

Figure 1: *Panther* on tour in Everglades National Park.



Figure 2. Accident site and other locations referenced in this report.

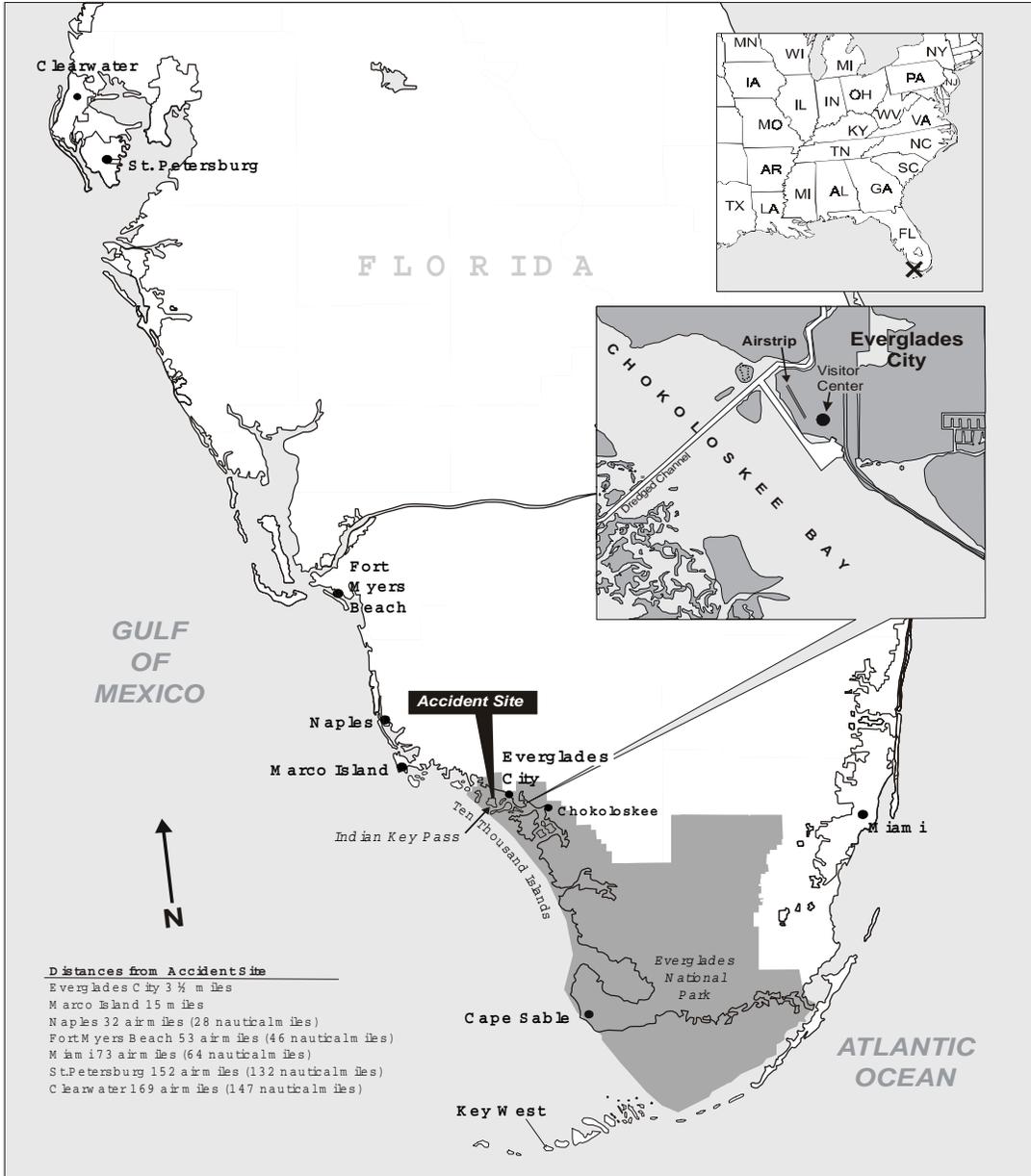


Figure 3. *Panther* leaving boarding area at Everglades National Park visitor center. Building in background has Park Service interpretive center upstairs and tour company ticket office and gift shop downstairs.



Figure 4. Dolphin leaping in *Panther's* wake (photograph taken about a year before accident trip).



Figure 5: Panther's route from National Park Service visitor center to site of sinking.

