

## **C. HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CONTROL**

Due to the CRD, the project chart datum, being a non-tidal gradient datum and the complex hydrodynamics of the Columbia River, the project chart datum, *OPR-N338-KR-08* was approved as a pilot project for the use of GPS water levels acquired directly at the survey vessel. With the exception of tide reduction of baring features, traditional zoning from water level stations was not used for this project though zoning provided by Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) and verified water level files for the survey have been included with the digital deliverables

Prior to survey acquisition, two GPS base stations with a dual frequency (L1/L2) receiver were established in Washington at Kalama and in Oregon at the CO-OPS water level station in St. Helens. The base stations logged raw dual frequency (L1/L2) GPS observables at one second epochs as well as broadcast real-time kinematic (RTK) corrections to the survey vessels. The base station closest to the area surveyed broadcast the RTK correctors. This base station was later used to post-process the navigation data. Base station positions relative to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) (CORS96) (Epic 2002) were derived from the NGS (National Geodetic Survey) On-line Positioning User Service (OPUS) and were based on a 24-hour data file, with one second-epoch logging prior to commencement of survey operations.

A separation model of CRD relative to NAD83 was created and formatted to allow for direct integration with Hypack and Caris HIPS. The model input used a river profile of CRD relative to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Portland District (the designated stewards of CRD). GEOID 03 was used to transfer the NAVD88 to CRD relationship directly to the NAD83 ellipsoid, which allowed direct computation of GPS water levels from ellipsoid heights recorded at the survey vessel. The model file (.bin) used to compute GPS water levels in HIPS, has been included with the digital deliverables.

RTK navigation was logged during acquisition and applied during preliminary data processing, but ultimately overwritten with a post-processed Inertially-Aided Kinematic Ambiguity Resolution (IAKAR) navigation solution. The HIPS Load Attitude and Navigation tool was used to load position, GPS height, and attitude data from a smoothed best estimate trajectory (SBET) file create from Applanix POSPac.

A complete description of horizontal and vertical control for survey H11857 can be found in the *OPR-N338-KR-08 Horizontal and Vertical Control Report*, submitted under separate cover.<sup>15</sup> A summary of horizontal and vertical control for this survey follows.

## **C1. Vertical Control**

The vertical datum for this project is the CRD, an adopted low-water gradient datum relative to NAVD88. There are known problems in the NGS level lines between Oregon and Washington due to the long level runs without the ability to run tie lines across the Columbia River. GPS observations have documented large vertical differences in published bench mark elevations across the Columbia River. Whereas CO-OPS water level gauges are located in Oregon and Washington and are directly referenced to NGS published bench mark elevations, and the known issue with the level lines between Oregon and Washington, a decision was jointly made by the USACE and NOAA to use NGS OPUS solutions to establish vertical consistency in the relationship of CRD relative to NAVD88. The USACE, Portland District (designated stewards of CRD) conducted surveys that established OPUS derived NAVD88 elevations on historic bench marks referencing CRD. A result of these surveys was a profile of CRD relative to OPUS derived NAVD88 elevations which were consistent across the Columbia River. The profile defined CRD relative to NAVD88 for each River Mile (RM) from RM 23 to RM 145 on the Columbia River and RM 0 to RM 26 on the Willamette River. This profile is used by the USACE, Portland District for hydrographic surveys and dredging operations to maintain the Federal Channel on the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

To improve vertical accuracy of this survey, soundings were reduced to CRD using GPS water levels measured at the survey vessel. Water levels were derived from post processed GPS heights and application of a separation model of the CRD to NAD83 ellipsoid relationship. Data reduction procedures, including detailed discussions of the CRD model generation and GPS water levels computations, for survey H11857 are detailed in the *OPR-N338-KR-08* DAPR.

To verify GPS water levels, a comparison was made by vessel static observations adjacent to the CO-OPS water level stations 9440422 located in Longview, Washington and 9439201 located in St Helens, Oregon. To obtain water levels relative to the CO-OPS defined CRD, the Hydrographer selected Station Datum when downloading data from the CO-OPS web site. This is consistent with obtaining CRD values for any CO-OPS station on the Columbia River above RM 23. Adjustments were required to correct CO-OPS water level data to CRD based on the updated USACE CRD profile used to maintain the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

An additional adjustment was applied to correct local tidal bench marks with orthometric heights based on NGS level lines to OPUS derived NAVD88 elevations to match the USACE profile and eliminate errors from distorted level lines. As a result of these comparisons, the Hydrographer discovered a large deviation from the CO-OPS data reported from station 9440422 in Longview, WA. After running digital levels from CO-OPS tidal bench marks and recording a 1-hour series of 6-minute water level observations with an optical level, it has been determined that the CO-OPS water level station in Longview, WA (9440422) is incorrectly reporting water levels relative to the station tidal bench marks and should be corrected by -0.071 meters to match CO-OPS tidal bench marks. CO-OPS is aware of this issue and is working toward resolving the problem.

It should be noted that these adjustments were applied to CO-OPS water level data for comparison purposes of water level data relative to the revised USACE profile relative to OPUS derived NAVD88 elevations. Application of the USACE CRD profile and use of GPS water levels was approved for project OPR-N388-KR-08 by the Office of Coast Survey, Hydrographic Surveys Division Chief as it is consistent with the USACE, Portland District, methods for maintaining the Federal Channel in the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Further, CO-OPS should adjust water level stations on CRD and part of the Columbia PORTS® system to be consistent with the defined CRD profile by the USACE, Portland District. Tables 6 and 7 list corrections to be applied to CO-OPS data to be consistent with the Portland District CRD profile.

**Table 6. Corrections Applied to 9440422 Longview, Washington**

| Description of Adjustment   | Adjustment (m) |
|---|----------------|
| Revised CRD Value to 0.804m NAVD88 from CO-OPS 0.764m NAVD88              | -0.040         |
| Adjustment to OPUS elevation for Tidal Bench Mark SA 89 MON 4             | -0.052         |
| CO-OPS Gauge Correction Based on Optical Level Water Surface Observations | -0.071         |
| <b>Total Adjustment to CO-OPS Data in Longview, WA</b>                    | <b>-0.163</b>  |

**Table 7. Corrections Applied to 9439201 Saint Helens, Oregon**

| Description of Adjustment                                   | Adjustment (m) |
|---|----------------|
| Revised CRD value to 1.291m from 1.286m NAVD88              | -0.005         |
| <b>Total Adjustment to CO-OPS Data in St Helens, Oregon</b> | <b>-0.005</b>  |

Water level observations, OPUS position results and gauge comparison data may be found in Appendix IV. No configurations used during data acquisition deviated from those described in the *OPR-N338-KR-08 DAPR*.

## **C2. Discussion of GPS Tides**

The coordinates of the GPS base stations used during acquisition and processing of H11857 are included in Table 8. The reference base stations used for both RTK and post processing are listed in the survey acquisition logs and POSpac processing logs included in Separate I *Acquisition and Processing Logs*.

**Table 8. H11857 NAD83 Base Stations Positions**

| RTK Base Station | Latitude (N)   | Longitude (W)   | Ellipsoid Height |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| STHL             | 45 51 47.95572 | 122 47 46.32988 | -7.715 m         |
| KLMA             | 46 00 20.45579 | 122 50 50.13183 | -11.153 m        |

As discussed in the *OPR-N338-KR-08 DAPR*, the use of GPS water levels eliminated large errors associated with discrete zoning and significantly reduced vertical uncertainty for this survey. Typical tide zoning artifacts for the survey area could exceed 30 centimeters, but as a result of using GPS water levels there are no visual tidal artifacts present in this survey.