

**RV Franklin Cruise 01/-02, January-February, 2002
(Geoscience Australia Cruise 234)**

**Cross-shelf sediment transport in the
Torres Strait - Gulf of Papua Region.**

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Executive Summary

The RV *Franklin* sailed from Cairns Cross Shipyard, Brisbane on 17-1-02 and returned to Cairns on 9-2-02. The cruise discovered that a zone of strong tidal currents at the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef prevents the southward advance of sediment derived from Papua New Guinea's rivers that would otherwise bury the coral reefs. The Fly River, located in close proximity to the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef, discharges about 120 million tonnes/yr of sediment, equal to more than that of all of Australia's rivers combined. This sediment does not penetrate as far south into the reef area as might be expected, because southward prograding deposits are eroded by tidal currents.

Swath sonar mapping and underwater video equipment aboard the research vessel RV *Franklin*, was used to map a series of channels up to 220 m deep that extend for more than 80km from eastern Torres Strait across the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef. It appears that there are two sorts of channels - those in the north are clearly relict fluvial channels, exhibiting lateral accretion surfaces and incised channels that intersect and truncate underlying strata. Over-deepened channels in the south, however, appear to have formed by tidal current scour. They exhibit closed bathymetric contours at both ends and are floored with well sorted carbonate gravely sand. Oceanographic observations indicate that the channels provide a conduit onto the shelf for cool and saline (and nutrient-rich?) upwelled Coral Sea water. The deepest channels form isolated depressions, and possibly were the sites of lakes during the last ice age, when Torres Strait formed a land-bridge between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Introduction

On a global scale, surprisingly little sediment is transported across continental shelves to the shelf break under modern (high sea level) environmental conditions. Rather, most terrigenous sediment is trapped in coastal environments (beaches, estuaries and embayments). Autochthonous shelf sediments that are mobilised by storm events tend to be transported short distances along isobath-parallel pathways (eg. Gagan et al., 1990). Current energy drops off dramatically away from the shoreface on most wave-dominated shelves, and even on tide-dominated shelves the tidal current transport paths generally do not extend to the shelf break (eg. Stride, 1982). The result is that cross-shelf sediment transport occurs mainly during sea level low stands, when rivers erode and transport material to the shelf break (Nittrouer and Wright, 1994). Exceptions to this pattern occur where large river systems have built deltas across the shelf to the shelf break (eg. the Mississippi and Amazon Rivers), on some high-energy shelves and in some locations where the shelf width is very narrow (eg. where the Sepic River empties directly into an ocean basin in northern Papua New Guinea).

In the Gulf of Papua, two separate processes appear to give rise to cross-shelf sediment transport in different locations. The first of these is the transport of fine-grained terrigenous muds delivered by the Fly, Aird and Puari Rivers to the inner shelf area of the Gulf (Fig. 1). This mud is thought to be advected eastwards by combined tidal currents, wind-driven currents and swell waves until it reaches the most narrow part of the shelf at around 146°E. The mud may then descend to the Coral Sea basin via the Moresby Canyon (Brunskill et al., 1995). Recent shelf current modeling work has demonstrated that these processes do indeed result in eastward advection of tracers introduced at specific locations (see also Brunskill et al., 2000). Cores and geophysical data collected by the RV Franklin during TROPICS cruises have formed the basis of detailed studies of this cross-shelf terrigenous sediment transport path.

The available evidence also identifies a second location of potential cross-shelf sediment transport path located adjacent to the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef. Numerical modelling predicts that this zone experiences elevated tidal current bottom stress (Hemer et al., in press), which corroborates sidescan sonar images of subtidal dunes comprised of coarse sand and gravel-sized sediments shown by Harris et al (1996). Hence, energy is apparently available to mobilise and transport sediment grains, but whether the residual current regime results in

any cross-shelf transport is not known. The key questions are: (1) Are modern oceanographic processes transporting calcareous and terrigenous sediments from NE Torres Strait to the outer shelf of the Gulf of Papua? (2) Do the sediments deposited at the receiving end-point of this transport path contain a record of variability through the Holocene? Through the late Quaternary?

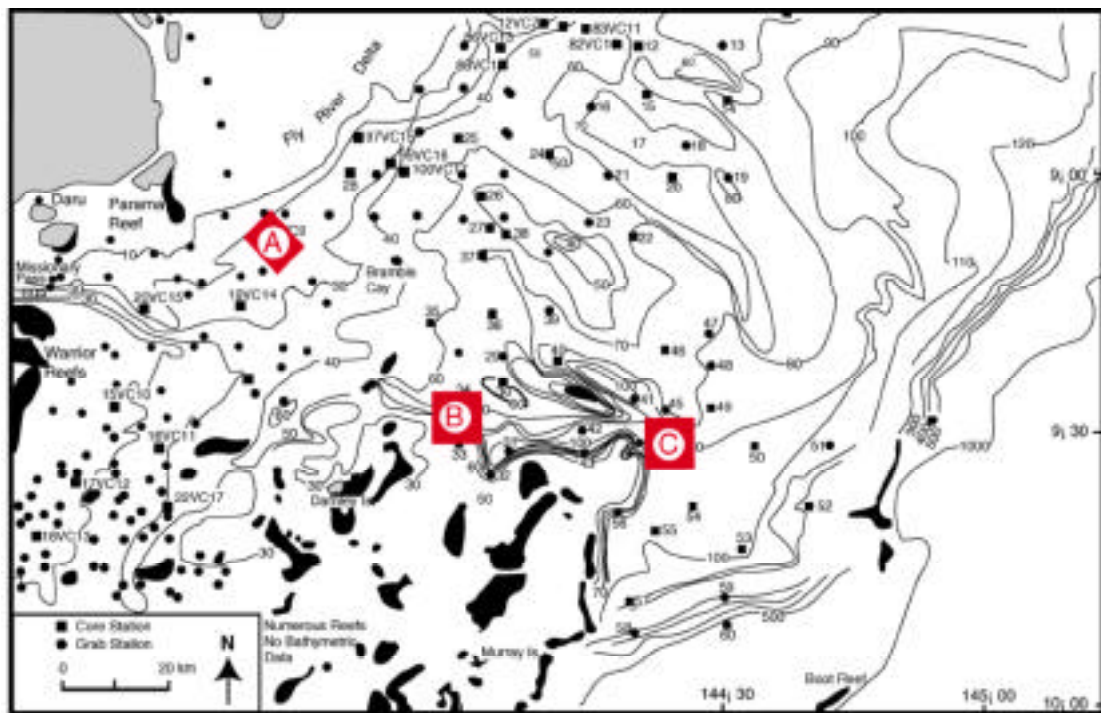


Figure 1. Location of the three study areas in the northern Great Barrier Reef region.

