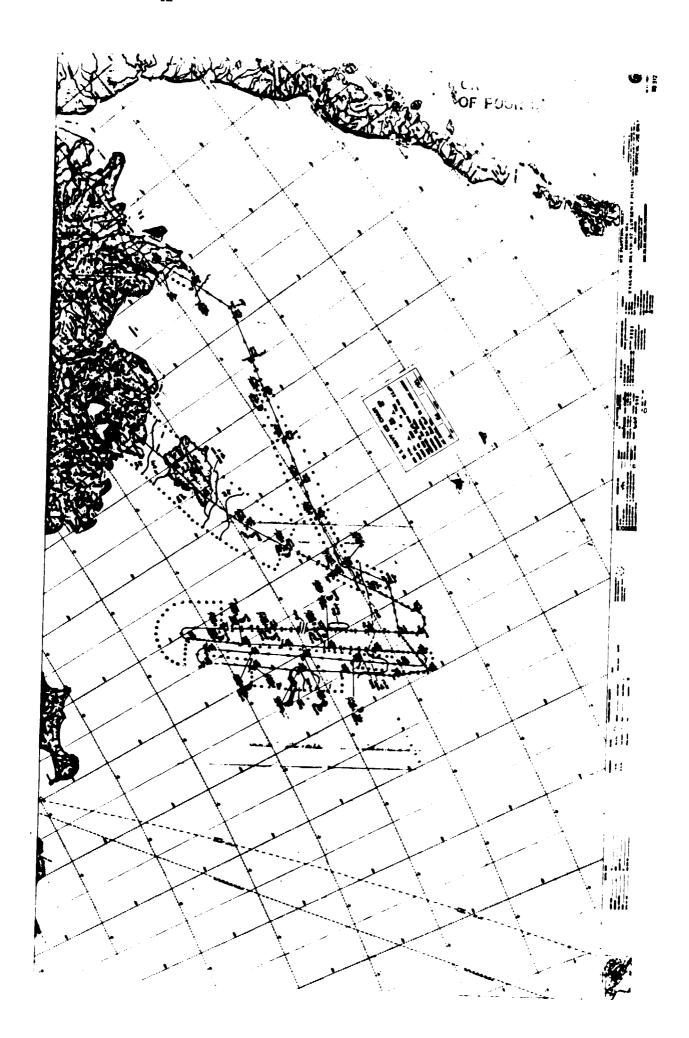


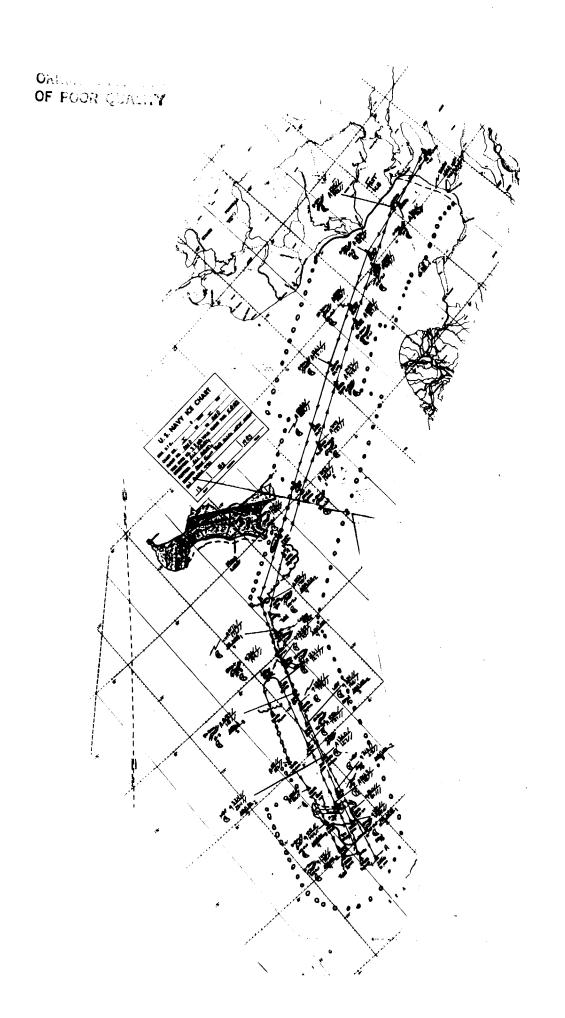


