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FINAL REPORT OF BEARING STAKE TESTS JANUARY THRU MARCH 1977

VOLUME 1A OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE RESULTS WITH TEST RESULTS SUMMARY

JANUARY 1.979

Prepared For NAVAL AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER WARMINSTER, PENNSYLVANIA

> UNDER CONTRACTS N62269-77-C-0139 AND N62269-78-M-6834 by

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Predictions based on measured data indicate detection ranges in excess of 100 NM for the deeper Indian Ocean sites (less than 1200 meter depth deficiency) against the postulated thirdgeneration Soviet threat. Array performance falls between the extreme conditions experienced in the MINYAKA tests.



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VOLUME IA - SUMMARY - TEST RESULTS

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1.0 (S) OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE RESULTS (U)

(C) The presently described BEARING STAKE tests are the result of the ADAS/SPRAY follow-on program to the successful MINYAKA sea tests (Reference 1) conducted off Eleuthra and Charleston, South Carolina in 1975. As with MINYAKA, the BEARING STAKE tests were performed under the sponsorship of the Naval Air Systems Command, Code AIR-370, with the technical direction of the Naval Air Development Center. This document is Volume I of a four volume final report under contract N62269-77-M-6884.

(S) The objective of the ADAS/SPRAY Sea Test Trials was to demonstrate the feasibility of developing the lowest-cost class of sonobuoy sensor to (a) detect the postulated thirdgeneration Soviet nuclear threat when the sensor is deployed in "deep" (tending toward cylindrical spreading) water, and (b) operate at ranges in excess of 100 nautical miles. This objective has been met not only in the "deep" MINYAKA test site, but also on the medium depth BEARING STAKE test site which is the subject of this report. For these areas such a sensor provides:

- Lowest cost per unit search area or per hydrophone channel relative to VLA's circular planar arrays or conventional buoys.
- Lowest number of processor channels per unit search area.

(U) Figure 1-1 shows an ADAS operational concept for an air-launched array system. Also shown is the sea test hardware used for MINYAKA and BEARING STAKE.

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FIGURE 1-1

V-78-0402-017





OVER-THE-SIDE DEPLOYMENT

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AUTO-DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM CONTAINING **UNDERWATER HARDWARE WITH** 63 ELEMENT 840 FT ARRAY

TEST BED HARDWARE

ARRAY STORAGE TUBES AND

DROGUE CHUTE

SUSPENSION SIGNAL CABLE **ARRAY STORAGE TUBES AND** CABLE **DROGUE CHUTE** SUSPENSION BUNGEE TUG 1000 FT. UP TO 1200 FT. ARRAY **48 ELEMENTS** "C" SIZE SONOBUOY 9 3/4" BY 60"L.

DROGUE CHUTE

2

AIR CEPLOYABLE HORIZONTAL LINE DRIFT ARRAY

FLOAT

ADAS DEPLOYMENT

ADAS CONCEPT AND SPRAY TEST BED HARDWARE (U)

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- EXTENDED TIME ON STATION (8 TO 72 HOURS)
- COMPRESSED TIME DATA STORAGE/RELAY (B:1' (OPTION)
- REAL TIME AIRCRAFT READOUT
- ABILITY TO RESOLVE BEARING AMBIGUITY

ADAS CONCEPT

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(C) ADAS is a remotely-deployed self-tensioning, horizontal-line acoustic array sonobuoy. The SPRAY hardware¹ used to evaluate the operation of such a concept was fabricated by Sanders Associates, Inc. and is designed for over-the-side automatic deployment with VHF relay of the multiplexed array data. This design has been tested for apertures up to 2500 feet with design growth of up to 10,000 feet. Current multiplexing capability comprises 106 acoustic channels with a bandwidth of 10 to 300 Hz. For these tests, 53 elements were deployed. This exceeds the number of active elements (approximately 24 to 32) currently planned for the ADAS buoy. Thus, the tests were designed to (a) show that the ADAS design is adequate, and (b) obtain some indication of how much gain could be achieved.

(C) The ADAS program designed a series of tests in which data has been collected at the sites and conditions listed in Table 1-1. This report covers the BEARING STAKE results. Volume la does include MINYAKA results to allow comparison to BEARING STAKE measurements.

