



1. My name is William Seliger and I am over the age of 18.
2. I am currently employed by Global Marine Exploration. I have been involved in many archeology projects both marine and on land beginning in 1989. Over the last 27 years, I have worked alongside archeologists and experts from various organizations and companies including the State of Florida, Patrimony Cultural de Ecuador, Patrimony Cultural de Honduras, Patrimony Cultural de la Republica Dominicana, The University of Cuenca, the University of Bonn, National Geographic, etc.
3. As part of my duties, working under company archeologist James Sinclair, I was acting archeologist and diver for the 7 1A-31 permits granted to Global Marine Exploration: 2014.01, 2014.05, 2014.06, 2015.02, 2015.03, 2015.04, 2016.01. These exploration permits were granted to Global Marine over a three-year period. A magnetometer survey and a side scan sonar survey were completed on permits 2014.01 and 2014.05, it was then agreed upon by both Global Marine and the Florida Division of Historical Resources that the side scan sonar survey was not necessary based on water depths which made that survey impractical, the dynamic, shifting sands which made it dangerous to conduct and the lack of any structure protruding above the seafloor. The subsequent 5 exploration permits were conducted using only magnetometer surveys.
4. Set forth below in this declaration are facts of which I have personal knowledge, or my expert opinions, based on my site visits and my professional experience.
5. To the best of my knowledge Global Marine provided all requested data to the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Upon completion of the magnetometer survey, a detailed report including visual aids such as maps and charts was produced by Global Marine for the Florida Division of Historical Resources. It is my understanding that this report met all requirements of the 1A-31 permit process and it was only upon completion and acceptance of this report that a 1A-31 Dig and Identify amendment was granted to Global Marine. The raw geophysical data produced by the magnetometer consists of many days' worth of data containing literally hundreds of magnetic anomalies. This data is interpreted by Global Marine Exploration experts using several different software packages and the results of this interpretation was included in the report. If the raw data was requested by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, I have no knowledge of that and do not see any reason why they would be interested in unprocessed data, furthermore if that data was requested, it should have been a requirement before the issuance of a 1A-31 Dig and Identify amendment would be granted, which was not the case. The Amendment clearly states "WHEREAS the requested modification has been reviewed by DHR and found to be in accordance with the terms of the Permit and Chapter 1A-31, F.A.C."
6. On August 19, 2015 a Dig and Identify amendment to permit 2015.03 was granted to Global Marine Exploration. A methodical identification process was initiated, this process involves personal pinpointing and inspection of each individual target by a diver, a boat is then positioned over the target and a prop wash deflector is employed. This deflector system funnels clear water to the seafloor allowing the diver to see what is there, if the object is buried under sediment the engine of the boat is accelerated and sand is slowly removed until the anomaly is exposed enough for identification purposes. Upon identification, if the anomaly is deemed historically significant, it is measured, and photographed, the boat is then slightly moved in several directions to re-cover the object with overburden. If the object is identified as modern trash such as modern wreckage or space related materials the item is generally left exposed as habitat for marine life, however the dynamic sand

Global Marine Exploration, Inc. 417 Hobbs St.- Tampa, FL 33619 - (813) 684-9347



shoals at Cape Canaveral are constantly shifting and exposed items are generally uncovered and re-covered with sand multiple times each year. This system is approved by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency and has been used by archeologists since the 1970's.

7. During the course of the Dig and Identify process in 2015 and 2016, several sites containing historically significant objects were identified. As per company policy, once a historically significant object was discovered and identified, all work on that specific site ceased. On May 21st 2016, a diver was sent down to pinpoint a small anomaly. The diver surfaced to report the visibility was 0 but he had felt an exposed object lying next to what appeared to be smooth concrete. The vessel was positioned over the object and clear water was forced down to attempt identification of the object. It was not clear what the object was nor was dating of the object possible due to the thick concretion which covered it. The diver attached a reel to the object and swam in a circle around the object, identifying another ferrous object several feet away from the exposed object. The vessel was positioned over this object and excavation revealed several bronze cannons, a stone monument and multiple encrusted iron objects. The items were documented, and measured, the vessel was then repositioned and the objects were covered with sand. No further explorations were done at this site, at this time. On June 23, 2016, we returned to the site with archeologist James Sinclair to obtain more data on the site and so an assessment could be made by him. There appeared to be significantly less sand covering the site at this time. The initial excavation uncovered the stone monument and one bronze cannon, a second excavation was made revealing a third bronze cannon, based on the small amount of sand covering the items at this time, the vessel was moved a third time to uncover the other cannon which had been discovered in May. James Sinclair spent the day measuring and documenting the finds. Several small encrusted iron objects were recovered from the site so that an assessment and attempt at dating them could be performed. The vessel was then slightly moved to cover the items with sand. A diver was sent down to verify the objects were covered with overburden.
 8. The site was monitored by Global Marine in July, August, September, and October. Dives were made several times each month to assess the site and record any evidence of tampering or looting, neither of which was ever evident. A depression, caused by natural linking of the three previously excavated test holes was noted, and calm sea conditions during these months appeared to have prevented much sand movement.
 9. To the best of my knowledge the Florida Division of Historical Resources surveyed the site on August 16th, we noted their vessel with divers returning to Sunrise Marina on this date. They made no attempt at communicating with us while they were there and although we had previously offered multiple times to work with them or accompany them to the site, our requests were met with disdain and they seemed almost hostile towards us.
 10. On or around August 20th we returned to the site and it was determined that no excavations had taken place by the Florida Division of Historical Resources. To the best of my knowledge the site has not been excavated and the artifacts have not been seen by anyone other than GME personnel.
 11. If an accurate map of the site was produced by the Florida Division of historical Resources, I have not seen it, nor can I believe an "accurate map of the artifacts" could be produced without some excavation of the site. To the best of my knowledge nobody has even seen these artifacts except for Global Marine personnel.
 12. As previously noted, three test excavations were made in this area in an attempt at identification of the magnetic anomalies discovered during the magnetometer survey. As always, strict guidelines were followed as per the regulations in the 1A-31 Dig and Identify amendment during this process. Large grain sand and broken
- Global Marine Exploration, Inc. 417 Hobbs St.- Tampa, FL 33619 - (813) 684-9347
-



