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AN OCEANOGRAPHIC MONITORING SYSTEM FOR NARRAGANSETT BAY

> BY KURT W. HESS 5 MAY 1970



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MEMORANDUM NUMBER 3M

AN OCEANOGRAPHIC MONITORING SYSTEM FOR NARRAGANSETT BAY: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

by

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Prepared for

National Science Foundation

Under

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by

Department of Ocean Engineering

University of Rhode Island

5 May 1970

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APPENDIX

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INTRODUCTION

This study was undertaken to outline a procedure for designing a monitoring system for Narragansett Hay, in conjunction with the pay Watch program. The basic procedure closely follows that set forth by Mountain and Hill (1). However, certain aspects have been investigated in depth, while others have been covered only briefly, or omitted entirely.

wany of the decisions made in the course of design are based on a superficial review of the relevant factors, or with reference to areas of knowledge with which the author is not extensively familiar. This is, however, a preliminary investigation of the problem, and only the broad aspects of the design are meant to be covered. Individuals with specialized knowledge will be called upon in the future to apply their skills to specific problem, areas of the total system.

Several alternate approaches to the final design have been included, to maintain a certain flexibility in the discussion. It will be seen that accuracy and spacial sampling are the critical requirements placed upon the system. The effect of relaxation of these and other requirements is therefore explored to enhance the discussion.

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE MONITORING SYSTEM

1.1 SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

This study was undertaken as an aspect of the Bay Watch program at the University of Rhode Island. It is a preliminary report on the feasibility of an oceanographic monitoring system for Narraganeett Bay, with consideration of available manpower and the prospects of governmental funding.

Local needs and long-term priorities have focused the program upon a single aspect of the bay, pollution (see Fig. 1, page A-1). This investigation will proceed accordingly, although a certain flexibility will be maintained to facilitate applications to other aspects, such as fishery and sedimentation studies.

1.2 DATA USAGE

Information coming directly from such a monitoring system will probably have little immediate use for governmental agencies. However, an important beneficiary would be the concurrent mathematical model study. The data can provide valuble inputs and cross-checks for the model. The model, in turn, can be used to predict trends by varying its inputs; recommendations will probably be made from such predictive studies.

1.3 GOALS OF THE PROJECT

Specifically, then, the monitoring system will be designed to gather data for the mathematical model. The short-range goal of the model study is to predict tidal heights and velocities. The intermediate-range goal is to study pollution characteristics.

2.0 STATE OF THE ART

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Some knowledge of estuaries in general, and Narragensett Bay in particular, is imperative. Excellent compendiums on the subject of estuaries by Lauff (2) and Ippen (3) are available. A comprehensive survey of the bay was given by Hicks (4). The bay is basically a two-layer-system with some vertical mixings. The sea connects to the south, through three channels; "fresh" water enters through numerous rivers near the northern end, the two major ones being the Backstone/Sekonk River and the Faunton River. River flow is well-recorded by the Geological Survey (5), but tidal flow has scarcely been studied (4). General distributions of characteristics have been given: current data (Fig. 2, page A-2) by Haight (5), and temperature, salinity, and phosphate (Fig. 3 & 4, pages A-3 and A-4) by the famous Hurricane Barrier studies (7).

Pollution sciences are rather empirical at this time, but a large body of literature is available on the subject. Basically, most municipal and industrial pollutants enter the bay through rivers or directly at the coastline. Some of the biological effects of pollutants have been examined by Waite and Gregory (8). The spreading and related dynamics have been studied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (9) and by Le Gros, et. al. (10).

2.2 INSTRUMENTATION

The availability, reliability, and cost of specific monitoring system instruments will be paramount to the design. For example, temperature, pressure, and current magnitude and direction are relatively easy to measure electronically. Salinity and ion concentrations are somewhat more difficult, and will probably be critical parameters as far as continuous operation is concerned. Biological parameters, such as dissolved oxygen (D.0.) and E-coliform counts are very difficult or impossible to measure electronically in situ.

