

Data Analysis

To ensure reliable target identification and assessment, analysis of the magnetic and acoustic data was carried out as it was generated. Using QUICKSURF[®] contouring software, magnetic data generated during the survey was contour plotted at 10-gamma intervals for analysis and accurate location of the material generating each magnetic anomaly. Magnetic targets were isolated and analyzed in accordance with intensity, duration, areal extent and other signature characteristics. Sonogram signatures associated with magnetic targets were analyzed on the basis of configuration, areal extent, elevation, target intensity and contrast with background and shadow image.

Data generated by the remote sensing equipment was developed to support an assessment of each magnetic and acoustic signature. Analysis of each target signature included consideration of magnetic and sonar signature characteristics previously demonstrated to be reliable indicators of historically significant submerged cultural resources. Assessment of each target included recommendations for additional investigation to determine the exact nature of the cultural material generating the signature and its potential National Register significance. Historical evidence was developed into a background context and an inventory of shipwreck sites that identified possible correlations with magnetic targets (Appendix A). A magnetic contour map of the survey area was produced to aid in the analysis of each anomaly. All targets were listed and described and a map produced that showed their location within the project area.

Historical Background

The area around the White Oak River and Bogue Inlet has been occupied by humans for over 2,500 years. Long before the English colonized the region, the Algonkian Indians inhabited a village in the same area as 18th century Swansboro. From artifactual remains, it is known that these Native Americans lived intermittently on the site from the Middle Woodland Period through the time of European contact (Swansboro Historical Association 1990). The Algonkian name for the White Oak River was the Weetock. Historical evidence indicates that the river was still referred to by that name as late as 1710. In 1711, the Algonkians joined with the Tuscaroras in an attack on New Bern and the surrounding countryside. Any Europeans that may have been residing in the Weetock River area were most likely killed during the raids. As a result of the Tuscarora War, all of the Native Americans in the area were driven out.

The Bogue Inlet region was visited by Europeans as early as the 16th century. In 1524, the Italian navigator and explorer Giovanni da Verrazano dispatched a small group to meet Indians somewhere between New River Inlet and Bogue Inlet (Littleton 1981). Verrazano, a Florentine employed by the French, described the coastline of Onslow County in his writings concerning his exploration of the coast from North Carolina to Maine.