shell material was moved during this process and during the calm months of summer would have remained at the surface.

13. The three test holes which were made during this phase of operations were filled in with overburden to prevent further degradation of the artifacts, however the sand shoals at Cape Canaveral are extremely dynamic as can be noted on marine charts of that area. Based on the degradation of the ornate markings on the bronze cannons as well as several modern objects located with the historically significant artifacts I believe the site is subject to complete exposure at times and completely covered by sediment at other times.
14. Our initial dive at this site also found this object partially uncovered and exposed on the seafloor, it is my belief that shifting sand and sediment at this site completely covers and uncovers this site at times. Several modern objects were also found during the test excavations which further suggest this theory.
15. These "hard objects" are most certainly the objects identified by Global Marine divers. It is also our belief that the methods used by the Department of Historical Resources such as "probing and poking" could have damaged said "hard objects".
16. *Diagnostic artifacts were left in-situ and covered with overburden by Global Marine upon completion of our site assessment to prevent discovery by others and to protect the objects from further degradation. With the exception of several small encrusted objects which were recovered with permission from government authorities in an attempt at dating and identification. These artifacts were cleaned and are currently undergoing conservation. They include three iron cannonballs, one iron hammer head, and two ballast stones.*
17. At the time the site was discovered excavation was required to identify the artifacts at the site. It is my opinion that at times, the site is and has been completely uncovered and at other times it is completely covered with sediment. During the entire year, due to storms and weather events, this area is extremely violent and I have personally seen water depths change by several feet. As previously stated, this can be seen on most marine charts of the area. To further demonstrate this point, one of the other sites in area 2015.03 which contains encrusted iron swivel guns is completely entangled in modern fishing nets demonstrating that at times these *sites are uncovered and not embedded.*
18. A prop wash deflection system was used on this site by Global Marine during the normal Dig and Identification process. This "tool" is approved for use by the Florida Department of Historical Resources, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The process has been thoroughly studied and found to be effective as well as non-destructive both to the environment and to the objects being uncovered. It is my opinion that at certain times of the year these artifacts are completely exposed on the seafloor and no excavation is required to study them and other times they are covered by sediment and excavation is required, however excavation could be done by hand with no special tools required. At no time in the Cape Canaveral area are we required to or must use mechanical devices to remove sediment such as Prop Wash Deflectors (we choose to use a mechanical device as it is more efficient). Example, you wouldn't build a house with a hand saw, you would use an electric saw even though you could build the entire house by using a hand saw.
19. Very much like "Area 1", "Area 2" also had several test excavations performed and identification of the site was attempted. Many encrusted iron objects were discovered at this site many of which are completely entangled in fishing nets. The objects appear to be iron swivel cannons but dating or identification was not accomplished as the items are covered in heavy concretion and nothing was recovered from this site.



It is my professional opinion that myself and everyone at Global Marine Exploration have done our absolute best to follow all the rules set forth by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency. We have spent three hard years working to discover these sites, produced countless reports and publications and blindly believed that we would be given the chance to recover at least some of the artifacts in an attempt at identifying what ship these sites might be associated with.

We did not ever knowingly violate any of the rules or statutes set forth by the State of Florida and recovered only what we deemed necessary for identification purposes and with permission from, and or knowledge of, the office of Historical Resources Department, Kerry Post and Tim Parsons (see letters).

It is my professional opinion that the artifacts found at these sites are not embedded on the seafloor, they are not attached in any way and have been covered, uncovered, and even moved by sea conditions and other means such as fishing vessels. Based on what I have seen at the sites I also don't believe these are intact shipwreck sites, rather scattered artifacts which continue to move during rough conditions.

I hereby certify on penalty of perjury that the foregoing facts are true based on my personal knowledge.

William Seliger – COO Global Marine Exploration Inc.

1-19-2017

Date

Notarized

William G. Seliger is personally known to me.

1/19/2017

Lori J. Yeago
COMMISSION # FF029617
EXPIRES: JUN. 20, 2017
WWW.AARONNOTARY.COM