The cruise aims were to verify and quantify modelling results predicting the occurrence of a potential sediment transport path across the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef and into the Gulf of Papua. The objectives were, therefore, to map the seabed bathymetry, bedforms and Holocene sediment deposits and to measure currents and near-bed suspended sediment concentrations in a transect across the shelf from northeastern Torres Strait (in the vicinity of the southern Fly River Delta) to the shelf break. Seabed photography and surface grab sampling provided information on seabed character, evidence of sediment mobility such as small-scale bedforms, as well as benthic habitats and communities. A second research goal was to establish linkages between benthic communities and sedimentary environments and facies.

Methods

A Reson 240 kHz swath system model no. 8101 was provided by James Cook University. The system recorded data using Reson 6042 Ver 7.2 format software. The total amount of data recorded was 70 GB. A Datasonics 3.5 kHz Chirp Sub-bottom profiler, recorder model no. DSP 661/66 and tow fish model TTV170S was also used. The trigger interval was 0.5 to 0.25 seconds (0.25 to 180 metres, 0.5 below 180 M) and the total amount of Chirp data recorded was 30 GB. An Applied Microsystems Ltd SV PLUS acoustic velocity profiler was used to measure the acoustic velocity range, which was from 1542 - 1546 m/s in the study area.

The ships Seabird SBE911 CTD was deployed along with a Seatech transmissometer, calibrated to measure suspended sediment concentration using surface and near-bed water samples. Two-litre water samples were filtered through pre-weighed 0.45 μm filter papers using a vacuum system to obtain mass concentration values. On return from the voyage, the filter papers were oven dried @ 60°C and re-weighed in the lab to the nearest ± 0.0001 g.

Seabed sediment samples were collected using a Smith Macintyre grab and the AGSO 1-tonne gravity corer, also rigged to work as a piston corer. Sub-samples of sediment grabs were taken for laboratory analyses, including mini-cores of the top 10 to 20 cm where possible, and the remainder was sieved and any living material was bagged and recorded. An underwater video camera was also deployed at each station to record a minimum of 3 minutes of seafloor imagery, in order to characterise the seabed type and associated benthic biota.

Current, temperature, salinity and turbidity measurements were also made using a newly constructed benthic frame designed for deployment in shelf water depths up to 300 m. The *Benthic Research for Underwater sediment Concentrations* probe (BRUCE) comprised a Sequoia LIST-100 transmissometer- laser particle sizer- Seabird CTD (located at 30 cm above the bed) NORTEK acoustic current meter and Benthos optical backscatter sensor (located at 100 cm above the bed). Instruments were wired together and programmed for synchronised 20-minute burst sampling using software prepared by IMBROS Scientific Equipment Pty Ltd., Hobart. The Nortek acoustic current meter also logged the Benthos optical backscatter sensor data at 10 Hz whereas the Sequoia LIST-100 transmissometer- laser particle sizer logged the Seabird CTD data (one record for each instrument

every 20 minutes). Lastly, two 20 cm lengths of 9 cm diameter plastic pipe were placed in the frame at 30 cm and 100 cm height above the bed, to serve as sediment traps for the deployment.

Results

A narrative of the cruise progress is given in Appendix 1. Our instrument mooring BRUCE was successfully recovered and, after inspection, was found to have logged all data as per the program. Further results will be available once the data have been more thoroughly analysed.

Swath mapping and Chirp sub-bottom profile data were collected along evenly spaced track lines as shown in Figures 2, 4 and 6. A total of 75 stations were occupied spread more or less evenly between the three survey areas. Station locations are listed in Appendix 2 and shown in relation to bathymetric maps in Figures 3, 5 and 7. In summary, the following samples were recovered:

- 64 Surface Grab Samples
- 64 CTD's
- 125 Filterpapers (from surface and 2m above the seabed)
- 10 Piston Cores
- 24 Gravity Cores
- 65 Underwater Video Stations
- 2 Sediment traps

None of the sample data have been analysed to date (25-3-02), but results will be published in a Geoscience Australia record, that is scheduled for draft completion in June 2002.

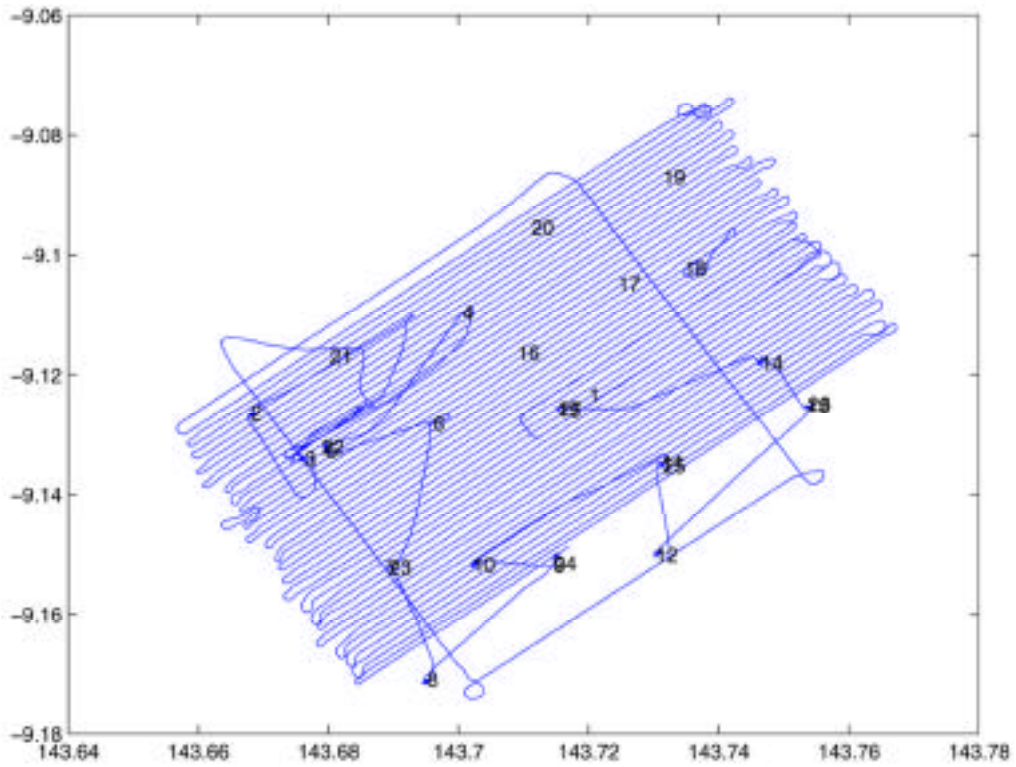


Figure 2. Survey track lines completed in Area "A", adjacent to the Fly River Delta.