Typical problems encountered are basically marine fouling and corrosion. Transducer devices (temperature, pressure) may be subject to fouling ty surface slime deposits. Mechanical systems (current meters) will meet seaweed fouling. Electrode devices (salinity, pH) will be subject to corrosion.

A good treatment on parameters and their measurement is given by Le Gros, et.al. (10).

2.3 DATA PROCESSING

Recent advances in this field have contributed greatly to our capability to manipulate data and estimate its reliability. Sampling theory is also well advanced. An excellent reference is Blackmen and Tukey (11).

2.4 HISTORICAL DATA

Much information is available from several national and regional sources. Atmospheric data is available from E.S.S.A. and N.O.D.C. Other federal sources include the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Dept. of the Interior, the Corps of Engineers, and the Dept. of Public

Health. State agencies include the Water Resources Board and the Dept. of Public Health.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA

3.1 GEOPHYSICAL SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

A partial list of relevant parameters is given in Table 1 (page A-5), with their approximate ranges in the bay. In terms of the limitations of this project, only a few parameters can be monitored.

for the initial phases of the Bay Watch project, only a few parameters can be monitored.

For the initial phases of the Bay Watch project, the currents and tidal heights are of prime importance. For the pollution study, several of the bio-chemical parameters are useful. Direct indices of municipal pollution are E-coli counts, the oxygen-demand factors (chemical oxygen demand--C.O.D.; and biochemical oxygen demand--B.O.D.), and ammonia, phosphate, ritrate and nitrate concentrations. Certain metal ions, like copper, nickel, and iron, may be indicators of industrial sewage. Thermal pollution will rely upon temperature surveys.

The previous discussion hinted at the sensor limitations. Most of the direct pollution indicators are not directly measurable. The biological involve lab tests, and the ionic usually require delicate spectrographic or conductivity tests.

Hence, a minimum number of parameters will be selected, in view of the practical limitations mentioned. It is decided that no pollution index be electronically monitored. The difficulties are presently too great to allow an economical method. Instead, a different approach will be taken. Information on pollution will be obtained from the Rhode Island Uept. of Public Health, which routinely makes auch surveys. However, parameters relating to the dynamic of pollution transport will be monitored. In the Narragansett Bay, the important transport characteristic include tides, river run-off, wind stresses, density flows, diffusion and surface waves.

The temporal variations of river input (Fig. 5, page A=6) and surface currents (Fig 6, pg. A=7) lead to generalization of the frequency spectra (fig 7, page A=8). The temperature, salinity and current spectra have energy divided into two ranges. The lower end is termed the "nominal-anominal" zone, and the upper the "turbulent" zone. The spectrum for surface wave, however, shows that most of the energy is in the high-

frequency "turbulent" zone.

Thus the expected sampling interval would be an hour for nominalanominal range, and greater for the turbulent range.

Spacial gradients are given in Table 3 (page A-9). They will be instrumental in the determination of horizontal grid spacing.

3.2 PARAMETER RELATIONS

Not all of the previoualy-mentioned transport phenomena will be monitored directly. The river run-off and wind effects can be obtained from other sources. Density flows and diffusion can be determined indir-. ectly. The density can be calculated from the temperature and salinity. Diffusion coefficients can be estimated from current velocities and salinity gradients.

Thus the transport can be calculated from relatively few parameters: temperature, salinity, tidal height, current velocity, and surface wave heights. These particular parameters also provide a certain flexibility, since they are basic and are used to calculate many other properties.

4.0 SPECIFICATIONS FOR PARAMETER MEASUREMENT

4.1 APPLICATIONS OF THE DATA

The tidal dynamics provide the primary input for the short-range model study. Tidal amplitudes can be measured to about three inches with a pressure transducer. Current magnitudes to one-tenth knot will be considered sufficient.

Temperature and salinity are important from an oceanographic standpoint. Several other parameters, including density, can be calculated from them. Ideal accuracy would be to $0.1^{\circ C}$ and 0.01%. Instrument limitations force the adoption of tolerances of $0.5^{\circ C}$ and 0.5%. Model applications do not demand exact quantities, and even the diffusion calculations, which need the most pracise data, will be rather reliable. Fishery studies demand even less accurate information. Breeding and other life functions are carried out in waters with a temperature range of several degrees. A table with frequency ranges appears on page A-10.