(C) For BEARING STAKE, six launches were attempted; five successful, one aborted due to a seawater short in the system. One short array (433-foot active length with 53 elements spaced $\lambda/2$ at 300 Hz) with one long array (2500-foot active length with 53 elements spaced slightly less than $\lambda/2$ at 50 Hz), were successfully launched in each site. In both sites, most of the recorded data for the long array deployment were contaminated with high level nonacoustic noise resulting, we believe, from seawater leakage through pinholes in the array cable. Thus, the BEARING STAKE data reported herein are for the short array only. Figure 1-2 shows typical sound velocity profiles for the three BEARING STAKE sites.

Sanders has received two patents for the Self-Tensioning Array Concept: March 26, 1974 and January 18, 1977, Nos. 3,800,271 and 4,004,265, respectively.

ITE WATE	INYAKA Deep	EARING STAKL	EARING STAKE Medi	JEARING STAKF	IINYAKA Verj Shal
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CONDITIONS	4,740 meters; 740-meter depth excess	5,107 meters; zero depth excess	3,460 meters; 1,200-meter depth deficiency	3,040 meters; 1,860-meter depth deficiency	180 meters

TABLF 1-1 (U)

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ADAS SEA TEST SITES AND CONDITIONS (U)



(S) Mid-water ADAS tests were performed as a part of the BEARING STAKE test program. The overall results of this test series are quite positive, adding significantly to the MINYAKA data base and further verifying system performance goals. Tests were performed in mid-to-deep water, spanning velocity profiles with zero to rather large depth deficiencies. This filled the gap between the MINYAKA acoustic environmental envelopes of very shallow water with large depth deficiency, and very deep water with large depth excess. As might be expected, the BEARING STAKE results lie approximately between the MINYAKA extremes.

• <u>Array Gain</u>

Typical measured values are within about 3 dB of theoretical for the full aperture array at 290 Hz $(-\lambda/2 \text{ spacing})$ in the deep Site 4 (Somali Abyssal Plain which has a fully developed sound channel), and closer for reduced aperture (16, 32 elements) or lower frequency (140 Hz). In Site 3 (Arabian Basin, 1200-meter depth deficiency), and Site 1A (Gulf of Oman, 1860-meter depth deficiency), array gains are progressively smaller, typically within about 5 dB of theoretical for Site 1A. At 140 Hz $(-\lambda/4 \text{ spacing})$, measured gains are closer to theoretical. There appears to be a graceful degradation in array performance with increasing depth deficiency for these results.

• FOM and Range Predictions

System FOM based on the 12 measured data points in the three sites averaged 89.8 dB. The maximum value of 92.8 dB in Site 4 corresponds to a mean third generation detection range of over 200 nmi. Typical ranges averaged from 98 nmi in Site 1A to 150 nmi in Site 4. Figure 1-3 shows approximate 50% P_D range circles for the third generation threat 290 Hz line, as well as maximum ranges computed at 135 dB/LPa.

б



(S)

Beamwidth

Full aperture measured beamwidth is within 2.1° rms of theoretical. It appears to have no particular correlation to water depth (SVP character) but is heavily influenced by interfering sources. It is most affected in Site 3 where many (six vessels within 10 nmi) interferers are present. Beamwidth is consistently closer to theoretical than either signal gain or array gain (see Figure 1-4).

• <u>Signal Gain</u>

This appears to correlate well with beamwidth, and also with array gain, except in Site 1A. Here the signal gain inexplicably averages about 7.4 dB below theoretical compared with beamwidth equivalent performance which is within 0.5 dB of theoretical, and array gain 2.5 dB below theoretical. Graphical comparisons are shown in Figure 1-4 between beamwidth, signal gain and array gain.

(C) As noted on the figure, the range of elements expected for ADAS use is between 24 and 32. In this range, the maximum gain loss is 2.5 dB.

(C) It is quite plausible that this loss is attributable to under-sampling in the beamformer which samples at 1200 Hz. At 300 Hz, this would give rise to quite high phase grating lobes, whereas at 140 Hz, this effect would be negligible. (The 140 Hz data is shown in Figure 1-6.) It will be noted that the 140 Hz data is consistently better than the 290 Hz data. From this, we infer that the losses seen will tend to be eliminated through higher data sampling in the beamforming design.

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(S) Target of Opportunity (U)

Figure 1-5 is a LOFAR gram showing a partial signature of a Type II, Victor class Soviet nuclear submarine detected on a single element in the short array. This contact was made at 1107Z on 19 January 1977 in Site 1A. The familiar 300 Hz cluster is evident in the right 1/3 of Figure 1.5. Duration of detection was 14 minutes, from 1107Z to 1121Z. The Tactical Support Center (TSC) at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Brunswick, Maine verified the above identification as to type and class of contact based on examination of this gram in June, 1977.

