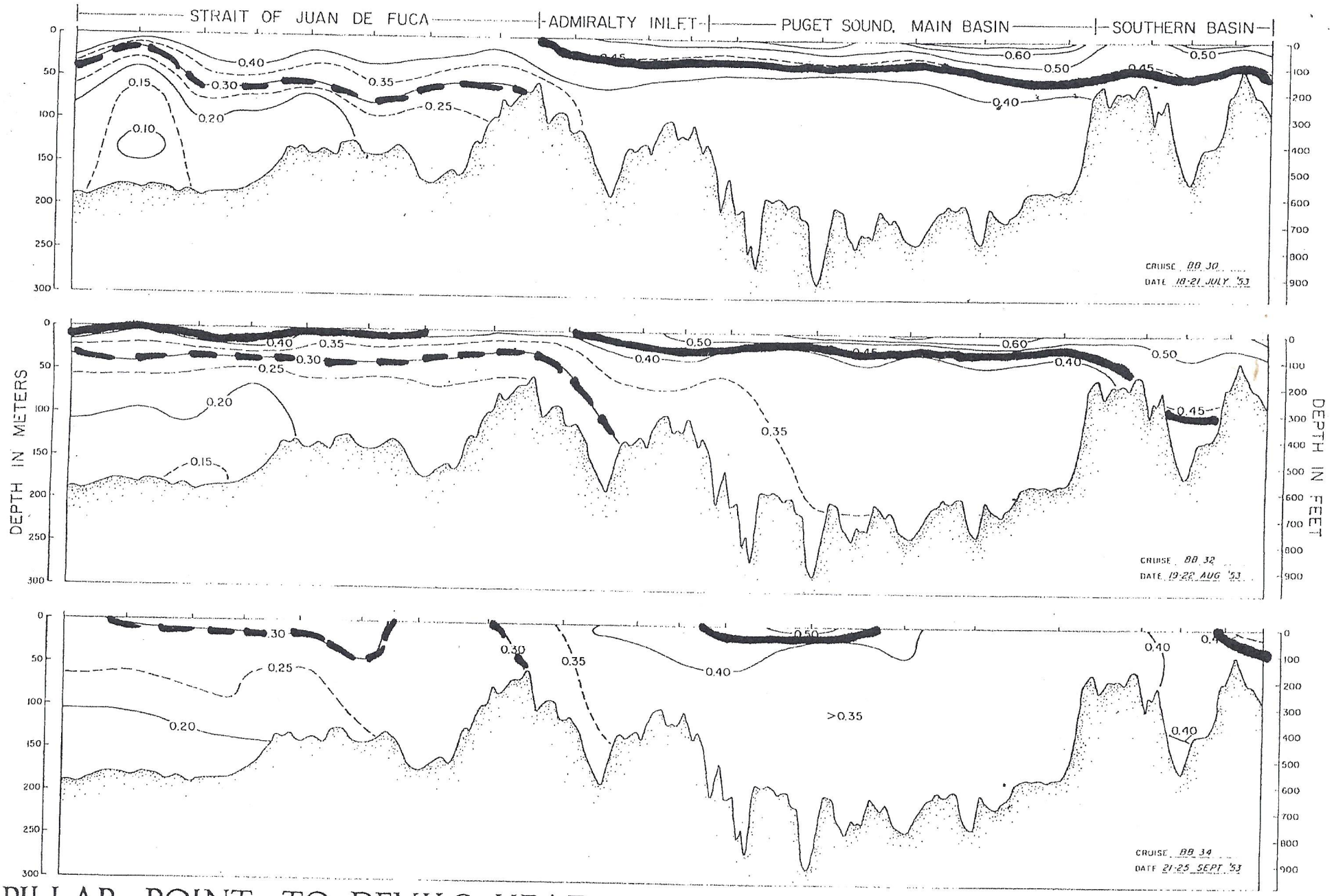
LINCOLN LOEHR

I had commented before about page 15 in the SEPA checklist which asserted that many parts of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea have DO levels that fall below the concentrations needed for marine life to thrive. Part of my response noted that most of Puget Sound deep water (below the pycnocline) has higher DO concentrations than the same depth in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The attached figure shows three different longitudinal profiles of DO concentrations over the water column from the Strait of Juan de Fuca, through Admiralty Inlet, into the Main Basin of Puget Sound, through the Tacoma Narrows and into South Sound. The figures are from The Atlas of Physical and Chemical Properties of Puget Sound and Its Approaches by Eugene E. Collias, Noel McGary and Clifford Barnes (1974). The chart presents DO concentrations in milligram atoms per liter, but I have shown where 5 mg/L and 7 mg/L concentrations occur. Note that all the waters along this longitudinal profile are classified as "Extraordinary" which has a DO criteria of 7 mg/L. Note that very little water is at or above 7 mg/L.

OXYGEN (mg. at./l)

(Multiply by 16 to convert to mg/l) The thick solid line shows 7 mg/l, the dissolved oxygen standard for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The thick dashed line shows 5 mg/l.



PILLAR POINT TO DEVILS HEAD