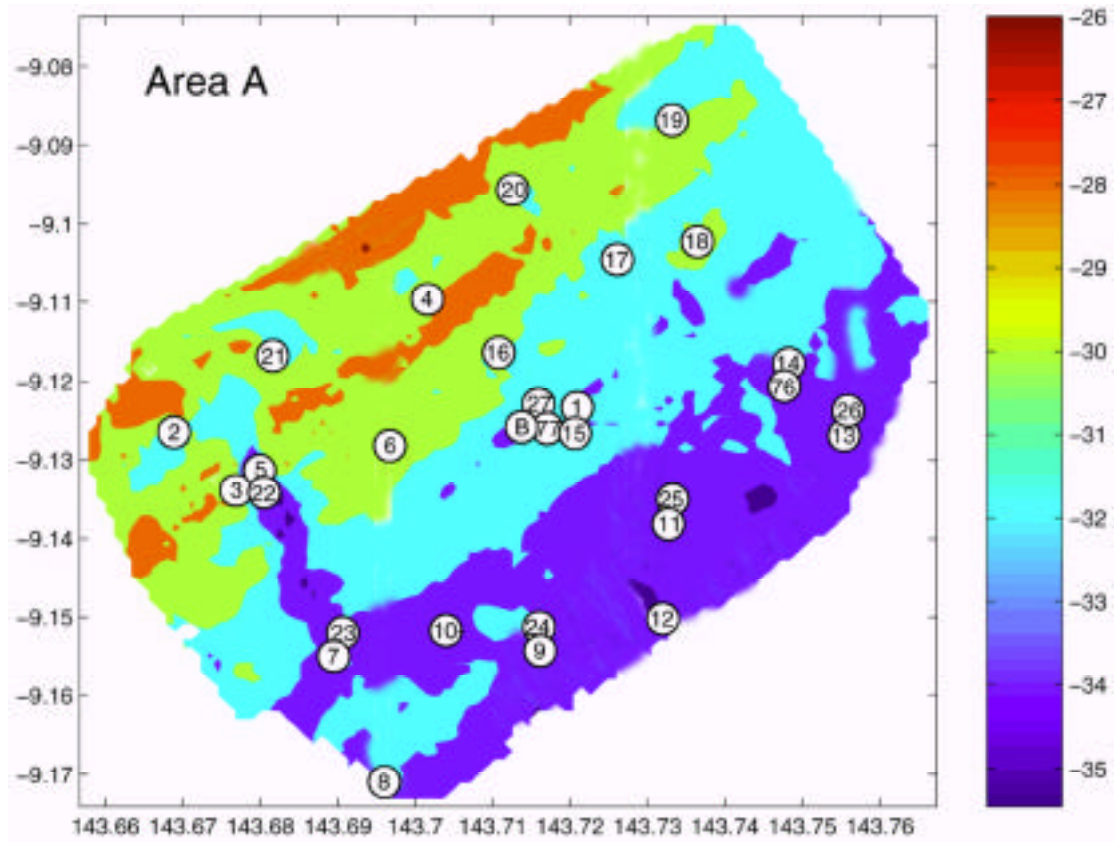


Figure 3. Location of stations occupied in Area "A" in relation to regional bathymetry.

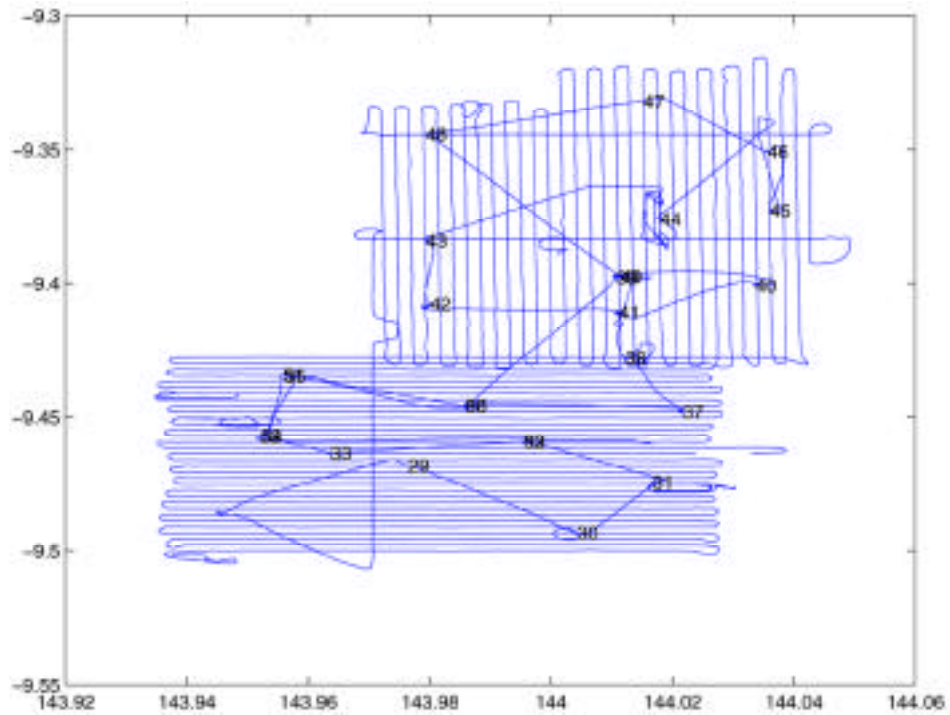


Figure 4. Survey track lines completed in Area "B", on the middle part of the Torres Strait shelf, north of Darnley Island.