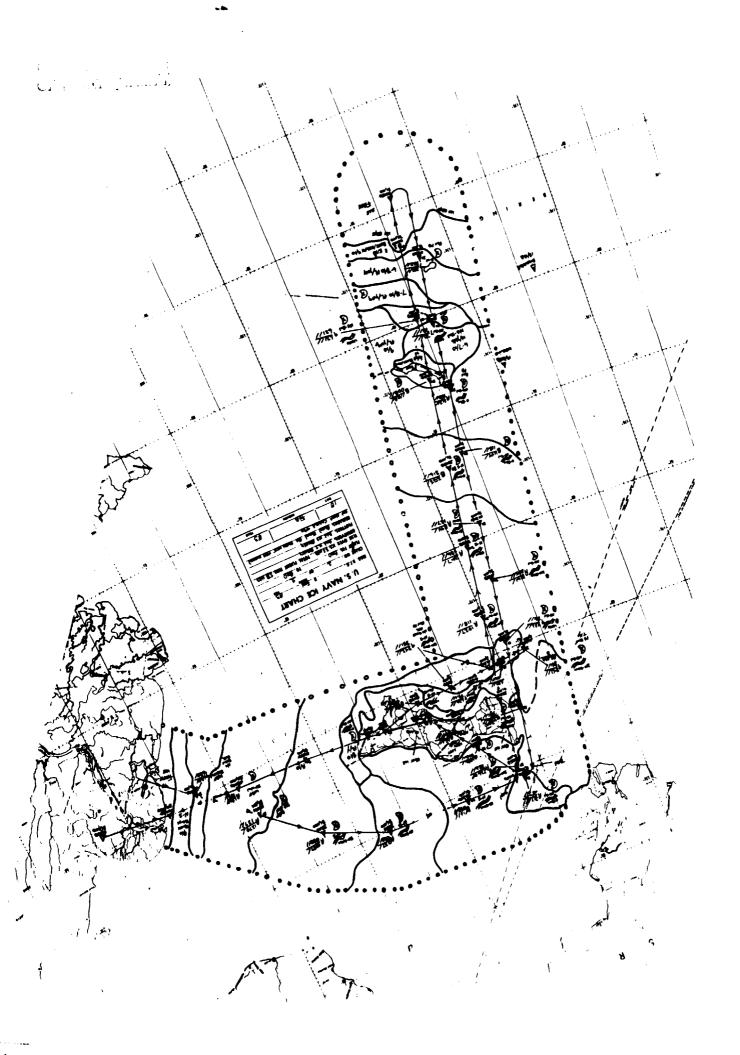
APPENDIX D

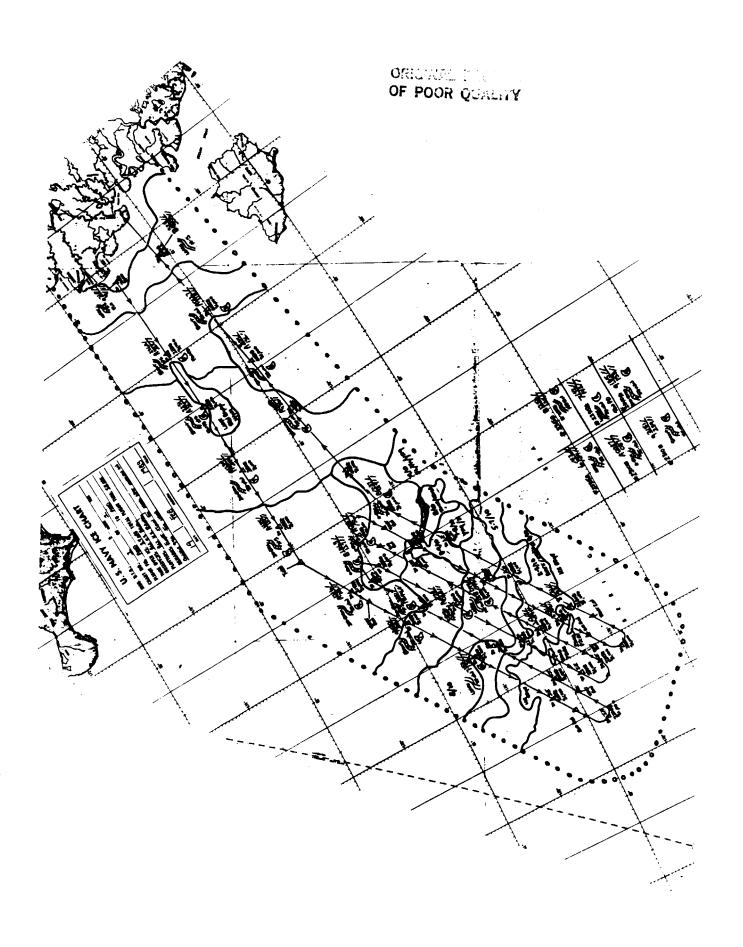
Ice Charts

