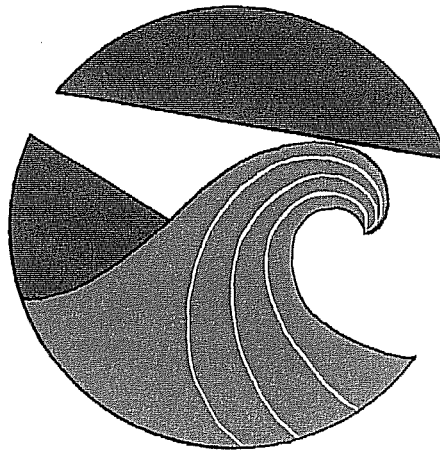


The St. Johns County Submerged Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan

**2001-2002
Phase I**



Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc.

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**St. Augustine, Florida
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Executive Summary

This report presents the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program's (LAMP) 2001 field season, which is the first phase of the St. Johns County Submerged Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan. The 2001 fieldwork was oriented towards investigating St. Johns County's wide spectrum of maritime archaeological sites and expanding the survey areas to encompass a diverse range of environmental settings throughout the county. LAMP's efforts during this phase resulted in the delineation and registration of ten sites to the Florida Master Site File with five updates included to previously recorded sites. The project's remote sensing survey efforts generated over 142 magnetometer anomalies and sonar targets for detailed Phase II investigation.

St. Johns County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Florida and its waterways are continually impacted by development and a multitude of other natural and cultural forces. The continuity of LAMP's research in St. Johns County has been critical for developing a thorough understanding of the factors involved in making informed management decisions for the survival of these non-renewable, submerged cultural resources. The synthesis, analysis, and interpretation of over 23 years of underwater archaeology, including the seven years of intensive research undertaken by LAMP's Executive Director, John W. Morris III, is detailed in this report in addition to the 2001 field survey results. This document, therefore, is intended to serve as an initial planning tool for local, state, and federal officials. It also serves to codify effective research designs and methodological protocols required for investigative surveys. Follow on research in 2002-2003 will focus on testing the generated targets and on the synthesis of acquired data and knowledge for management recommendations. Grant funding from the State of Florida has been secured for this next phase of LAMP's ongoing research.

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Introduction

In 1968, the State of Florida set aside four underwater Archaeological Reserve areas around the state for the purpose of, “preserving a cross-sectional and representative sample of underwater cultural resources” (Singer, 1998:342). The waters surrounding St. Augustine, the nation’s oldest city, are included in one of these four reserves. St. Augustine’s reserve domain stretches from north of St. Augustine inlet to south of Matanzas Inlet near present day Marineland (Figure 1). The reserve areas were set aside exclusively for scientific investigations and may not be used for commercial salvage, however, very little underwater archaeological research has been undertaken within the reserve prior to the present efforts.

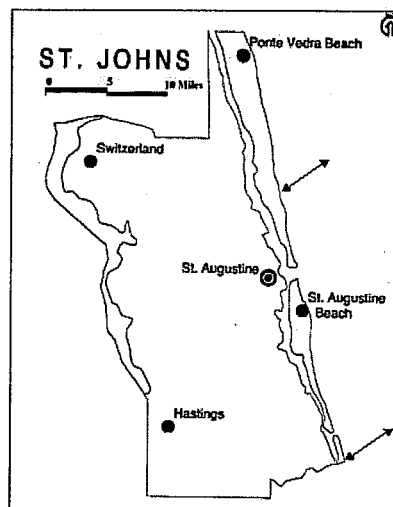


Figure 1: Reserve Extents.

What little academic underwater archaeology that has been conducted in St. Johns County was undertaken in the 1970s and early 1980s by Florida State University in conjunction with the National Park Service’s Southeastern Archaeological Center (SEAC) in Tallahassee. This early work was primarily used as training for field school students and did not produce any significant information pertaining to the maritime archaeology of the St. Johns County region. No other academic underwater archaeology took place in the county for a decade after these initial investigations, though large scale, multi-year projects have been undertaken mostly by the University of Florida and the city of St. Augustine’s archaeology program on many of the earlier colonial, terrestrial sites within St. Augustine (see White 2000 and Halbirt 1992). However, in 1995, research-oriented underwater archaeology resumed with a survey initiated by Southern

Oceans Archaeological Research, Inc. (SOAR). This research continues today under the direction of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc. (LAMP).

SOAR initiated the St. Augustine Maritime Survey in 1995 as the, "first step towards interpreting St. Augustine's maritime history from the perspective of the vessels involved in establishing, maintaining and protecting the oldest city in this country" (Franklin and Morris, 1996:2). This initial remote sensing survey resulted in the generation of 48 anomalies offshore and seven anomalies inshore and the identification of three archaeological sites. The survey continued through 1998 under the direction of John W. Morris III with support from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc (SALM). This survey resulted in the identification of several wrecks representing St. Augustine's venerable maritime history. Perhaps the most significant of the wrecks identified during this period is the 1764 wreck of the British transport sloop *Industry*, and the remains of a wooden hulled screw steamship.

In 1999, LAMP was established under the leadership of John W. Morris III. LAMP was created in concert with the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, which recognized the need to establish a maritime research program centered on a full time professional staff with conservation lab facilities, public access, museum interpretation, and support. LAMP began its first full year of operation on July 1, 2000 with a professional staff and has since developed an on-site conservation laboratory as well as exhibits which bring the research to the public through the Lighthouse Museum. In addition to the continuing the research begun in 1995, LAMP also has created a formalized volunteer and student-intern program for high school, undergraduate and graduate students. LAMP also conducts lectures and workshops for professional and public groups, and has developed a skills-based program for teaching high school students underwater

archaeology. After seven years of research in the region, LAMP has become the center of expertise for underwater archaeology in Northeast Florida and is often called upon by the State of Florida and other cultural resource entities to provide information, consultation and to help document submerged cultural resources throughout the state. LAMP is committed to documenting the submerged cultural resources of St. Johns County and all of Northeast Florida.