

C.2 ZONING

Fugro Pelagos, Inc. acquires and reviews all preliminary data relative to the ellipsoid. This enables a rapid approach to data quality review shortly after acquisition and automated processing. Verification of ellipsoid referenced data is also more efficient in the FPI workflow. The preliminary tide zoning supplied by NOAA CO-OPS was used only for the manual tide reduction of raw depths over significant features observed during, and just following, the data acquisition period. The reduced depths of these significant features were reported to the NOAA Atlantic Hydrographic Branch as Dangers to Navigation (DTONs).

The final tide zone model was developed and provided to FPI by JOA. This tide model was based on observations at Key West and Smith Shoal Light, the bottom mounted gauge deployments at the Quicksands and Boca Grande Key and the COOPS tide station datum points at West Jetty, Sand Key Lighthouse, Boca Grande Key, Garden Key (Dry Tortugas), Loggerhead Key, Fleming Key, White Street Pier and Snipe Point. Further details are provided at Appendix II of the Horizontal and Vertical Control Report.

Each of the discrete tide zones use time and range correctors relative to the Key West NWLON tide station and the subordinate tide station installed by JOA at Smith Shoal Light. For final tide application, the time and range correctors were applied to NOAA verified and JOA quality controlled tide data, smoothed by JOA. Raw depth soundings were then reduced to MLLW using these final tides. An analysis of depth benchmark and crossline comparisons, and overlaps of the main lines of sounding concluded that final tide zoning was adequate.

The value for the difference between MLLW and MHW at the Key West NWLON tide station is 0.463m. From the final zoning, only Key West data was applicable to Sheet 4.