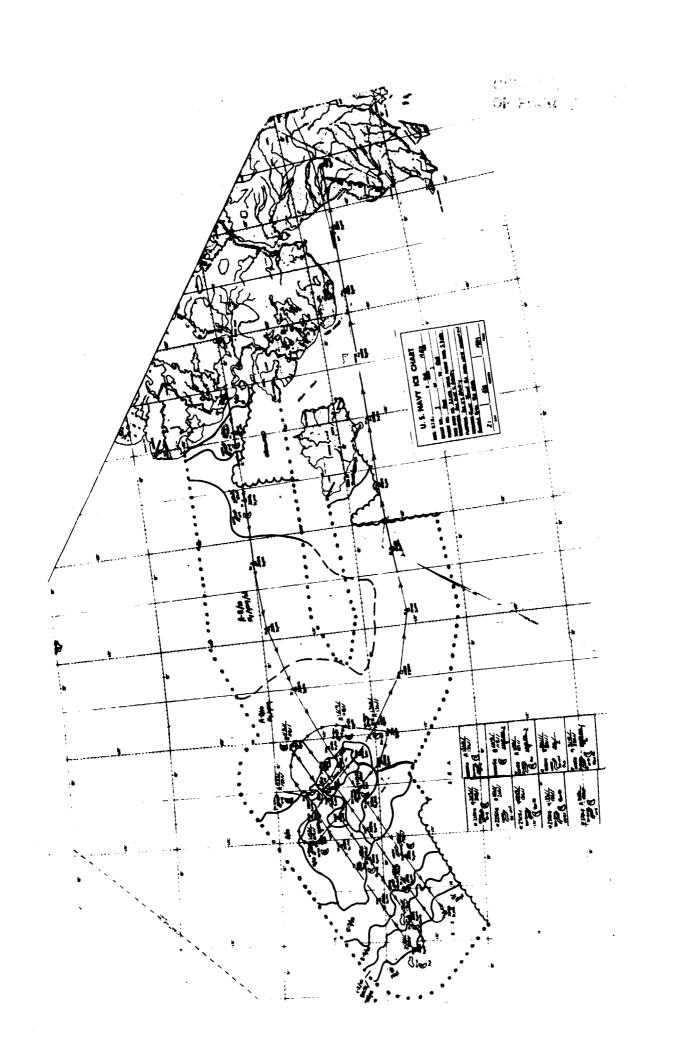


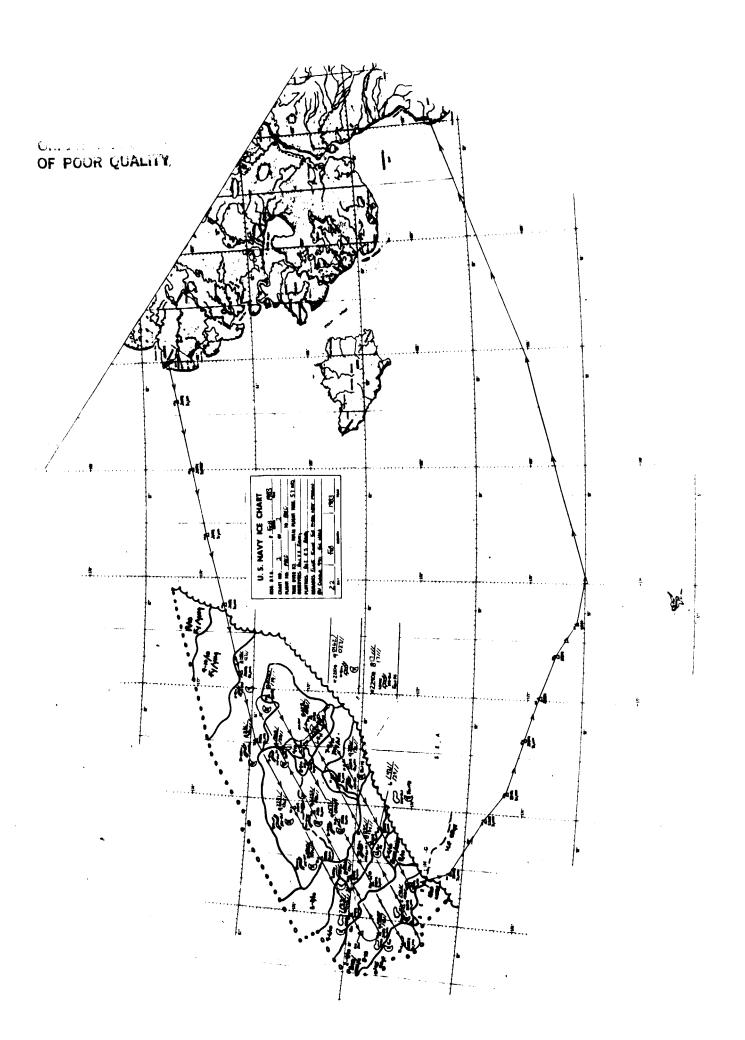