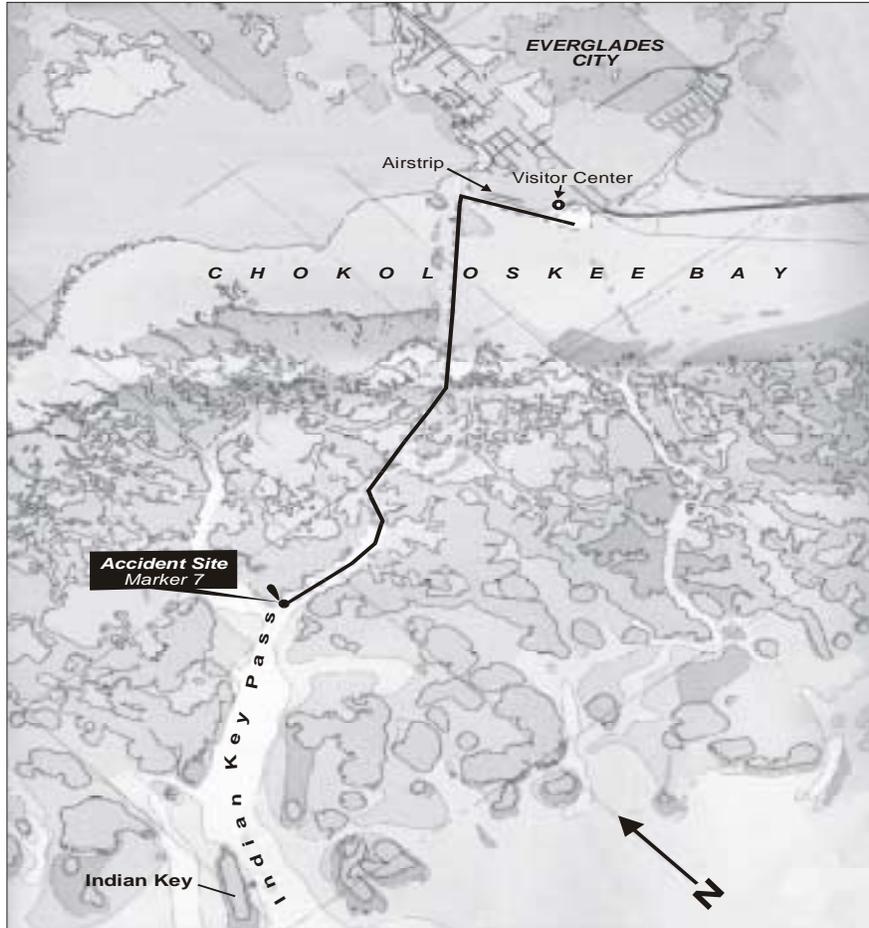


Figure 6. *Panther* submerged in Indian Key Pass.



Figure 7. Arrangement of *Panther's* deck rails and bulwarks, as boat rested on marine railing after accident.



Figure 8. Diagram of *Panther's* stern showing freeing ports and other features.

