NOAA COASTAL MAPPING PROGRAM
PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT LA0703E

Gulf Coast, Sandy Point Bay to West Bay, Louisiana

Introduction

NOAA Coastal Mapping Program (CMP) Project LA0703E provides digital shoreline data for a portion of the Gulf Coast from Sandy Point Bay to West Bay, Louisiana. The project includes Tiger Pass, Grand Pass, the port areas of Venice as well as a part of the west bank of the Mississippi River between Venice and the Head-of-Passes. Project LA0703E is a sub-project of a larger project, LA0703 that includes large portions of the Gulf Coast from Timbalier Bay to the Mississippi River delta. The Geographic Cell (GC) can be used to complement the Nautical Charting Program (NCP) as well as geographic information systems (GIS) for a variety of coastal zone management applications.

Project Design

Project LA0703E was designed per a request from the Office of Coast Survey, NOAA, for updated shoreline data in support of hydrographic survey and marine debris clean-up operations. Based on an analysis of project requirements and results of a source data search, it was determined that CMP procedures for multiple source projects would apply for this project. Available source data deemed adequate for successful completion of this project included sources acquired in September 2007. Due to the very large extent of complex marsh shoreline in the requested area, and the general lack of significant cultural features, various automated feature extraction techniques were used in order to speed the compilation of the shoreline.

Field Operations

Routine CMP field operations did not apply for this project based on the origin of the project source data.

Aerotriangulation

The aerotriangulation (AT) task was initiated by Remote Sensing Division (RSD) personnel in October 2009 utilizing a Digital Photogrammetric Workstation (DPW), which is a configuration of computer hardware, modular software components and other associated peripheral devices. The image files were imported into SOCET SET (SS, version 5.4.1) using the DataThruWay (version 5.4.1) software extension. The import process converted the stored compressed files to the National Imagery Transmission Format (NITF version 2.1) with headers and metadata. AT procedures were accomplished using the Multi-Sensor Triangulation (MST) module of SS. The Automatic Point Measurement algorithm within MST was used to collect tie points, and a simultaneous solve adjustment was then performed. The predicted horizontal circular error, using all measured image points, was computed to be 7 meters at the 95% confidence level. Positional data for this project is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

Ortho-Image

Using the image positions and orientations derived from the AT process, and the Mosaic module from within SocetSet, an ortho-image covering the area of project LA0703E was created in December 2009. A constant elevation of zero meters (as opposed to an elevation model) was utilized to rectify the data.

Compilation

The digital compilation phase of this project was initiated by RSD in March 2011, and entails a multi-step approach utilizing both automated and manual compilation methods, as reported below.

Automated Mapping Method

All Shoreline class features present in the database were compiled using this method. The automated feature extraction (AFE) method was performed using the ortho-image, discussed above, in combination with an object-based image analysis (OBIA) approach from within the ENVI Feature Extraction (Fx) software. Fx allows the user to interactively create and classify objects, based on image rules that meet in-situ criteria, and then to run a raster-to-vector algorithm to convert the classified image to an ArcGIS polygon shapefile. Upon completion of the AFE process, the polygon shapefile was imported into ArcGIS and 1) aggregated to merge polygons separated by less than the standard minimum distance, 2) smoothed and simplified, 3) converted to a polyline format, and 4) edited to create attribute fields compatible with the RSD interim shapefile format. The interim shapefile was then imported into SocetSet and a Feature Data Base (FDB) was created. The FDB, consisting solely of Shoreline features, was then reviewed and edited within the SS Feature Extraction module, by the original compiler, using stereo-models derived from the AT solution.

Manual Mapping Method

All non-Shoreline class features present in the database (i.e., Alongshore Features, Obstructions, etc.) were compiled using this method. The manual data compilation phase of this project utilized the *traditional* RSD digital mapping approach of stereoscopic interpretation integrated with "heads-up" digitizing from within the SS Feature Extraction module. The FDB created in the automated mapping method, as described above, was subsequently populated with features derived from this manual method. This served to integrate all coastal features within a single FDB.

It should be noted that due to the inordinate number of piles and obstructions observed within the GC boundaries, a simplification scheme was implemented for the compilation of these features, in accordance with the RSD standard operating procedures for the delineation of foul areas. Where it was assessed that piles and obstructions were too dense, foul areas were compiled to encompass these features, and only a representative pattern of the piles and obstructions were compiled. The data user is therefore advised that numerous un-compiled piles and obstructions exist within these foul areas. Also, due to the interpretive limitations of the source data, the data user is advised that un-compiled piles, obstructions, and other dangers to navigation may exist *outside* of the compiled foul areas yet within the cartographic limits of this GC.

Feature attribution was assigned in compliance with the Coastal Cartographic Object Attribute

Source Table (C-COAST), which provides the definition and attribution scheme for the cartographic features pertinent to the CMP. Selected features were further modified with additional descriptive information to refine general classification. Cartographic features were compiled to meet a horizontal accuracy of 10 meters at the 95% confidence level.

Tidal information for this project was obtained from the NOS tide station Pilots Station East, SW PASS (#8760922), located at the entrance to SouthWest Pass of the Mississippi River in La. The verified tide level for the September 2007 source data was approximately 0.35 meters above Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). The height of the Mean High Water (MHW) Datum is 0.36 meters above the MLLW Datum.