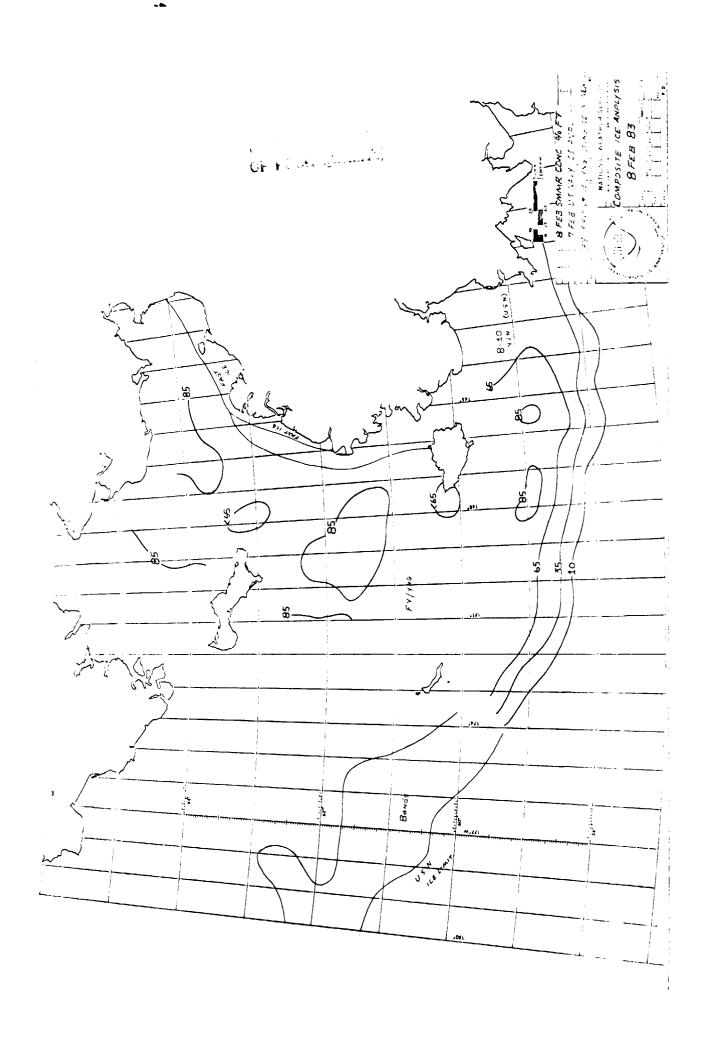


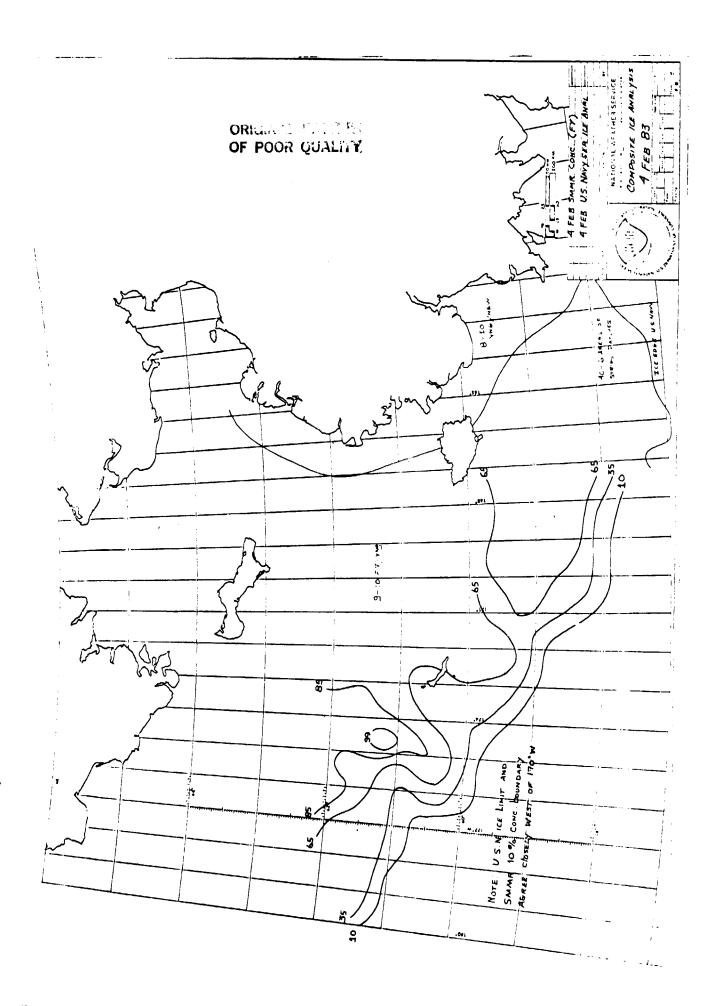