(S) Summary (U)

Figure 1-6 is a plot of all ADAS results to date for signal gain and array gain as a function of depth deficiency and excess, comering both MINYAKA and BEARING STAKE. Only for very shallow water, were the losses substantial (4 to 5 dB). For depth deficiencies of 2000 meters or less, array gain for 32 elements (16 λ) was down at most 2.5 dB from theoretical (290 Hz).

(C) As already noted, it is believed that this loss is due to limitations in the beamformer used for the data reduction, and did not arise from limitations in the array performance.

(C) In terms of array erformance, the goals of the ADAS/ SPRAY sea test program have been achieved; that is, to show that utilizing realistic specifications, low-cost expendable drift arrays that can be deployed from sonobuoys can detect a third generation equivalent target at 100 miles or greater in broad classes of ocean conditions.





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1.1(S) TEST RESULTS SUMMARY (U)

(C) The purpose of the current test series was to add to the MINYAKA data base and determine system performance against tonals that are representative of both second and third generation targets in the 140 to 300 Hz band. Tests were run in moderate (9900 ft.) to deep (16,800 ft.) water using a 433 foot linear array of 53 elements with uniform $\lambda/2$ spacings (8.33 ft.) at 300 Hz. Such an array has a nominal gain of 17.2 dB (10 log 53) at 300 Hz and the gain has a 3 dB/octave slope about 300 Hz. Nominal beamwidth is 1.95° at 300 Hz for the full aperture. Array gain is diminished at approximately 3 dB per halving of aperture (by processing fewer elements, for example) but beamwidth is broadened.

(C) The types of measurements planned and executed are as follows:

- Signal, noise, and signal-to-noise ratio on individual omni hydrophones, and the mean values over a representative set of omnis.
- Measurement on and about the main response axis to determine direction to target, signal level and main lobe beam pattern response.
- Signal-to-noise gain versus number of elements.
- Measured beamwidths for quarter, half and full aperture and comparison to theoretical.
- Variation in range 22 to 175 NM
- Variation in beamwidth (due to 2.7° to 30.8° variation steering angle and aperture size)
- Variation in steering angle
 12⁰ to 64⁰
 (relative to broadwide)

(C) The extremes in measured array (signal-to-noise) gain of the full aperture (51 elements nominal) relative to the average omni in the array are as follows:

(S) Maximum/Minimum Measured Array Gains (Relative to Average Omni) (U)

SNR Gain Versus Omni (dB)	Freg (Hz) 140	Freq (Hz) 290	Freq (Hz) 295
Maximum	15.5	16.8	4.5
Minimum	6.8	7.1	3.9

The theoretical SNR gain at 140 Hz is reduced approximately 3.3 dB relative to the 300 Hz array design frequency.

(S) The tonals of most interest were 140 Hz and 290 Hz. Relatively high source levels were utilized for these tonals as shown in Table 1-2, the 295 Hz tonal more nearly approaches the third generation 290-300 Hz line level of 135 dBµPA. It is noted that in Site 1A, the low level 295 Hz line was detected at 91 NM and in Site 4, data point (DP) 9, at 72 NM. These are within the region of expected 50% P_D detection based on the computed FOM's of 93 dB and 97.1 dB* from which ranges of 127 and at least 240 NM respectively are predicted.

(C) The stronger-signal-levels provide less uncertainty in signal measurements and data reduction due to greater noise immunity and a more-nearly-linear processing correction (for the envelope detection performed in the MCPS-32 Analyzer, see Volume II, Section 2). Thus, greater data reliability is provided by the stronger signal-level data.

^{*} Used conservative array gain of 11.7 dB for DP 9 where omni data was not available to compute array gain.

Not Detected Detected-Not enough points for 3 dB point beamwidth measurement

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	VIDTH 295 Hz	4.10	* * *	*	4		 4 	8.6 ⁰	5.20	3.0 ⁰	*=	**	* * *
	RED BEAM 1 290 Hz	4.1 ⁰	4.70	2.7 ⁰	11.0 ⁰	5.9 ⁰	7.8 ⁰	6.1 ⁰	4.20	3.0 ⁰	4.70	4.0 ⁰	4.20
	MEASUF 140 Hz	-#	* * }	4.20	6°6,9	7.9 ⁰	7.5 ⁰	7.4 ⁰	8.1 ⁰	6.4 ⁰	8.7 ⁰	15.2 ⁰	9°9
	STEERING ANGLE	-59.0 ⁰	-58.5 ⁰	+27.0 ⁰	+32.0 ⁰	+40.0 ⁰	+15.0 ⁰	-21,5 ⁰	+20.0 ⁰	+51.5 ⁰	+62.0 ⁰	+64 . 0 ⁰	+62.0 ⁰
	RANGE (NM)	91	16	175	159	011	70	28	22	72	128	122	122
	(SMA)	1650	1650	1900	1900	1900	1900	1900	2800	2800	2800	2800	2800
	295 Hz	145	140	1	4 4 1	# 1 # 1	 ★ t 	143	143	143	143	143	143
lBreµPa)	290 Hz	155	155	180	180	160	180	180	182	182	182	182	182
2)	140 Hz	1 1 1	1 1 1	182	182	182	182	182	186	186	186	186	186
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(S) TABLE 1-2 BRIEF SUMMARY OF DATA

