

C. Vertical and Horizontal Control

The vertical control datum of this project is mean lower low water (MLLW). The horizontal control datum is the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83). All soundings are therefore corrected to MLLW, and all positions are on NAD83. Fieldsheets were projected into UTM Zone 4 North (NAD83).

Preliminary positions were determined using Real Time Kinematic (RTK) GPS. NAD83-based position corrections were broadcast from project base stations. The base stations also logged dual frequency GPS data at a 1 Hz interval, which was periodically downloaded and used to post-process the positions.

Final positions were post-processed in Applanix POSPac POSGNSS, which utilized dual frequency GPS data logged continuously on the survey vessels along with the base station data to produce post-processed kinematic (PPK) navigation files in text format. These navigation files were loaded into all survey lines without exception using CARIS HIPS Generic Data Parser (GDP). This replaced all RTK navigation and GPS heights with the PPK solution.

Per the work instructions, all lines were corrected to MLLW using discrete tide zones during the final merge process. Tide zones were not provided by NOAA for this project. The tide zones were computed using data from three project tide stations and zoning seabird deployments.

Note that the “GPSTide” record within all CARIS HIPS lines was computed using an ellipsoid-MLLW separation model developed for this project (supplied with the CARIS deliverables) and can be used for comparison and troubleshooting purposes. The GPSTide record was not applied during the final merge and therefore does not affect the final soundings and BASE surfaces.

Refer to the project DAPR for more information regarding PPK processing methods. Refer to the project HVCR for details regarding derivation of tide zones. Abstract of Times of Hydrography and CO-OPS transmittal letters can be found in Appendix I. Navigation files (.TXT format), tide zones (.ZDF format) and gauge files (.TID) are available with the project deliverables.