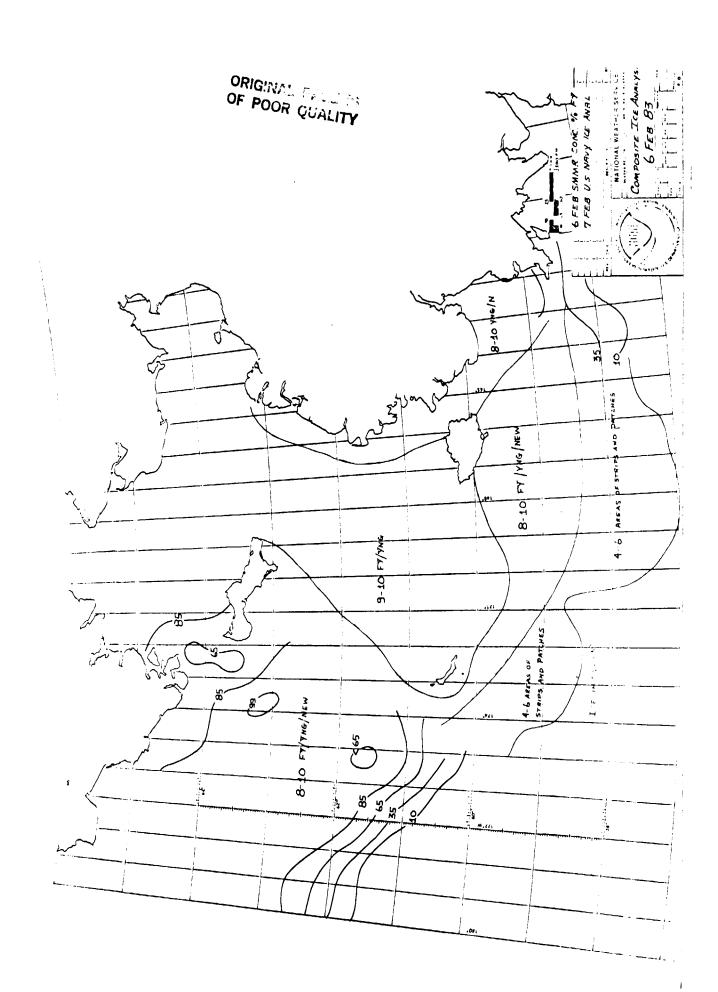


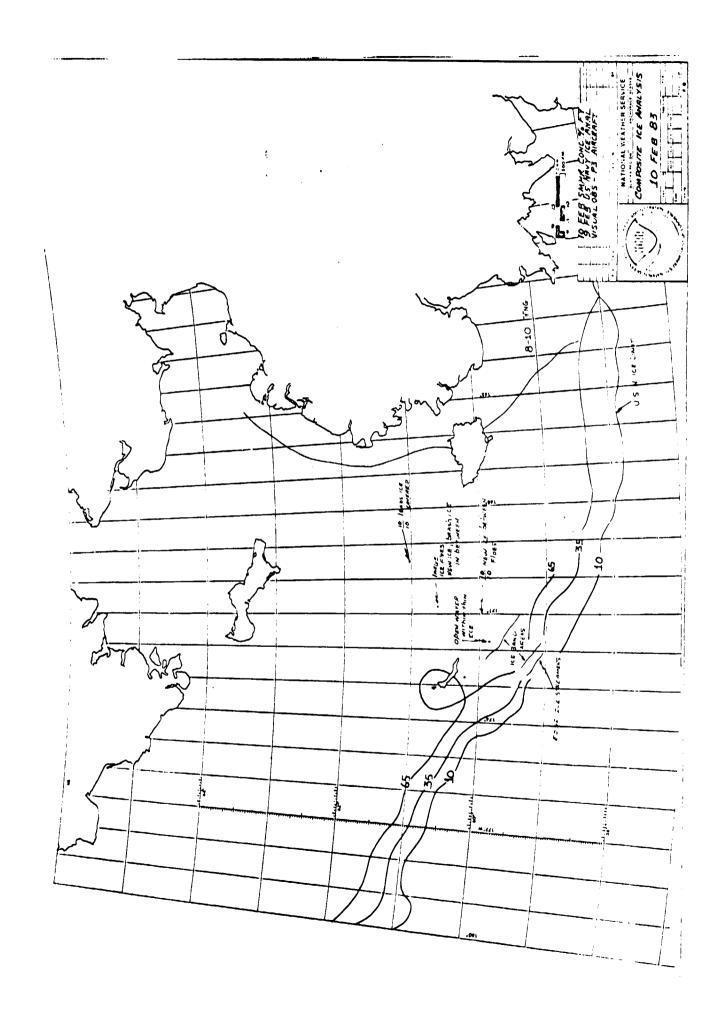