Quality Control / Final Review

Quality control tasks were conducted during all phases of project completion by a senior member of the Applications Branch of RSD. The final QC review was completed in April 2011. The review process included analysis of the aerotriangulation and image orthorectification results, and assessment of the identification and attribution of digital feature data within the GC according to image analysis and criteria defined in C-COAST. The quality control process concluded with an inspection of topological connectivity within the GC using ArcGIS 9.3 software. All project data was evaluated for compliance to CMP requirements.

Comparisons of the largest scale NOAA nautical charts with source imagery and compiled project data resulted in creation of the Chart Evaluation File (CEF). The following nautical charts were used in the comparison process:

− Chart 11353, Baptiste Collete Bayou Extension, LA, 1:20,000 scale, 5th Ed., Jan./08
− Chart 11361, Mississippi River Delta, LA, 1:80,000 scale, 74th Ed., Sep./07

End Products and Deliverables

The following specifies the location and identification of end products generated during the completion of this project:

RSD Applications Branch Archive
- Hardcopy of the Project Completion Report (PCR)
- Page size graphic plot of GC10819 file contents, attached to PCR

Remote Sensing Division Electronic Data Library
- Project database
- GC10819 in shapefile format
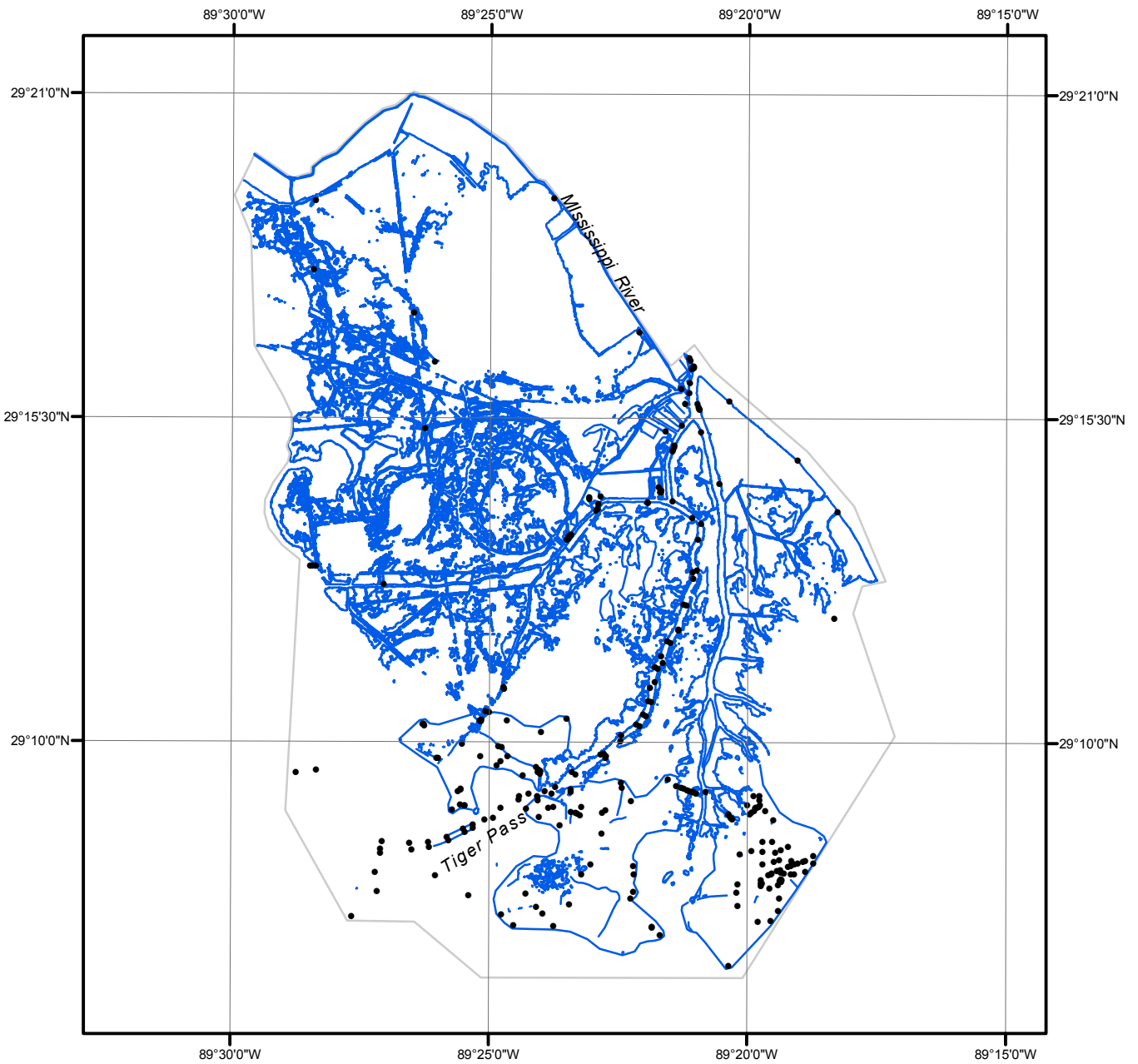- Digital copy of the PCR in Adobe PDF format
- CEF in shapefile format

NOAA Shoreline Data Explorer
- GC10819 in shapefile format
- Metadata file for GC10819
- Digital copy of the PCR in Adobe PDF format

End of Report

GULF COAST, SANDY POINT BAY TO WEST BAY

LOUISIANA

89°30'0"W | 89°25'0"W | 89°20'0"W | 89°15'0"W

29°21'0"N

29°15'30"N

29°10'0"N

Mississippi River

Tiger Pass

Overview

LA

LA0703E

GC10819