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(C) Array Performance at 295 Hz - Only a limited and somewhat dubious data base (2 data points) for array gain is reported for the 295 Hz line. Because the low 295 Hz signal levels radiated were detected on omni channels only in Site IA (DP 1 and 2), array gain is reported only for these data points. The beamformed array output, however, indicated detections of the 295 Hz line in all three sites. See Section 2.6, Volume IB.

(C) For the 295 Hz data, the conclusion drawn is that measured omni signal levels are suspect and the resulting SNR and AG values, including other data presented is questionable. It is noted that the AG for data points 8 and 9 must exceed 9.7 and 11.7 dB respectively, since presumably the omni SNR for these points is zero dB or less.

(C) It will be noted throughout that the maximum nominal aperture comprises 51 elements, rather than the greatest possible value of 53 elements. This is because several of the elements during the various launches turned out to be excessively noisy (sufficient to product channel clipping in some instances). At various times, the following elements were eliminated:

Element Number	Problem	Data Points <u>Affected</u>
7	Clipping	2, 8, 10
8	Clipping	2, 8, 10
15	Clipping	1, 2, 8
28	Intermittent, from satisfactory to "large spikes"	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10
29	**	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10

(C) Such "holes" in the aperture were accounted for in the modeling performed to generate theoretical beam patterns and gain values throughout this report. Thus, when elements 7, 8, 15, 28, 29 are eliminated from Site 8 data, for example, the pattern presented in Figure 1-7 has accounted for these missing sensors, and the effect is apparent as higher-thannormal side lobes at the 0° and 180° scale azimuth values.* (The pattern spikes at 26° , 68° , 292° and 334° are due to sampling the data at a frequency below that required to eliminate sampling grating lobes.) The azimuth gain value 16.92 dB is based on the actual pattern displayed.

(S) A virtually complete summary of the data measured for the entire exercise appears in Table 1-3. This will be discussed in detail in the following sections, but a few overall observations can be made immediately. Measured array gains are somewhat below the values obtained in the deep water MINYAKA exercise, and data dispersion is more apparent. This is expected because of greater signal interaction with the surface and bottom boundaries for the present SVP's. Although all data was checked carefully, there is an apparent error in the measured gain for DP 5, at least for the 16-element aperture, where a value of 18 dB (double the computed value) is reported. The value of 16.4 dB for the 32 element aperture also appears optimistic.

(U) In data locations denoted (b), good array data is available. The reference omni data, however, had insufficient signal level to detect a tonal in the analysis bandwidth. For data denoted (a), there was either insufficient signal-tonoise or signal-to-interfering tonal to determine a meaningful pattern response. Both cases would improve with greater projected signal level.

^{*} For the azimuth scale shown in the beam pattern plots a 90[°] offset is included. Thus, 110[°] corresponds to 20[°] off broad-side.



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Site 4, Data Point 8 290 Hz, 48 elements. Predicted Pattern at Paamformer Output, Figure 1-7

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Elements 7, 8, 15, 27, 28 are deleted. (U)

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200.0 HZ. SAMPLING FREQUENCY DISTORTS PATTERN. 200.0 HZ., 48 ELEMENTS, -0.86 DB MAX., ACIS4343,SUIS4343,WT: 90.0 DEG. VERT. RESP., 110.0 DEG. HORIZ. STEER, 90.0 DEG. VERT STEER 2.09 DEC. 3 DB BEAM, 16.92 DB AZ. GAIN, MAX. AT 110.0 DEG. HORIZ.