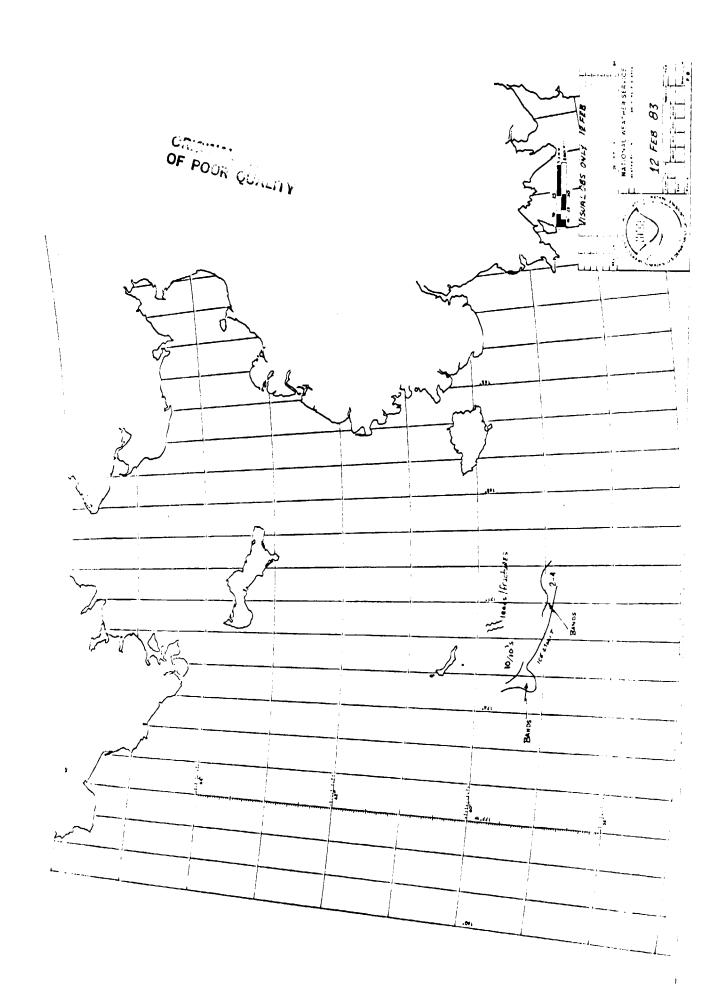
APPENDIX E
Composite Ice Maps



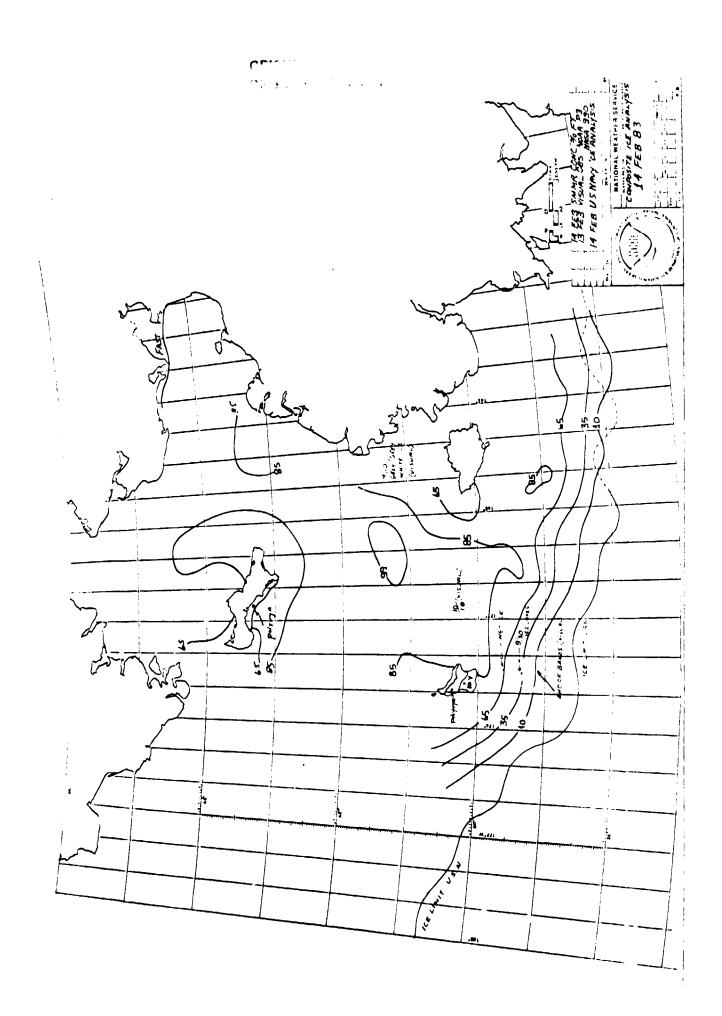