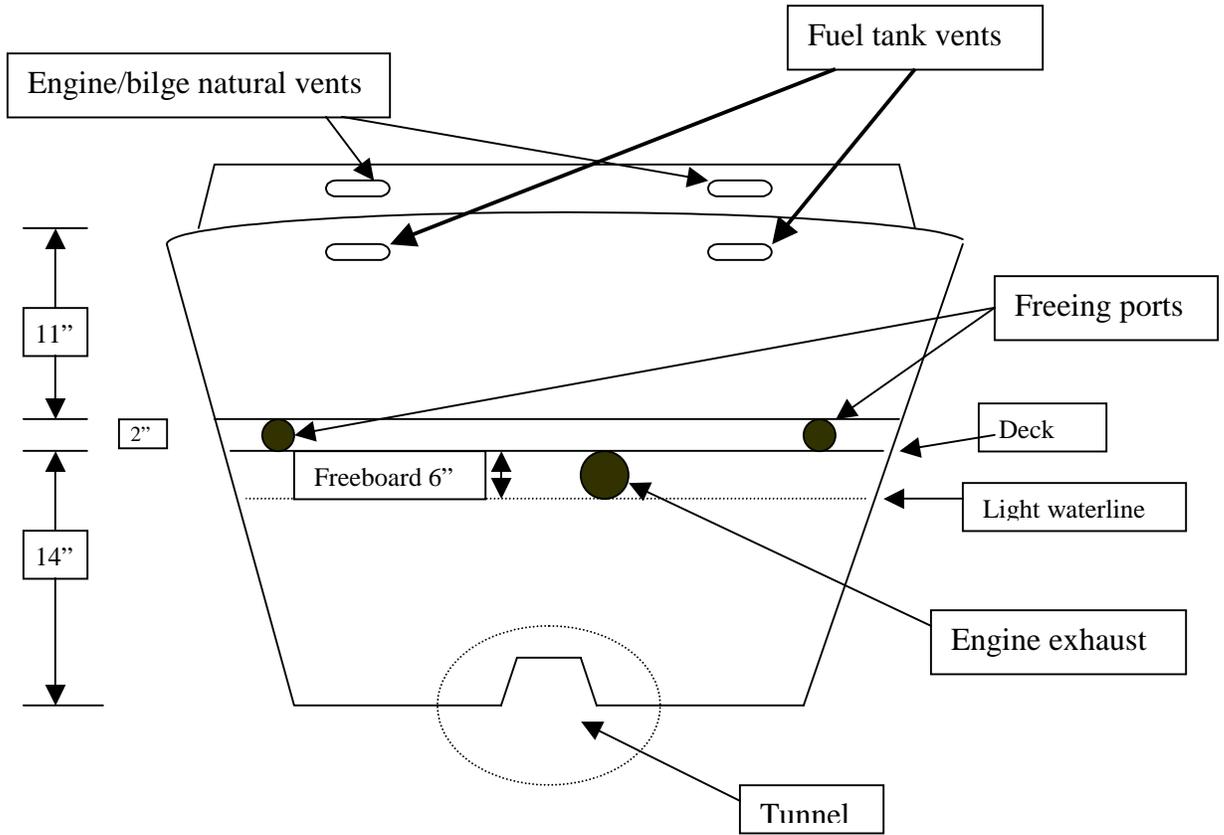


Figure 9. Layout diagram of *Panther* showing tunnel, engine, console, passenger seats, and bilge pump locations.