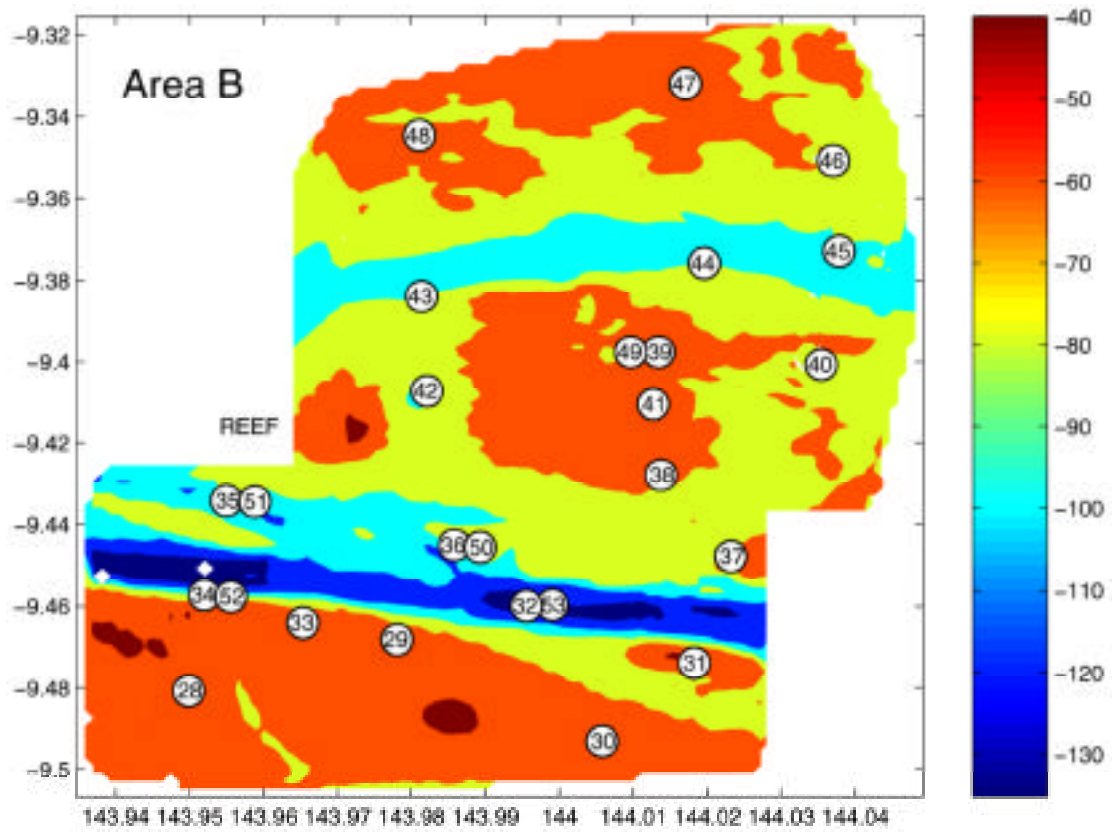


Figure 5. Location of stations occupied in Area "B" in relation to regional bathymetry.

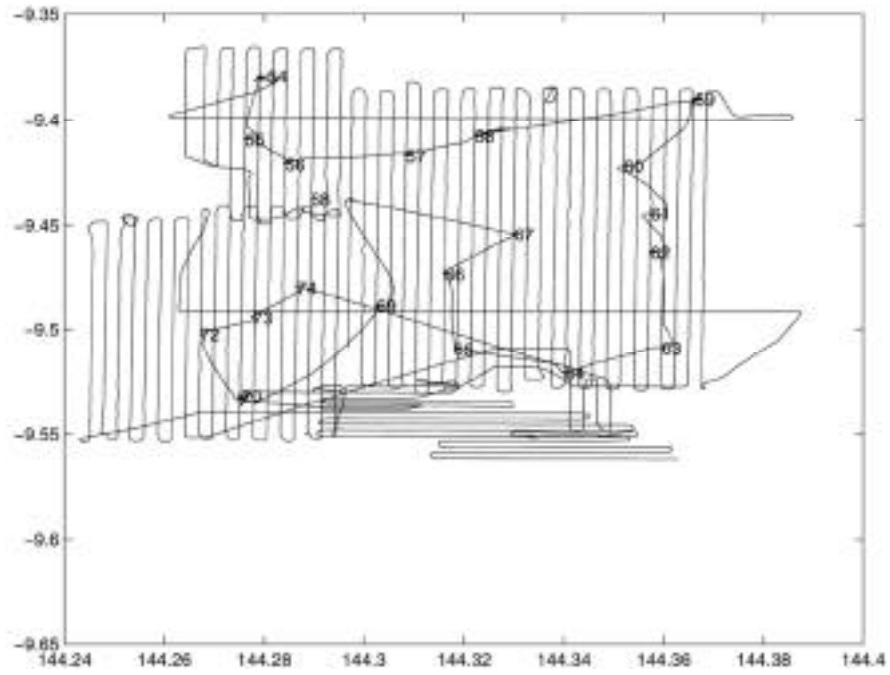


Figure 6. Survey track lines completed in Area "C", outer shelf of the Gulf of Papua, adjacent to East Cay.

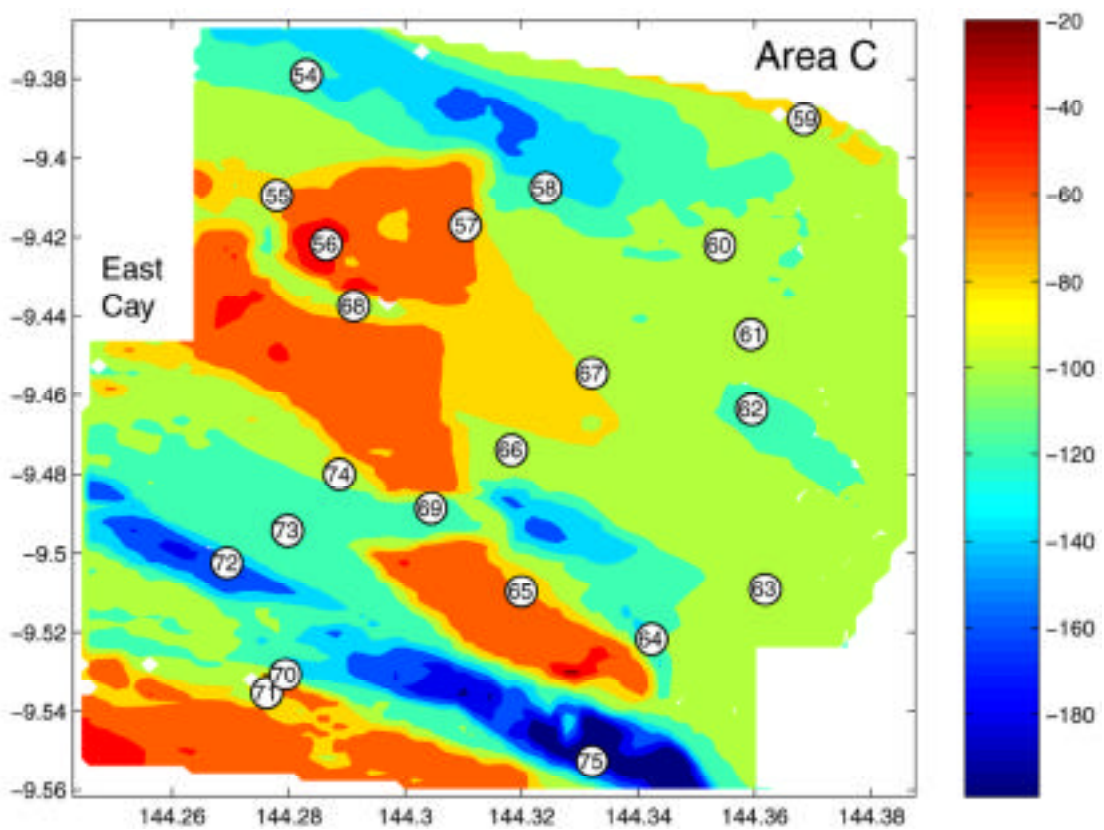


Figure 7. Location of stations occupied in Area "C" in relation to regional bathymetry.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1