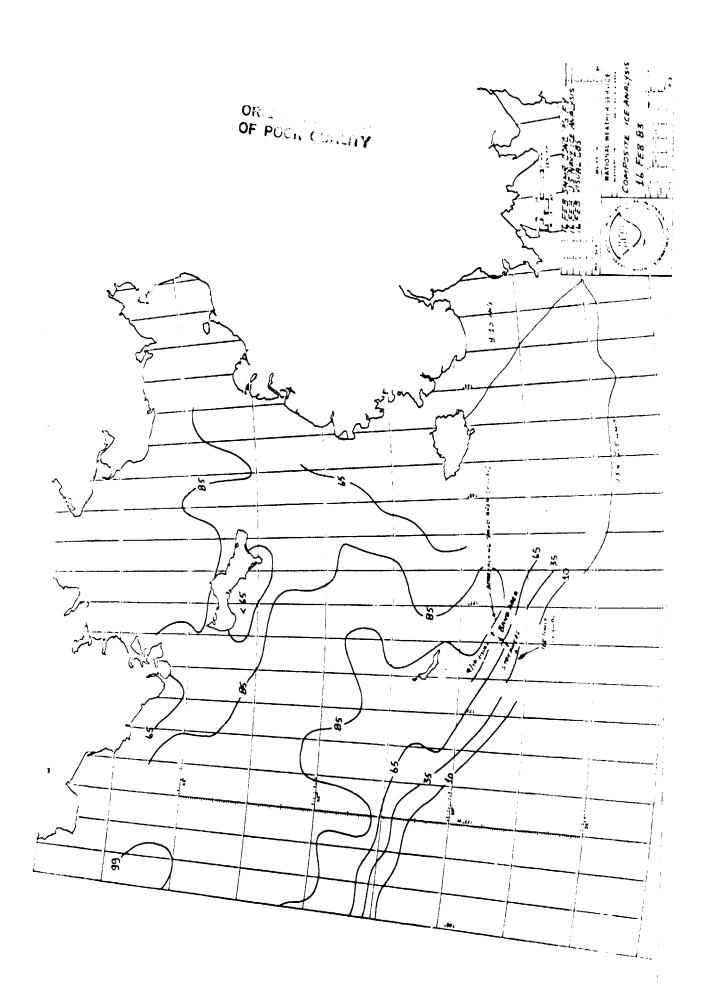


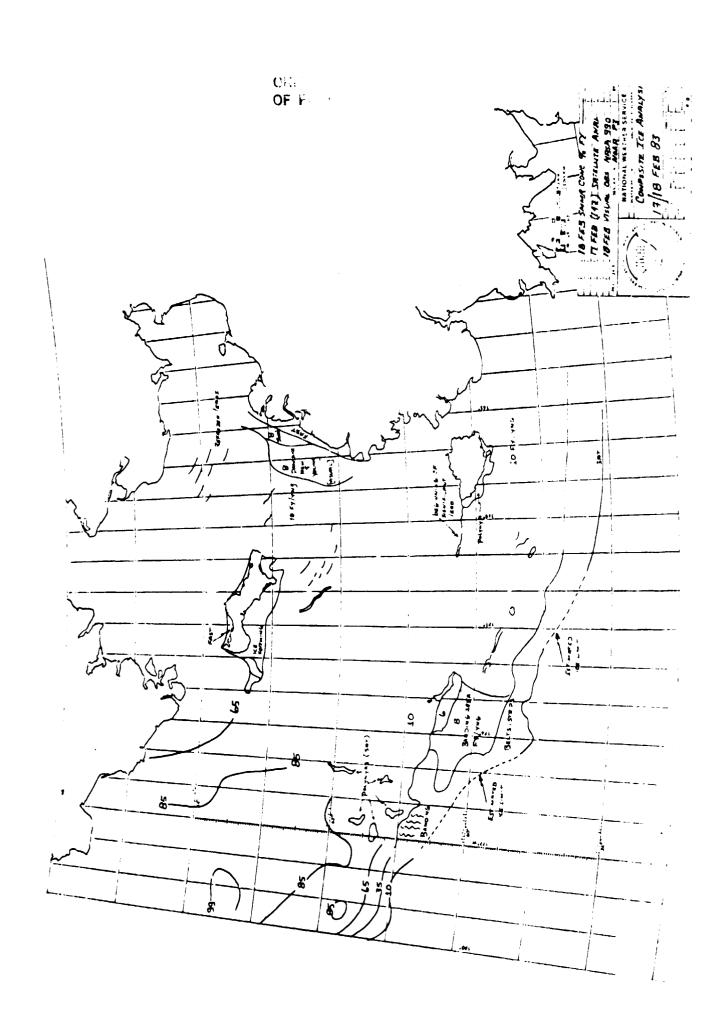