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1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ACOUSTIC AND GEOGRAPHIC DATA (U)

(C) Tests were conducted at three Indian Ocean sites denoted by 0's on the relief map in Figure 1-8. Site numbers and locations are listed in Table 1-4 along with pertinent environmental acoustic data. Representative sound velocity profiles (SVP's) were picture in Figure 1-2 and show diminishing depth deficiency as depth increases from Site 1A to Site 4. These SVP's were input to the FACT model to generate the arrival angle and transmission loss curves plotted in Figures 1-9 through 1-17, which were used to estimate range in Section 2.1. The array was at a nominal 100 ft. depth and the projector at 60 ft. depth through at the exercises. Projector frequencies and levels are noted in Table 1-2.

(C) Arrival structure plots are typical of mid-depth to deep water with significant energy at high arrival angles in close (<20 NM), but with most of the signal contained within +10° (even less for Site 4) beyond about 50 NM. All six transmission loss plots exhibit very low loss, with slopes in the vicinity of 10 dB/decade (cylindrical spreading) out to 240 NM. One would, therefore, expect large detection ranges even for a modest horizontal array (assuming approximately coherent signal summation), and handsome rewards in added surveillance area covered with increased array aperture. The key, of course, is coherent signal summation, which we have observed, appears to become more difficult to obtain when the jump is made from approximately half aperture (32 elements) to full aperture at 300 Hz ($\sum \lambda/2$ spacing). See Figures 2-1 and 2-2. It is felt that the plane wave model used is inadequate for the amount of signal decorrelation experienced at the 25 λ aperture, at least for depth deficient conditions.

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(C) Ambient noise levels measured during the test series agree reasonably well (within 2 to 10 dB) with previously reported data. As shown in Figure 1-18, the omni noise levels are approximately -5 dB, +2 dB and -6 to -9 dB for Sites 1A, 3 and 4 respectively, relative to the Vidale data.* Mean noise levels for the three sites are plotted against the Trident noise curves for reference in Figure 1-19. The measured BEARING STAKE data falls between the E and F shipping levels and sea state 4. Although the reported level was sea state 1, the combined shipping and sea state components appear to be reasonable.

(U) Navigation plots for the data reported appear as Figures 1-20, 1-21, and 1-22 for the three sites. Data points are designated in circles along the projector ship (Kingsport) track. Array launch location is indicated by a triangle.

*Reference 2

REFERENCES

1. (U) Self-Tensioning Acoustical Horizontal Line Array (SPRAY) Data Analysis (*) Final Report of Deep and Shallow Minyaka Tests April and July 1975, 6 May 1977 Prepared for Naval Air Development Center Johnsville, Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974 by Sanders Associates, Inc.

 (U) Test Site Data for Third SPRAY Sea Test, Sanders Associates Internal Memorandum dated 11 October 1976 S. S. Ballard



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()	FNWC ⁽²⁾ BOTTOM <u>TYPE</u>	1	7	I
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NVIRONMENTAL	NOM Í NAI. DEPTII (FM)	1650 (3040M)	1900 (3460M)	2800 (5107M)
OCATIONS AND EN	DATES DATA COLLECTED	19 Jan. 177	7,8 Feb. '77	15,16 Mar. '77
TABLE 1-4 SITE I	ARRAY LOCATION	22 ⁰ 55'N 63 ⁰ 30'E Gulf of Oman	17 ⁰ 12'N 65 ⁰ 03'E Arabian Basin	05 ⁰ 05'N 53 ⁰ E Somali Abyɛsal Plain
	ASSOCIATED DATA POINTS	1, 2	3,4,5,6,7	8,9,10,11, 12
	SITE NO.	la	m	4

DD = Depth Deficient Sound Velocity Profile (2)

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Fleet Numerical Weather Central Value used for Transmission Loss Calculation using Fact Model

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Arrival Structure in Site 1A, The Gulf of Oman (α) Figure 1-9

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Figure 1-10 Transmission Loss in Site 1A, The Gulf of Oman, 140 Hz. (\varkappa)

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Figure 1-11 Transmission Loss in Site IA, The Gulf of Oman, 290 Hz (\varkappa)

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Figure 1-12 Arrival Structure in Site 3, The Arabian Basin (\varkappa)

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Figure 1-13 Transmission Loss in Site 3, The Arabian Basin, 140 Hz ($m{lpha}$)

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Figure 1-14 Transmission Loss in Site 3, The Arabian Basin, 290 Hz (lpha)

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The Somali Abyssal Flain (\varkappa) Figure 1-15 Arrival Structure in Sitc 4,

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Figure 1-16 Transmission Loss in Site 4, The Somali Abyssal Plain, 140 Hz (2)

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Figure 1-17 Transmission Loss in Site 4, The Somali Abyasal Plain, 290 Hz. $(m{lpha})$

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