Cruise Narrative – RV *Franklin* Cruise 01/-02 (Geoscience Australia Cruise 234) Fly River Delta, Torres Strait and Gulf of Papua, Jan-Feb., 2002

Thursday 17-01-02 The RV *Franklin* sailed from Cairns Cross Shipyard, Brisbane, @ 1000 hrs local time. Pilot dropped at Caloundra @ 1500 hrs and ship headed north with a brisk following (southerly) breeze.

Friday 18-01-02 Transit

Saturday 19-01-02 The 2nd cook has injured his finger. We must detour to Cairns to take him for treatment.

Sunday 20-01-02 Anchored offshore Cairns @ 1100 hrs on while 2nd Cook was taken to hospital for treatment. Underway again by 1300 hrs.

Monday 21-01-02 Transit

Tuesday 22-01-02 Arrived in Torres Strait and commenced work at station 1 @ 1500 hrs. Deployment of CTD, bottom video camera and grab sample were successful and the current meter frame was launched @ 1720 hrs. The probe has been named BRUCE (for Benthic Research Underwater sediment Concentration Experiment). After two sound velocity profiles were completed we commenced the swath survey @ 1900 hrs.

Wednesday, 23-01-02 By 1200 hrs we had completed 13 10km survey lines. The sea conditions were excellent, quiet and calm, and the Seabat system was operating at its optimum swath width (7 times water depth). Thus we decided to increase the line spacing from 100 to 125 m. This should save us a few hours of survey time.

Thursday, 24-01-02 Continue swath survey of Area "A".

Friday, 25-01-02 Swath survey for Area "A" completed @ 1630 hrs. Proceeded to conduct a "Patch Test" (swath system calibration) before start of sampling @ 1900 hrs. Sea conditions remain calm.

Saturday, 26-01-02 After completion of 3 stations including one piston core, an incident occurred @ 0015hrs when the piston core appeared to slide down the wire mid-way through deployment and come to jolting stop. Inspection of the damaged piston-core, trigger-arm assembly indicated the clamp had failed, although suspected that the winch may have spontaneously paid out wire. Coring was therefore postponed until daylight.

Sunday, 27-01-02 Completed all cores and stations in Area "A" @ 0145 hrs. Transit to Area "B", arriving @ 0730 hrs. Delay to start of survey @ 1300 hrs caused by failure of air conditioning system and attendant shut-down of all computing systems.

Monday, 28-01-02 Continue surveying Area "B"

Tuesday, 29-01-02 Continue surveying Area "B"

Wednesday, 30-01-02 Complete survey of Area "B" @ 1900 hrs and commenced sampling. After one successful gravity core was collected, the winch again spontaneously paid out wire with the gravity corer hanging just outside of the deployment cradle at the third station @ 2345 hrs. Coring work postponed until the winch can be made safe.

Thursday, 31-01-02 CTD, camera and grab operations continued at the remaining stations. Ship's engineers and crew declared that the winch may be used again for gravity coring, but not piston

coring, operations began @1100 hrs. Sea conditions calm to moderate, with morning nor-westerly winds up to about 15 knots.

Friday, 1-02-02 Final gravity cores collected and station work in Area "B" completed @0430. Transit from Area "B" to Area "C" arriving @ 0900 and commenced swath survey.

Saturday, 2-02-02 Swath survey of Area "C"

Sunday, 3-02-02 Swath survey of Area "C" Strong to moderate nor westerly wind and moderate seas. Chirp tow fish hitting side of ship in larger waves caused the loss of seismic data on about 3 lines.

Monday, 4-02-02 Complete swath survey of Area "C" and commence station work. Sampling sites chosen on the basis of the swath data recorded.

Tuesday, 5-02-02 Station work completed @1900 hrs and swath surveys of selected targets commenced. A deeply scoured channel up to 220 m in depth has been discovered on the outer shelf, in an area marked as shoal on the AUS chart.

Wednesday, 6-02-02 Swath survey and final station work completed @ 1700 hrs and transit to Area "A". Final underwater video and CTD stations completed and current meter mooring BRUCE successfully recovered @2200 hrs. This marks the end of the scientific work for the cruise. Depart Torres Strait headed for Cairns.

Thursday, 7-02-02 Transit to Cairns. Scientific party packing up equipment, completing data entry work and down-loading of moored instrument (current meter) data.

Friday, 8-02-02 Transit to Cairns.

Saturday, 9-02-02 Divers inspect hull at Fitzroy Island, 0600 to 0800 hrs. Arrive Cairns @ 1100 hrs.

Appendix 2.

List of station locations and operations completed during cruise Fr 01/02. Operation codes are as follows: CM = current meter; CTD = conductivity, temperature depth profile; CAM = video camera pictures of seabed; GR = Smith Macintyre Grab Sample; PC = piston core; GC = gravity core. Station numbers in parentheses are repeat stations targeted at the same locations.