4.2 PARAMETER PROCESS DESCRIPTION

Tidal cycles are will-known, and temperature, salihity, and currents will vary with them. The semidiurnal period has a mean of 12.42 hours for the bay (see Fig. 6, pg. A-7). Even shorter periods, of 6 and 4 hours are also apparent. The chosen sampling times must account for this

variation.

In addition, temperature and salinity show a strong annual cycle. Higher-frequency variations are also present. These are monthly and weekly changes due primarily to weather patterns.

The geophysical area as a whole can be divided into several types. of regions, depending on their importance in the system and their parameter gradients.

Certain areas are of greater interest simply because events relating to the goals of the monitoring system occur frequently there. These shall be termed "critical regions". In this study, the Providence River and the Mt. Hope Bay-Taunton River complex are such regions. Most of the pollution occurs there, andthey will be targets of major "clean-up" projects.

Other model applications may designate other critical regions. For example, fish and shell-fish studies may place great importance on the upper bay or the smaller inlets around the bay. Thermal pollution studies may center aroundthe West Passage.

Several areas are necessary for the model study, because they represent potential points of data input (boundary conditions), and are usually water-mase junctions. These will be called "interface regions", and include the lower East and West Passages, the entrance to Mt. Hope Hey at Bristol Neck, the Sakonnet River at Tiverton, and the Warwick Neck -Patience Island channel. A chart of both critical and interface regions appears on page A-11.

4.3 DATA DUTPUT

The sampling intervals are chosen to be consistent with the parameter variability. Temperature, salinity, and current velocity require one representative value per hour. This will be accomplished by discrete or continuous sampling around the hourly time. Hear and variance values will be computed.

Surface wave measurements necedditate a more sophisticated sampling procedure. The wave height frequence spectrum is of a turbulent nature, so a power spectral analysis is in order. Either continuous or discrete sampling over several minutes will be prescribed. Hepresentative values need be taker only a few times per day.

5.0 SAMPLING CRITERIA

The theory is adequately discussed in Blackman and Tukey (11), and will not be reproduced here. See Fig 9, pg.A-12 for nomenclature.

5.2 SAMPLING TIMES

To obtain a reliable high-frequency Fourier estimate, the highest frequency of the parameter variation must be reproduced. This means that the parameter must be sampled at twice the maximum frequency. Considering the surface wave spectrum, a sampling frequency of 2 Hz. (corresponding to a sampling interval, Ts, of 0.5 sec.) is chosen, which assures that all frequencies below 1 Hz. will be included.

Auto-correlation technique allows for certain lag time. Since the wave heights will be sampled for only a finite time, Tp, the lag time is therefore limited. Blackman and Tukey (11) present a theoretical relation between the sampling time, Tp, and the maximum lag time, Tm.

From statistical theory, the resolution of the power spectrum, or, equivalently, the minimum frequency for which a spectral estimate is obtained, is given by

 $f_{min.} = f_{resolution = 1/(2T_)}$

Thus Tm is chosen to be 50 sec. (corresponding to f min. = 10^{-2} Hz.) by inspection of the spectrum.

Following the development of **Bjæk**man & Tukey, the number of samples (degrees of freedom) determines the reliability for the chi-equared distribution. The choice of 50 samples ensures that the value χ^2_{50} (taken to be the ratio of the sample variance to the population variance, s^2/σ^2) will fall within 25% of unity 80% of the time a group of 50 samples is taken.

Also, it has been shown that

where k is the number of samples taken. Thus for k=50, the resultant Tp is 1250 sec, or 21 minutes. The wave heights may be sampled only a few times a day, compared to 24 for the other parameters.