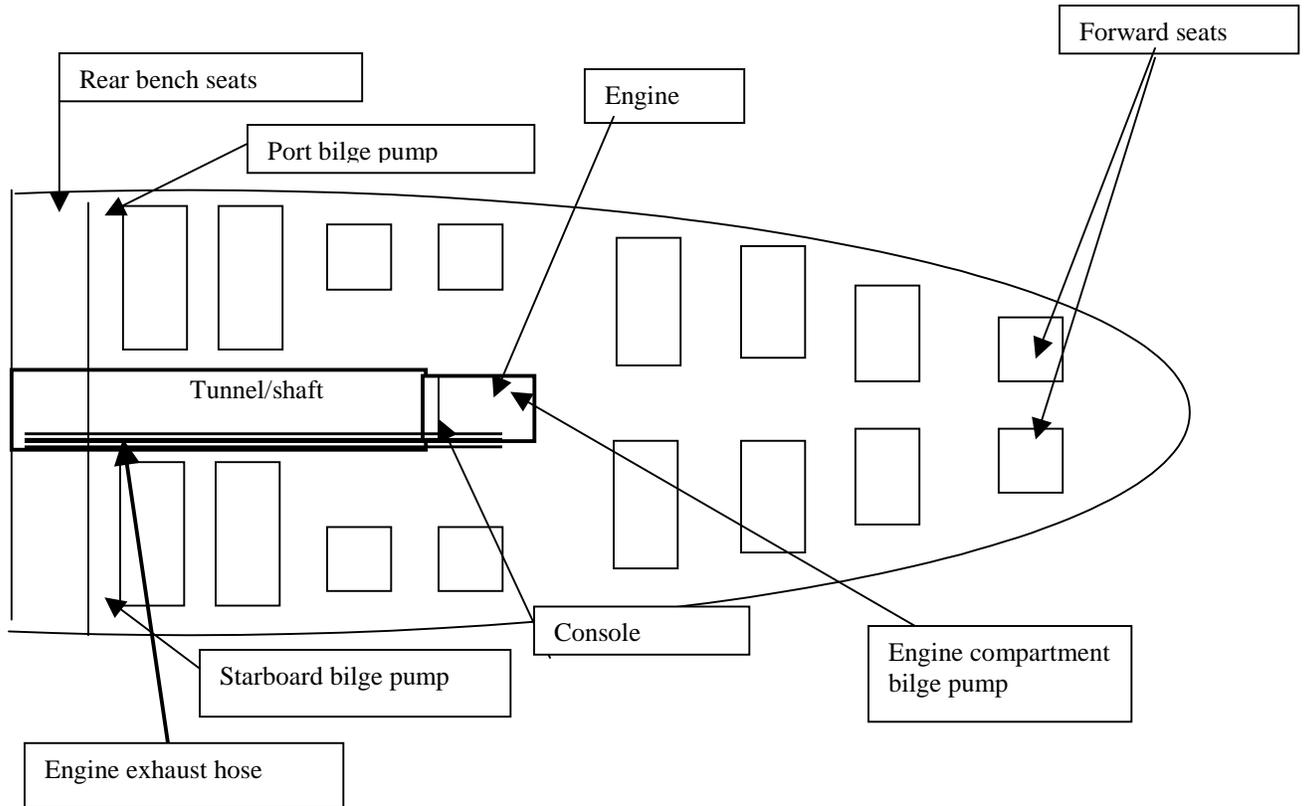


Figure 10. View of console showing bilge pump switches to right of wheel.