| StationNo | Latitude | Longitude | Water Depth | Operations |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| "Area A, Fly River Delta" | | | | |
| "1 (27, 77)" | -9°7.364 | 143°43.113 | 31.50 | 234/1CM1 |
| | -9°7.616 | 143°43.1 | 31.50 | 234/1CTD1 |
| | -9°7.4 | 143°43.2 | 31.50 | 234/1CAM1 |
| | -9°7.3 | 143°43.1 | 31.50 | 234/1GR1 |
| 2 | -9°7.584 | 143°40.086 | 30.50 | 234/2CAM2 |
| | -9°7.586 | 143°40.161 | 30.00 | 234/2CTD2 |
| | -9°7.58 | 143°40.085 | 30.00 | 234/2GR2 |
| 3 | -9°8 | 143°40.518 | 29.00 | 234/3CTD3 |
| | -9°8.048 | 143°40.559 | 29.00 | 234/3PC1 |
| | -9°8.048 | 143°40.559 | 29.00 | 234/3GR3 |
| 4 | -9°8.037 | 143°40.584 | 29.50 | 234/3CAM3 |
| | -9°6.564 | 143°42.054 | 23.00 | 234/4CTD4 |
| | -9°6.576 | 143°42.038 | 24.50 | 234/4GR4 |
| 5 (22) | -9°6.575 | 143°42.042 | 24.00 | 234/4CAM4 |
| | -9°7.929 | 143°40.787 | 33.00 | 234/5CTD5 |
| | -9°7.928 | 143°40.767 | 34.00 | 234/5CAM5 |
| 6 | -9°7.964 | 143°40.779 | 33.50 | 234/5GR5 |
| | -9°7.691 | 143°41.769 | 28.00 | 234/6CAM6 |
| | -9°7.025 | 143°41.745 | 25.50 | 234/6CTD6 |
| 7 (23) | -9°7.69 | 143°41.754 | 28.50 | 234/6GR6 |
| | -9°9.129 | 143°41.353 | 32.00 | 234/7CTD7 |
| | -9°9.122 | 143°41.342 | 32.50 | 234/7GR7 |
| 8 | -9°9.135 | 143°41.334 | 32.50 | 234/7CAM7 |
| | -9°10.291 | 143°41.677 | 31.50 | 234/8GR8 |
| | -9°10.271 | 143°41.684 | 31.50 | 234/8CTD8 |
| 9 (24) | -9°10.255 | 143°41.713 | 31.50 | 234/8CAM8 |
| | -9°9.11 | 143°42.88 | 31.50 | 234/9CAM9 |
| | -9°9.002 | 143°42.891 | 31.50 | 234/9CTD9 |
| 10 | -9°9.11 | 143°42.871 | 32.00 | 234/9GR9 |
| | -9°9.087 | 143°42.158 | 32.50 | 234/10CTD10 |
| | -9°9.114 | 143°42.153 | 33.00 | 234/10GR10 |
| 11 (25) | -9°9.107 | 143°42.131 | 33.00 | 234/10CAM10 |
| | -9°8.08 | 143°43.874 | 33.50 | 234/11CAM11 |
| | -9°8.111 | 143°43.90 | 33.50 | 234/11CTD11 |
| 12 | -9°8.074 | 143°43.872 | 34.00 | 234/11GR11 |
| | -9°9.01 | 143°43.817 | 35.00 | 234/12CAM12 |
| | -9°8.98 | 143°43.829 | 34.50 | 234/12GR12 |
| 13 (26) | -9°9.016 | 143°43.827 | 35.00 | 234/12CTD12 |
| | -9°7.527 | 143°45.209 | 33.50 | 234/13GR13 |
| | -9°7.537 | 143°45.194 | 33.50 | 234/13CTD13 |
| 14 (76) | -9°7.511 | 143°45.215 | 33.50 | 234/13CAM13 |
| | -9°7.08 | 143°44.787 | 33.00 | 234/14GR14 |
| | -9°7.08 | 143°44.796 | 32.50 | 234/14CTD14 |
| 15 | -9°7.552 | 143°42.917 | 32.50 | 234/15GR15 |
| | -9°7.527 | 143°42.943 | 32.50 | 234/15PC2 |
| | -9°7.554 | 143°42.918 | 33.00 | 234/15CAM15 |
| 16 | -9°7.526 | 143°42.902 | 32.50 | 234/15CTD15 |
| | -9°7.022 | 143°42.561 | 30.00 | 234/16GR16 |
| | -9°7.064 | 143°42.552 | 31.00 | 234/16CTD16 |
| | -9°6.98 | 143°42.541 | 29.50 | 234/16CAM17 |
| | -9°7.057 | 143°42.549 | 30.50 | 234/16CAM16 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|
| 17 | -9°6.222 | 143°43.513 | 30.00 | 234/17CTD17 |
| | -9°6.287 | 143°43.469 | 30.00 | 234/17CAM18 |
| | -9°6.178 | 143°43.495 | 30.50 | 234/17GR17 |
| | -9°6.065 | 143°43.546 | 29.50 | 234/17PC3 |
| 18 | -9°6.135 | 143°44.082 | 29.00 | 234/18CAM19 |
| | -9°6.15 | 143°44.081 | 29.50 | 234/18CTD18 |
| | -9°6.131 | 143°44.082 | 29.00 | 234/18GR18 |
| 19 | -9°5.216 | 143°43.883 | 29.50 | 234/19CAM20 |
| | -9°5.217 | 143°43.879 | 29.50 | 234/19CTD19 |
| | -9°5.187 | 143°43.883 | 29.50 | 234/19PC4 |
| | -9°5.206 | 143°43.876 | 29.00 | 234/19GR19 |
| 20 | -9°5.726 | 143°42.672 | 29.00 | 234/20CAM21 |
| | -9°5.706 | 143°42.68 | 28.50 | 234/20CTD20 |
| | -9°5.713 | 143°42.675 | 29.00 | 234/20GR20 |
| 21 | -9°7.019 | 143°40.816 | 29.50 | 234/21GR21 |
| | -9°7.013 | 143°40.816 | 30.00 | 234/21PC5 |
| | -9°7.014 | 143°40.814 | 29.50 | 234/21CAM22 |
| | -9°7.014 | 143°40.817 | 29.50 | 234/21CTD21 |
| 22 (5) | -9°7.924 | 143°40.738 | 34.50 | 234/22PC6 |
| 23 (7) | -9°9.132 | 143°41.358 | 34.00 | 234/23PC7 |
| 24 (9) | -9°9.093 | 143°42.88 | 32.50 | 234/24PC8 |
| 25 (11) | -9°8.109 | 143°43.886 | 33.00 | 234/25PC9 |
| 26 (13) | -9°7.49 | 143°45.224 | 31.00 | 234/26PC10 |
| "27 (1, 77)" | -9°7.537 | 143°42.927 | 30.50 | 234/27CTD22 |
| 76 (14) | -9°7.086 | 143°44.781 | 31.00 | 234/76CAM66 |
| 77 (1) | -9°7.359 | 143°43.234 | 31.00 | 234/77CTD65 |
| "Area B, Torres Strait" | | | | |
| 28 | -9°29.196 | 143°56.749 | 56.00 | 234/28CAM23 |
| | -9°29.13 | 143°56.704 | 51.50 | 234/28CTD23 |
| | -9°29.176 | 145°56.733 | 55.00 | 234/28GR22 |
| 29 | -9°28.098 | 143°58.586 | 46.00 | 234/29CTD24 |
| | -9°28.096 | 143°58.587 | 46.00 | 234/29GR23 |
| | -9°28.104 | 143°58.587 | 47.40 | 234/29CAM24 |
| 30 | -9°29.551 | 144°0.264 | 54.00 | 234/30CTD25 |
| | -9°29.586 | 144°0.258 | 54.00 | 234/30GR24 |
| | -9°29.81 | 144°0.26 | 54.00 | 234/30CAM25 |
| 31 | -9°28.506 | 144°1.04 | 51.50 | 234/31CTD26 |
| | -9°28.465 | 144°1.004 | 52.00 | 234/31GR25 |
| | -9°28.483 | 144°1.017 | 52.00 | 234/31CAM26 |
| 32 (53) | -9°27.565 | 143°59.729 | 131.50 | 234/32GR26 |
| | -9°27.566 | 143°59.73 | 132.30 | 234/32CTD27 |
| | -9°27.558 | 143°59.728 | 132.00 | 234/32CAM27 |
| 33 | -9°27.844 | 143°57.818 | 50.50 | 234/33CTD28 |
| | -9°27.835 | 143°57.823 | 50.50 | 234/33CAM28 |
| | -9°27.826 | 143°57.816 | 50.50 | 234/33GR27 |
| 34 (52) | -9°27.431 | 143°57.134 | 90.00 | 234/34GR28 |
| | -9°27.429 | 143°57.119 | 86.00 | 234/34CTD29 |
| | -9°27.446 | 143°57.119 | 86.00 | 234/34CAM29 |
| 35 (51) | -9°26.083 | 143°57.365 | 103.00 | 234/35GR29 |
| | -9°26.081 | 143°57.361 | 103.00 | 234/35CAM30 |
| | -9°26.071 | 143°57.369 | 103.00 | 234/35CTD30 |
| 36 (50) | -9°26.776 | 143°59.182 | 84.00 | 234/36CAM31 |
| | -9°26.748 | 143°59.153 | 85.50 | 234/36GR30 |
| | -9°26.771 | 143°59.171 | 84.00 | 234/36CTD31 |
| 37 | -9°26.865 | 144°1.292 | 51.50 | 234/37CTD32 |
| | -9°26.899 | 144°1.291 | 49.00 | 234/37CAM32 |
| | -9°26.882 | 144°1.301 | 50.00 | 234/37GR31 |
| 38 | -9°25.68 | 144°0.731 | 55.50 | 234/38GR32 |
| | -9°25.651 | 144°0.736 | 56.50 | 234/38CTD33 |
| | -9°25.658 | 144°0.725 | 56.50 | 234/38CAM33 |