The low-frequency parameters present another problem. A filter (electrical or mechanical) is required to reduce aliasing in the power spectrum, if it is computed. Suppose a filter with the function

$$H(f) = \left[\frac{\sin(T_{\rm p} \pi f)}{T_{\rm p} \pi f}\right]^2$$

is used. Then all frequencies higher than $f = \frac{1}{Tp}$ are eliminated. These characteristics prompt a choice of Tp = 100 sec. The accuracy can be computed from the central limit theorem. The results are shown in Table 4, pg. A-13.

5.3 SPACIAL SAMPLING

The theory for spacial sampling is less rigerous than for temporal sampling. The important factors to consider are gradient, requisite accuracy, and smoothness of variation. In general, the spacing will be equal to the accuracy divided by the gradient.

For example, in the Providence River, the maximum horizontal temperature gradient is (from Table 2) 1.25^{OC} / n.m. For an accuracy of 0.5^{OC} , therefore, the spacing must be 0.4 n.m., or approximately 14 in the river. Clearly, this is too many for the initial proposed. Some of the requirements must be relaxed to permit a feasible proposal.

The vertical spacing presents a similar problem. In the Providence River, the temperature variations would necessitate a sensor every foot in the top few feet.

The problem of spacial sampling, restricts the feasibility of the monitoring system at this time. Compensating factors or theoretical development must eventually prevail.

7.0DESCHIPTION OF A TYPICAL MONITORING SYSTEM

This is fairly standard information, and will not be covered in depth in this study. A typical system and monitoring station are shown in Fig 10 and 11, respectively.

8.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 OVERVIEW

The previous sections have presented a broad view of one approach to the problem of setting up a monitoring system for Narragansett Bay. Several requirements, including accuracy and spacial grid size have been found to be crucial to the system design. At this point, several elternative details will be considered, and their impact on the efficiency and cost of the total system examined. The alternatives are

- 1. Relaxation of the accuracy requirements
- 2. Reduction of number of monitored parameters
- 3. Limitations on the monitored areas
- 4. Use of land-based monitoring stations
- 5. Use of auxiliary techniques

8.2 ALTERNATIVES

8.2.1 Relaxation of Accuracy:

Some distinct possibilities exist here. It the accuracy in the

Providence River, for example, is reduced, a large reduction in total number of stations is achieved. In this particular area, temperature and salinity vary quite smoothly, so that fairly accurate data could probably be obtained with a larger spacing. Homever, such uniform gradients do notoccur in Mt. Hope Bay.

8.2.2. Reduction in Number of Monitored Parameters:

The parameters considered are very basic, except possibly surface spectrum, which has a relatively small influence on the transport phenomena. However, surface wave sampling has no net effect on the number of stations. 8.2.3 Limitations on Monitored Areas:

The short-range goal of the monitoring system is to provide tidal date for the mathematical model input. For this end, only three interface areas are important; they are:

- 1) Lower West Passage
- 2) Lower East Passage

3) Channel between Narragensett Hay proper and Mt. Hope Bay. Provision of tidal heights, currents, temperature, and sulinity in these areas gives tremendous information at low cost. The Mt. Hope Bay complex could be effectively eliminated in favor of a boundary condition, consistent with the modular approach. River inflow data is available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

The next most important area is the critical Providence River region. As mentioned before, station spacing may be stretched, owing to the rather uniform gradients. The area in the vicinity of the Conimicut light is a valuable interface area. Another location in the river would also be valuable; for example, a station near Fields Point.

Proceed in a similar manner for the other areas of the Bay. $\underline{0.2.4}$ Use of land-based Stations:

By this is meant the use of piers, bridge abutments and lighthouses for monitoring stations. The total number is again not effected, but the cost per station may decrease.

8.2.5 Use of Auxiliary Techniques:

In the open ocean, the periodic passage of storms and large eddies cause generally large changes in the current patterns, etc. However, in the Narragansett Bay, storms have a minimal effect, and variations due to large eddies are probably non-existent. The general pattern of circulation is fairly fixed. In this case, a single point can be used to infer the conditions in the immediate neighborhood.

As a practical application, an intensive survey of some area, perhaps

the interface area in the lower West Passage, would be conducted. Several ships would be used, and data would be gathered from many stations in the vicinity. This data would then be correlated to the variation of the parameter at some fixed point. Then continuous information from this point would infer the other properties for the entire region.