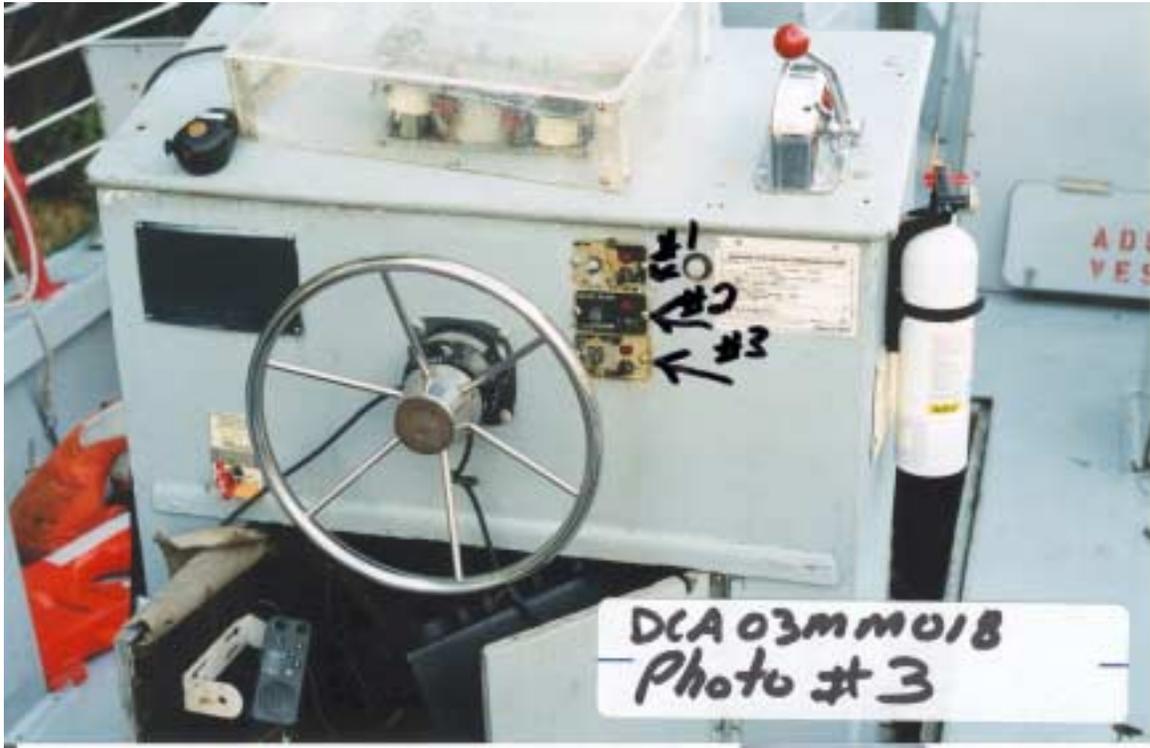
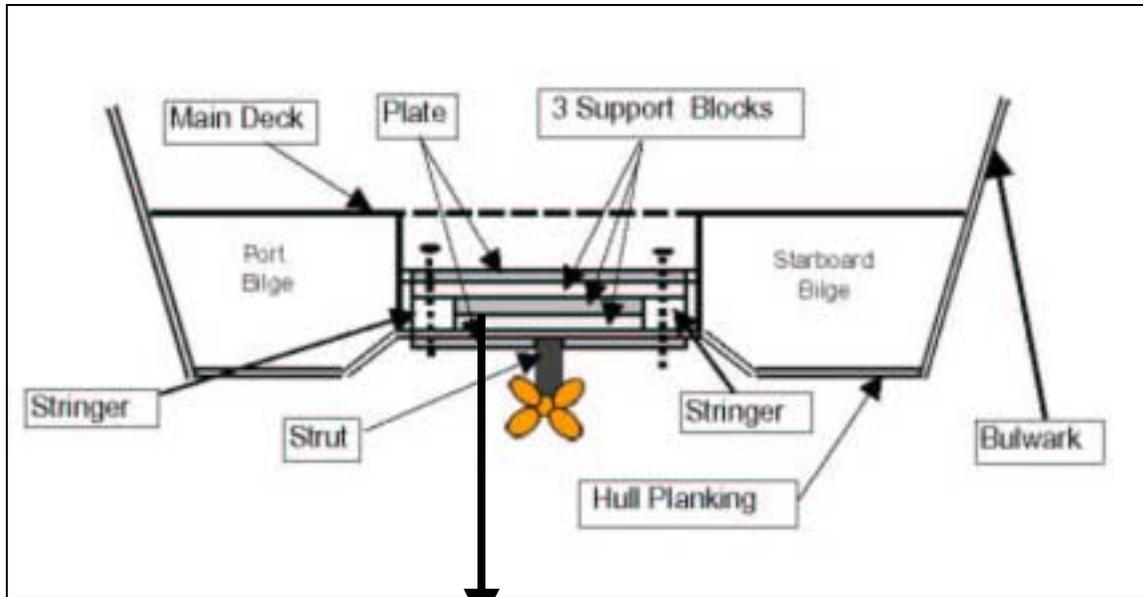
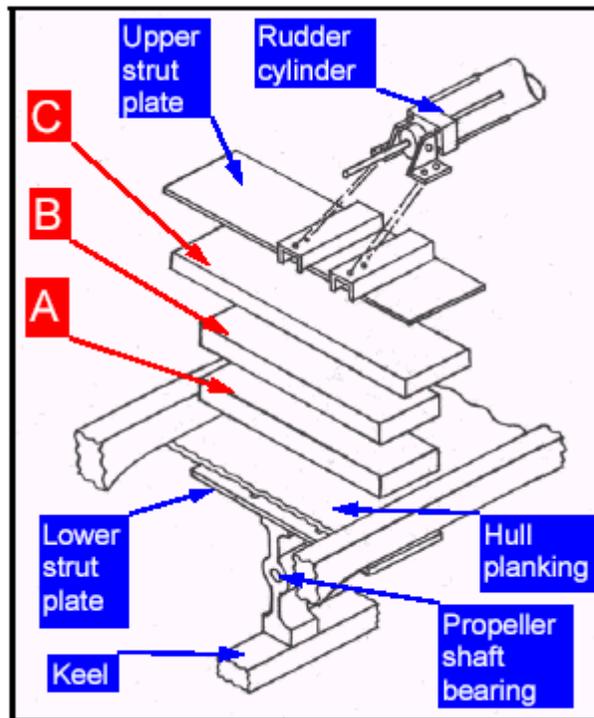


Figure 11. Support structure (cutaway view at stern).



Expanded view of strut support blocks
(C = southern yellow pine, B =
plywood, A = bald cypress).



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Figure 12. *Panther* beached on sandbar near accident site.



Figure 13a. C-shaped crack around strut plate (hole visible on left, toward stern).



Figure 13b. Closeup of hole in crack around strut plate.



Figure 14. Exposed top support block showing extent of rot; block splintered during removal.



Figure 15. View of bilge area and supports after seats and pieces of deck removed.



Figure 16. Lifejacket locker on *Panther*.



Figure 17. Pieces of wooden strut blocks received for inspection. C is the topmost strut block, made of southern yellow pine; it arrived in the 10 pieces shown. B is the middle strut block, made of plywood. A is the bottom strut block, made of decay-resistant bald cypress.



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