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|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|
| 39 (49) | -9°23.823 | 144°0.655 | 59.50 | 234/39CTD34 |
| | -9°23.87 | 144°0.661 | 60.00 | 234/39CAM34 |
| | -9°23.867 | 144°0.646 | 60.00 | 234/39GR33 |
| 40 | -9°24.049 | 144°2.021 | 57.50 | 234/40GR34 |
| | -9°24.032 | 144°2.017 | 58.50 | 234/40CAM35 |
| | -9°24.017 | 144°2.046 | 54.00 | 234/40CTD35 |
| 41 | -9°24.66 | 144°0.689 | 58.50 | 234/41CTD36 |
| | -9°24.705 | 144°0.695 | 58.00 | 234/41CAM36 |
| | -9°24.65 | 144°0.668 | 59.50 | 234/41GR35 |
| | -9°24.653 | 144°0.71 | 59.00 | 234/41GC2 |
| 42 | -9°24.456 | 143°58.807 | 80.50 | 234/42GR36 |
| | -9°24.551 | 143°58.774 | 77.00 | 234/42GC3 |
| | -9°24.524 | 143°58.736 | 80.50 | 234/42CTD37 |
| | -9°24.522 | 143°58.752 | 78.50 | 234/42CAM37 |
| 43 | -9°23.043 | 143°58.768 | 80.00 | 234/43GR37 |
| | -9°23.032 | 143°58.778 | 81.00 | 234/43GC4 |
| | -9°23.052 | 143°58.767 | 80.00 | 234/43CAM38 |
| | -9°23.054 | 143°58.768 | 80.00 | 234/43CTD38 |
| 44 | -9°22.546 | 144°1.073 | 90.00 | 234/44CAM39 |
| | -9°22.557 | 144°1.078 | 85.00 | 234/44GC5 |
| | -9°22.548 | 144°1.073 | 88.50 | 234/44CTD39 |
| | -9°22.552 | 144°1.077 | 87.00 | 234/44GR38 |
| 45 | -9°22.367 | 144°2.162 | 91.50 | 234/45CTD40 |
| | -9°22.356 | 144°2.161 | 91.50 | 234/45GR39 |
| | -9°22.357 | 144°2.16 | 91.50 | 234/45GC6 |
| 46 | -9°22.958 | 144°2.165 | 91.50 | 234/45CAM40 |
| | -9°21.029 | 144°2.137 | 62.00 | 234/46CTD41 |
| | -9°21.036 | 144°2.138 | 63.00 | 234/46CAM41 |
| | -9°21.038 | 144°2.139 | 63.50 | 234/46GR40 |
| 47 | -9°21.039 | 144°2.144 | 63.00 | 234/46GC7 |
| | -9°19.911 | 144°0.913 | 57.50 | 234/47GR41 |
| | -9°19.909 | 144°0.912 | 57.50 | 234/47CTD42 |
| | -9°19.91 | 144°0.114 | 57.50 | 234/47CAM42 |
| 48 | -9°19.908 | 144°0.908 | 57.50 | 234/47GC8 |
| | -9°20.655 | 143°58.77 | 57.00 | 234/48GC9 |
| | -9°20.66 | 143°58.763 | 57.00 | 234/48GR42 |
| | -9°20.654 | 143°58.768 | 57.00 | 234/48CAM43 |
| 49 (39) | -9°20.649 | 143°58.76 | 57.00 | 234/48CTD43 |
| | -9°23.849 | 144°0.687 | 57.00 | 234/49GC10 |
| | -9°26.754 | 143°59.151 | 79.80 | 234/50GC11 |
| 50 (36) | -9°26.056 | 143°57.351 | 104.00 | 234/51GC12 |
| 51 (35) | -9°27.433 | 143°57.124 | 86.50 | 234/52GC13 |
| 52 (34) | -9°27.561 | 143°59.726 | 131.50 | 234/53GC14 |
| "Area C, Gulf of Papua" | | | | |
| 54 | -9°22.765 | 144°16.838 | 113.50 | 234/54GC15 |
| | -9°22.865 | 144°16.72 | 114.50 | 234/54CAM44 |
| | -9°22.816 | 144°16.718 | 119.00 | 234/54GR43 |
| | -9°22.812 | 144°16.752 | 121.00 | 234/54CTD44 |
| 55 | -9°24.591 | 144°16.578 | 66.00 | 234/55CTD45 |
| | -9°24.589 | 144°16.582 | 65.50 | 234/55CAM45 |
| | -9°24.581 | 144°16.57 | 64.50 | 234/55GR44 |
| 56 | -9°24.562 | 144°16.564 | 63.50 | 234/55GC16 |
| | -9°25.278 | 144°17.058 | 26.00 | 234/56CTD46 |
| 57 | -9°25.283 | 144°17.055 | 29.50 | 234/56CAM46 |
| | -9°25.029 | 144°18.503 | 49.50 | 234/57CTD47 |
| | -9°25.041 | 144°18.508 | 50.00 | 234/57GR45 |
| | -9°25.034 | 144°18.506 | 49.50 | 234/57CAM47 |
| 58 | -9°24.481 | 144°19.325 | 103.50 | 234/58CAM48 |
| | -9°24.48 | 144°19.334 | 104.50 | 234/58GR46 |
| | -9°24.478 | 144°19.33 | 103.50 | 234/58GR47 |