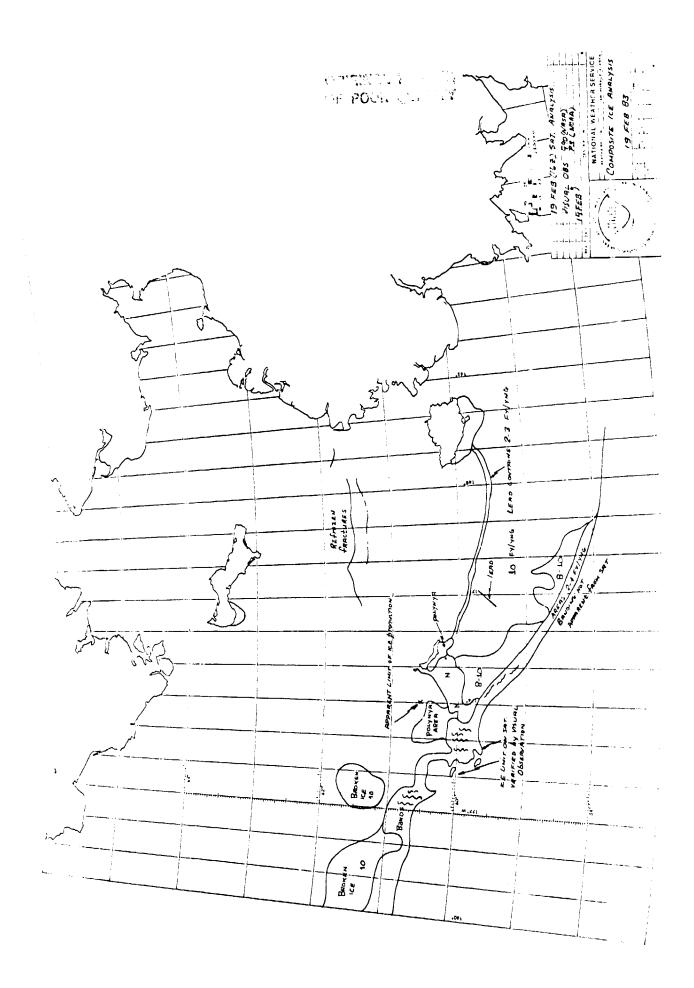


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