This approach is aspecially affective in nerrow channels. which are numerous in the bay.

8.3 ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS

Several alternes will be presented, inorder of increasing cost and refinement of the monitoring system. These should in no way be considered absolute plans, but a general list showing relative priorities.

The best plan of system expansion is to monitor the most "important" areas first, and to subsequently increase the number of stations in a definite way until the entire bay is covered.

Two specific approaches are outlined below. The first is based on the modular approach, in which a small segment of the bay is successfully modeled. Then another section is added, until the whole bay is monitored.

The second is the broad-outline approach. The macroscopic character of the circulation is studied, with more detail added as the number of stations is increased.

The modular approach provides an orderly plan in which the details and refinements of the model are worked out immediately, but the character of pollution dynamics for the whole bay does not appear for some time.

With the macroscopic viewpoint, the most general features of circulation are immediately resultant, but the detail follows much later.

| | MODULAR | | MACROSCOPIC | |
|-----|---|------|---|------|
| | (Based on initial modeling of the West Passage) | | (Based on the initial neglect of the Mt.Hope Bay-Sakonnet River complex) | |
| I | 1, 2, 3 | (3) | 1, 8, 11 | (3) |
| 11 | 4, 5, 6, 7 | (7) | 4,6, 12, 14 | (7) |
| III | 12, 13, 14 | (10) | 16, 19, 20, 21 | (11) |
| IV | 15, 16, 17 | (13) | 3, 7, 10, 22 | (15) |
| V | 8, 9, 10, 11 | (17) | 15, 17 | (17) |
| VI | 18, 19, 20, 21 | (21) | 5, 13, 18 | (20) |
| VII | 22, 23 | (23) | 2, 9, 23 | (23) |

Station locations appear in Fig. 12, page A-16. Data on the stations in Table 5, page A-17.

APPENDIX A

Supportative charts, tables and data.







A-3



TABLE 1

OCEANDGRAPHIC PARAMETERS

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

BLO-CNEWICAL PARAMETERS

| TEMPERATURE | 0-21 ^{0C} | D. O. | 2.5-8.5m1/1 |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| CURRENT MAGNITUDE | G-2.7 5 knote | E-COLI | 0-2500 MPN/100ml |
| ОЕРТН | 0-188 Ft. | CHLORINITY | 5-17 ⁰ /00 |
| TIDAL HEIGHT | 0-4.6 Et. | SALINITY | 1 9-3 3 ⁰ /00 |
| DENSITY (SP.) | 1.010-1.02 | ALKALINITY | 1.4-2.0 me/kg |
| WAVE HEIGHT | 0-7.0 Ft. | PHOSPHATE | 1.2-6.5 jug/1 |
| WAVE PERIOD | 1.0-20.0 Sec. | ^{CO} 2 | |
| DIFFUSION COEF. | (1.3 10 ⁻⁵ m ² /sec.) | AMAINIA | |
| TURBIDITY | .0125 % Attn. | NITRATE/NITRITE | |
| COLOR | | COPPER | |
| CONDUCTIVITY | | IRON | |
| | | NICKEL | |

-



MONITH





TEMPERATURE,

SALINITY



FREQUENCY, HZ.

CURRENT MAGNITUDE





TABLE 2

PARAMETER GRADIENTS

HORIZONTAL GRADIENTS

.

| PARAMETER | | GRADIENT | (CHANGE PER | NAUTICAL MILE) |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | PROVIDENCE River | MT. HOPË Bay | EAST Pass age | NDN-CRITICAL Areas |
| TEMPERATURE | 1.25 ^{0C} | 1,50 ^{0C} | 0.30 ^{0C} | 0.5-1.25 ^{0C} |
| SALINITY | 2.5 ⁰ / ₀₀ | 2.00 ⁰ /a | o 1.00 ⁰ / | 1.0-2.0 ⁰ / ₀₀ |
| CURRENT | 0.1 knot | 0.4 kno | t 0.1 knot | t 0.1-0.2 knot |