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| | -9°24.491 | 144°19.342 | 103.00 | 234/58CTD48 |
| 59 | -9°23.376 | 144°21.946 | 75.00 | 234/59CTD49 |
| | -9°23.421 | 144°21.977 | 76.00 | 234/59GR48 |
| | -9°23.464 | 144°21.975 | 78.50 | 234/59GC17 |
| | -9°23.476 | 144°22.154 | 80.00 | 234/59CAM49 |
| 60 | -9°25.348 | 144°21.127 | 95.50 | 234/60CTD50 |
| | -9°25.335 | 144°21.124 | 96.00 | 234/60GR49 |
| | -9°25.336 | 144°21.121 | 96.00 | 234/60CAM50 |
| 61 | -9°26.671 | 144°21.444 | 90.00 | 234/61CAM51 |
| | -9°26.683 | 144°21.445 | 92.00 | 234/61GC18 |
| | -9°26.685 | 144°21.447 | 92.00 | 234/61GR50 |
| | -9°26.664 | 144°21.439 | 89.00 | 234/61CTD51 |
| 62 | -9°27.821 | 144°21.445 | 104.00 | 234/62GC19 |
| | -9°27.818 | 144°21.445 | 103.50 | 234/62GR51 |
| | -9°27.825 | 144°21.447 | 104.00 | 234/62CTD52 |
| | -9°27.805 | 144°21.446 | 103.50 | 234/62CAM52 |
| 63 | -9°30.542 | 144°21.57 | 91.00 | 234/63GC20 |
| | -9°30.555 | 144°21.578 | 90.50 | 234/63GR52 |
| | -9°30.534 | 144°21.582 | 90.00 | 234/63CAM53 |
| | -9°30.526 | 144°21.58 | 90.00 | 234/63CTD53 |
| 64 | -9°31.278 | 144°20.417 | 117.00 | 234/64GR53 |
| | -9°31.255 | 144°20.42 | 119.00 | 234/64GC21 |
| | -9°31.26 | 144°20.398 | 112.50 | 234/64CAM54 |
| | -9°31.258 | 144°20.389 | 113.00 | 234/64CTD54 |
| 65 | -9°30.584 | 144°19.08 | 52.50 | 234/65GR54 |
| | -9°30.591 | 144°19.123 | 43.00 | 234/65CAM55 |
| | -9°30.585 | 144°12.12 | 41.50 | 234/65CTD55 |
| 66 | -9°28.433 | 144°18.971 | 82.50 | 234/66GR55 |
| | -9°28.418 | 144°18.974 | 83.00 | 234/66GC22 |
| | -9°28.388 | 144°18.97 | 82.50 | 234/66CAM56 |
| | -9°28.395 | 144°18.974 | 82.50 | 234/66CTD56 |
| 67 | -9°27.267 | 144°19.813 | 79.50 | 234/67CAM57 |
| | -9°27.253 | 144°19.808 | 80.00 | 234/67CTD57 |
| | -9°27.277 | 144°19.805 | 79.00 | 234/67GR56 |
| 68 | -9°26.277 | 144°17.859 | 88.50 | 234/68CTD58 |
| | -9°26.267 | 144°17.355 | 89.00 | 234/68GR57 |
| | -9°26.319 | 144°17.855 | 88.50 | 234/68CAM58 |
| 69 | -9°29.331 | 144°18.15 | 109.00 | 234/69GR58 |
| | -9°29.335 | 144°18.15 | 109.50 | 234/69CAM59 |
| 70 (71) | -9°31.94 | 144°16.533 | 50.50 | 234/70GR59 |
| | -9°32.045 | 144°16.526 | 48.50 | 234/70CTD60 |
| | -9°31.988 | 144°16.541 | 50.00 | 234/70CAM60 |
| 71 (70) | -9°32.033 | 144°16.488 | 48.50 | 234/71CAM61 |
| 72 | -9°30.144 | 144°16.031 | 171.50 | 234/72GR60 |
| | -9°30.146 | 144°16.034 | 172.00 | 234/72CAM62 |
| | -9°30.143 | 144°16.041 | 173.00 | 234/72CTD61 |
| 73 | -9°26.682 | 144°16.673 | 117.00 | 234/73GC23 |
| | -9°29.677 | 144°16.665 | 116.00 | 234/73GR61 |
| | -9°29.659 | 144°16.677 | 117.00 | 234/73CAM63 |
| | -9°29.66 | 144°16.667 | 116.50 | 234/73CTD62 |
| 74 | -9°28.83 | 144°17.194 | 90.00 | 234/74GR62 |
| | -9°28.828 | 144°17.196 | 90.00 | 234/74GC24 |
| | -9°28.827 | 144°17.196 | 90.00 | 234/74CAM64 |
| | -9°28.834 | 144°17.197 | 90.00 | 234/74CTD63 |
| 75 | -9°33.59 | 144°20.018 | 219.50 | 234/75GR63 |
| | -9°33.055 | 144°20.014 | 220.00 | 234/75GR64 |
| | -9°33.058 | 144°20.006 | 220.50 | 234/75CTD64 |
| | -9°33.058 | 144°20.016 | 221.00 | 234/75CAM65 |