RECOMMENDATIONS

This report represents a compilation of the references to the data that have been collected in a small area bounding the Manteo Exploration units. However, the scope of the project did not allow taking full advantage of existing technology to give the data base maximum utility. Also, now that the references, their locations, and their data have been identified, some actual manipulations of the data are feasible (assuming the data themselves can be assembled in one place). The following recommendations for future work expand upon this project and would greatly improve our abilities to assess this ocean region around "The Point".

I. Expand/improve the location data base. Some station locations could not be determined from published material, and it was beyond the scope of this project to search out the original raw data. However, this is feasible, given sufficient time, and would greatly expand the project utility, especially the GIS component of the project.

II. Repackage the project into an interactive, electronic product on CD-ROM. Since the bibliography is electronic (ProCite), as are the data (dbase and Excel) and the maps (ArcView), all of these could be tied together and used on computer. As various maps are viewed on screen the locations could be queried to deliver the literature sources and full citations. Data could be sorted in many ways and presented (and printed) as maps. The CD could include the appropriate software to allow it to be used as a stand alone product.

III. Acquire data from the cited projects/studies and digitize them (if not already done). This is the most ambitious and time consuming recommendation and could complement numbers I and II (above). The data to obtain would include (but not be limited to) station specific species lists, environmental data, and overall catch summaries by station. A variety of GIS and biodiversity applications could then be developed for the project area. In this format this could serve as a real time, interactive Environmental Assessment tool.