

accuracy and reliability of DeBrahm's charts, as they portray the natural environment.... An appropriate historical context will be explored in detail; in addition, the information depicted on the charts will be related to more recent maps and air photographs. The result will be a better understanding of the liability of these 1770 charts as historical documents." [Chardon, 1982, p.47]

The DeBrahm's chart was described to exhibit several flaws uncharacteristic for the cartographer's reputation. The reliability and accuracy aspect was further explored by the best-fit method to determine the map's adequacy as a basis for reliable environmental reconstruction of the general Bay area. The best-fit method used in evaluating the DeBrahm's chart identified seven areas containing relatively permanent geomorphic features selected as reference areas on which to place the overlay (the DeBrahm chart) correctly with the contemporary NOS chart. The technique resulted in relatively poor fit at the river mouth basepoints despite the similarities to modern maps and its cartographic advantages as permanent landmarks. The mainland portions of the historical map could not be used as a baseline for the rest of the overlay. A different set of base (control) points were used in the best-fit method which yielded better results of matching