1.0. TIDES AND WATER LEVELS

1.1. Specifications

Tidal data acquisition, data processing, tidal datum computation and final tidal zoning shall be performed utilizing sound engineering and oceanographic practices as specified in National Ocean Service (NOS) Hydrographic Surveys Specifications and Deliverables (HSSD), dated April 2011.

1.2. Vertical Datums

The tidal datums for this project are Chart Datum, Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and Mean High Water (MHW). Soundings are referenced to MLLW and heights of overhead obstructions (bridges and cables) are referenced to MHW.

1.2.1. The Hydro Hot List (HHL)

Please contact CO-OPS' Hydrographic Planning Team (HPT) at nos.coops.hpt@noaa.gov and CO-OPS' Operational Engineering Team (OET) at nos.coops.oetteam@noaa.gov at least three business days before survey operations begin, and within 1 business day after survey operations are completed so that the appropriate CO-OPS National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) control water level station(s), as well as any required subordinate station(s), is/are added to or removed from the CO-OPS Hydro Hotlist (HHL) (http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hydro). Include start and end survey dates, full project number (e.g. OPR-K339-KR-12), and control and subordinate station numbers. The notification must be sent to both teams as OET is responsible for configuring the station in the CO-OPS data base and HPT manages the addition and removal of stations from the HHL.

Station	Station ID	Control or Subordinate	Type (e.g. NWLON, PORTS©, etc)	Comment
Port Fourchon	8762075	Control	PORTS©	

Table 1: All stations that need to be added to the HHL in support of K339-KR-2012

It is important to know that the addition of a water level station to the HHL ensures the station is monitored by CORMS and any problems are reported daily. However, platforms should view the HHL each morning of active survey operations and click on the eyeball icon to double check that there are not problems with the required stations on that day. If a platform notices problems with data on their survey day of operation, please contact HPT at nos.coops.hpt@noaa.gov, CORMS at CORMS@noaa.gov, and their respective headquarters point of contact at HSD or NSD. Stations on the HHL are given priority for maintenance should a station cease normal operation during scheduled times of hydrography. CO-OPS will notify a field unit within 1 business day if a HHL water level station ceases operation during scheduled times of hydrography. This is in addition to the daily CORMS report that CORMS sends to NOAA field units, if the field unit's e-mail address is added to the CORM's daily e-mail list. To be added to the CORMS daily HHL report, the platform should contact CO-OPS' Data Monitoring and Analysis Team (DMAT) at nos.co-ops.dmat@noaa.gov and request to be added.

If the stations are listed on HHL, then weekly priority processing will occur and, for those water level stations, verified 6-minute water level data will be made available every week on Monday or Tuesday. If Monday happens to be a federal holiday, then the 6-minute verified water level data will be made available on the following Tuesday or Wednesday.

1.3. Tide Reducer Stations

The operating water level station at Port Fourchon, LA (8762075) will provide water level reducers for this project. Therefore it is critical that it remains in operation during the survey.

1.3.1. CO-OPS Long Term Water Level Station Operation and Maintenance

During periods of hydrography, CO-OPS is only responsible for the operation and maintenance of NWLON control stations and the contractor is responsible for the maintenance and operations of all contractor installed (tertiary) stations. The contractor is required to monitor the NWLON control water level data via the CO-OPS website at http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hydro.shtml or through regular communications with the OCS COTR or the OCS COTR's CO-OPS authorized point of contact (Colleen Roche at 301-713-2900 x 137 or via email: nos.coops.oetteam@noaa.gov) before and during operations. The OCS COTR or the COTR's CO-OPS authorized point of contact (Colleen Roche) will serve as liaison between the contractor and NOS/CO-OPS to confirm operation of this station and to ensure the acquisition of NWLON control water level data during periods of hydrography. Problems or concerns regarding the acquisition of valid water level data identified by the contractor shall be communicated with the OCS COTR or the COTR's CO-OPS authorized point of contact (Colleen Roche) to coordinate the appropriate course of action to be taken such as gauge repair and/or developing contingency plans for hydrographic survey operations.

1.3.2. Subordinate Station Requirements

No subordinate water level stations are required for this project, however, supplemental and/or back-up water level stations may be necessary depending on the complexity of the hydrodynamics and/or the severity of the environmental conditions of the project area. The installation and continuous operation of water level measurement systems (tide gauges) at subordinate station locations is left to the discretion of the contractor, subject to the approval of the COTR. If the contractor decides to install additional water level stations, then a 30-day minimum of continuous data acquisition is required. For all subordinate stations, data must be collected throughout the entire survey period for which they are applicable, and not less than 30 continuous days. This is necessary to facilitate the computation of an accurate datum reference as per NOS standards.

1.3.3. Tide Component Error Estimation

The estimated tidal error contribution to the total survey error budget in the vicinity of Barataria Bay, LA is 0.11 meters at the 95% confidence level, and includes the estimated gauge measurement error, tidal datum computation error, and tidal zoning error. Based on this result, no subordinate stations are required. It should be noted that the tidal error component can be significantly greater than stated if a substantial meteorological event or condition should occur during time of hydrography.

1.3.4. Water Level Records: If subordinate water level stations are installed, submit water level data, such as leveling records, field reports, and any other relevant data/reports, including the data downloaded onto diskette/CD as specified in the latest version of the NOS Specifications and Deliverables document.

C.1 Vertical Control

Additional information concerning the vertical and horizontal control for this survey can be found in the accompanying Horizontal and Vertical Control Report (HVCR) for Project OPR-K339-KR-12.

The vertical datum for this project is Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). The NOS/NOAA tide station at Port Fourchon, LA (8762075) serves as datum control for Survey H12427 (Table 12). A final verified tide file was created from verified tide data obtained from the CO-OPS website upon completion of survey operations (Table 13).

Table 12
H12427 NOS Tide Station used for Vertical Control

Station Name	Station ID
8762075	Port Fourchon

Table 13
H12427 Water Level File

File Name	Status
8762075.tid	Verified

1.3.4.1. Tidal records should be forwarded to the following address:

NOAA/National Ocean Service/CO-OPS
Chief, Engineering Division
N/OPS1 - SSMC4, Station 6531
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1.3.5. This section is not applicable to this project.

1.3.5.1. This section is not applicable to this project.

1.3.6. This section is not applicable to this project.