VERTICAL GRADIENTS

 PARAMETER
 GRADIENT
 (CHANGE PER FOOT)

 TEMPERATURE
 $0.10^{\circ C}$ $0.15^{\circ C}$ $0.015^{\circ C}$ $0.05 \cdot 0.15^{\circ C}$

 SALINITY
 $0.25^{\circ}/_{00}$ $0.25^{\circ}/_{00}$ $0.033^{\circ}/_{00}$ $0.05 - 0.25^{\circ}/_{00}$

 CURRENT
 0.02 knot
 0.04 knot
 0.04 knot
 0.01 - 0.04 knot

TABLE 3

PARAMETER SPECIFICATIONS

| <u>PARAMETER</u> | AMPLITUDE | ACCURACY | FREQUENCY RANGE |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| TEMPERATURE | 0-2140 ^{0C.} <u>+</u> 0+5 ^{0C} f | o ne part in fourty (1:40) | 10 ⁻⁸ -10 ⁻³ hz |
| SALINITY | 10-33 ⁰ /00 <u>+</u> 0-5 ⁰ /00 | (1:350) | 10 ⁻⁸ -10 ⁻³ hz |
| CURRENT MAGNITUDE | 0-2 .76 knot <u>+</u> 0.1 knot | (1:70) | 10 ⁻⁸ -10 ⁻³ hz |
| CURRENT DIRECTION | ۵-360 ⁰ <u>+</u> 10 ⁰ | (1:36) | 10 ⁻⁸ -10 ⁻³ hz |
| SURFACE UAVE Height | 0-10.0 ft <u>+</u> 0.25 ft | (1:40) | 10 ⁻² -1.0 hz |
| TIDAL HEIGHT | .0-4.6 ft <u>+</u> 0.25 ft | (1:20) | 1.2*10 ⁻⁵ - 5*10 ⁻⁴ hz |

.



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TABLE 4

PARAMETER TIME-SAMPLING

| <u>PARAMETER</u> | REPRESENTATIVE VALUE INTERVAL T | <u>SAMPLING</u> Period T _p | <u>SAMPLING</u> INTERVAL T _S |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| TEMPERATURE | 1 hr. | 100 sec. | Q.5 sec. |
| SALINITW | t hr. | 100 sec. | 0.5 sec. |
| CURRENT MAGNITUDE | t hr. | 100 s æc. | 0.5 sec. |
| CURRENT DIRECTION | 1 hr. | 100 sec. | 0.5 sec. |
| SURFACE WAVE Height | 4-6 hr. | 21 min. | D.5 sec. or continuous |
| TIDAL HEIGHT | 1 hr. | 100 sec. | 0.5 sec. |

A-13



FIG. 10

4-14



SENSORS AND MONITORING STATION



TABLE 5

STATION DATA

| STATION | DEPTH(FEET) | SENSOR POSITIONS |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | (FEET) |
| 1 | 60 | 1-20-40 |
| 2 | 55. | 11-20-40 |
| 3 | 25 | 1-20 |
| 4 | 110 | 1-20-40-100 |
| 5 | 23 | 14-10-20 |
| 6 | 60 | 1-20-60 |
| 7 | 40 | 1-10-20-30 |
| 8 | 80 | 1-20-40-80 |
| 9 | 105 | 1-10-20-30+100 |
| 10 | 80 | 1-10-20-30-80 |
| 11 - | 60 | 1-10-20-60 |
| 12 | 40 | 1-10-20-30-40 |
| 13 | 40 | 1-10-20-40 |
| 14 | 55 | 1-10-20-30-40-50 |
| 15 | 35 | 1-10-20-30 |
| 16 | 35 | 1-10-20-30 |
| 17 | 35 | 1-10-20-30 |
| 18 | 20 | 1-10-20 |
| 19 | 30 | 1-10-20-30 |
| 20 | 35 | 1-10-20 |
| 21 | 60 | 1-10-20-30-50 |
| 22 | 40 | 1-10-20 |
| 23 | 40 | 1-10-20-40 |

A-17

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