

NOAA COASTAL MAPPING PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT LA1501A-CM-N

Timbalier Island to Belle Pass, Louisiana

Introduction

NOAA Coastal Mapping Program (CMP) Project LA1501A-CM-N provides accurate digital shoreline data for a portion of Timbalier Bay from Timbalier Island to Belle Pass, in Louisiana. Project LA1501A-CM-N is a subproject of a larger acquisition project, LA1501-CM-N, designed to provide full imagery coverage of Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays. The Geographic Cell (GC) may be used in support of the NOAA Nautical Charting Program (NCP) as well as geographic information systems (GIS) for a variety of coastal zone management applications.

Project Design

Photographic mission instructions for LA1501-CM-N were formulated by the Requirements Branch (RB) of the Remote Sensing Division (RSD) following the guidelines of RSD's Photo Mission Standard Operating Procedures. The instructions discussed the project's purpose, geographic area of coverage, scope and priority, image requirements, Global Positioning System (GPS) data collection procedures and guidelines, instructions for data recording and handling, and mission communication protocols. RB created a Project Layout Diagram, flight maps and input files for the aircraft flight management system.

Field Operations

Field operations for LA1501-CM-N consisted of the collection of static and kinematic GPS data and Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) data, and the acquisition of digital aerial imagery. Aerial survey operations were conducted December 2015 through April 2016 with the NOAA King Air aircraft (N68RF), and consisted of the acquisition of 35 flight lines of natural color and near-infrared (NIR) imagery acquired using an Applanix DSS dual camera system. All imagery was acquired at a nominal altitude of 10,500 feet, resulting in an approximate ground sample distance (GSD) of 0.32 meters. Imagery was not acquired in strict coordination with local tides, though the goal was to collect all imagery below the Mean High Water (MHW) tide stage. For sub-project LA1501A-CM-N only color imagery from 15 flight lines (208 images) were used.

Direct Georeferencing Data Processing

The GPS/IMU data were processed by RSD personnel to yield precise camera positions and orientations for direct geo-referencing (DG) of the imagery. A local GPS base station was established for use as a reference station for kinematic GPS processing operations. The position of the base station was determined using the NGS Online Processing User Service (OPUS), which computed fixed baseline solutions from nearby CORS stations. Airborne kinematic data was processed using Applanix POSPac software on January 5, 2016 (ver. 7.1). For further information refer to the Airborne Positioning and Orientation Reports (APOR) on file with other project data within the RSD Electronic Data Library.

The processed GPS/IMU data were used to derive precise exterior orientation (EO) values of the camera centers required for digital feature extraction. The predicted horizontal accuracy of the imagery was determined by propagating sensor EO and image measurement uncertainties through the photogrammetric collinearity equations using the Exterior Orientation Total Propagated Uncertainty (EO-TPU) tool developed by NGS. Using this tool, the predicted horizontal uncertainty at the 95% confidence level for all project imagery was calculated to be 0.95 meters. Four NGS third-order geodetic control points were used to verify the horizontal integrity of the directly georeferenced data. All stereo models were examined and found to have acceptable levels of parallax for mapping purposes.

Compilation

The data compilation phase of this project was accomplished by RSD Applications Branch (AB) personnel in March 2017. Digital mapping was performed using the Feature Extraction software module within SOCET SET (ver. 5.6). Feature identification and attribution within the GC were based on image analysis of the aerial imagery and information extracted from the largest scale NOAA nautical charts and other ancillary sources. 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 full range of cartographic features pertinent to the CMP. Selected features were further modified with additional descriptive information to refine general classification.

Spatial data accuracies for project LA1501A-CM-N were determined according to standard Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) practices. Cartographic features were compiled to meet a horizontal accuracy of 1.9 meters at the 95% confidence level. This predicted accuracy of compiled well-defined points is derived by doubling the horizontal uncertainty calculated from the EO-TPU tool.

The following table provides information on the imagery used to complete this project:

Date	Time (UTC)	Roll	Strip / Images	Tide Level*
12/08/2015	15:37 – 15:38	15VC26	53-013 / 04547 – 04553	0.2 m
12/08/2015	15:59 – 16:01	15VC26	53-014 / 04629 – 04641	0.2 m
12/08/2015	16:21 – 16:24	15VC26	53-015 / 04721 – 04737	0.2 m
12/08/2015	16:28 – 16:30	15VC26	53-018 / 04738 – 04750	0.2 m
12/08/2015	16:48 – 16:50	15VC26	53-016 / 04839 – 04857	0.2 m
12/08/2015	16:56 – 16:57	15VC26	53-019 / 04858 – 04868	0.2 m
12/08/2015	17:18 – 17:20	15VC26	53-017 / 04968 – 04984	0.2 m
12/08/2015	17:24 – 17:26	15VC26	53-020 / 04985 – 04995	0.2 m
12/08/2015	17:45 – 17:46	15VC26	53-023 / 05099 – 05107	0.2 m
12/08/2015	17:51 – 17:52	15VC26	53-021 / 05108 – 05117	0.2 m
12/08/2015	18:11 – 18:12	15VC26	53-022 / 05211 – 05222	0.2 m

12/08/2015	18:17 – 18:21	15VC26	53-031 / 05223 – 05252	0.2 m
04/07/2016	16:16 – 16:19	16VC36	53-032 / 08744 – 08762	0.3 m
04/07/2016	17:05 – 17:06	16VC36	53-025 / 08901 – 08910	0.3 m
04/07/2016	17:12 – 17:13	16VC36	53-024 / 08911 – 08920	0.3 m

* Tide levels are given in meters above MLLW and were calculated using the Pydro software tool with a TCARI grid referenced to verified water level observations at the time of photography from various NOS gauges in the vicinity of the project. The elevation of the MHW tidal datum in the project area varies between 0.38 – 0.39 meters above MLLW.

Quality Control / Final Review

Quality control tasks were conducted during all phases of project completion by a senior member of RSD. The final QC review was completed in March 2017. The review process included analysis of the DG 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 10.4 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:

- 11346, Port Fourchon and Approaches, 1:40,000 (w/1:20,000 inset), 5th Ed., Feb. 2016
- 11357, Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays, 1:80,000, 43rd Ed., May 2014

End Products and Deliverables

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

Remote Sensing Division Electronic Data Library

- Project database
- Airborne Positioning and Orientation Report (APOR)
- GC11283 in shapefile format
- Project Completion Report (PCR)
- CEF in shapefile format

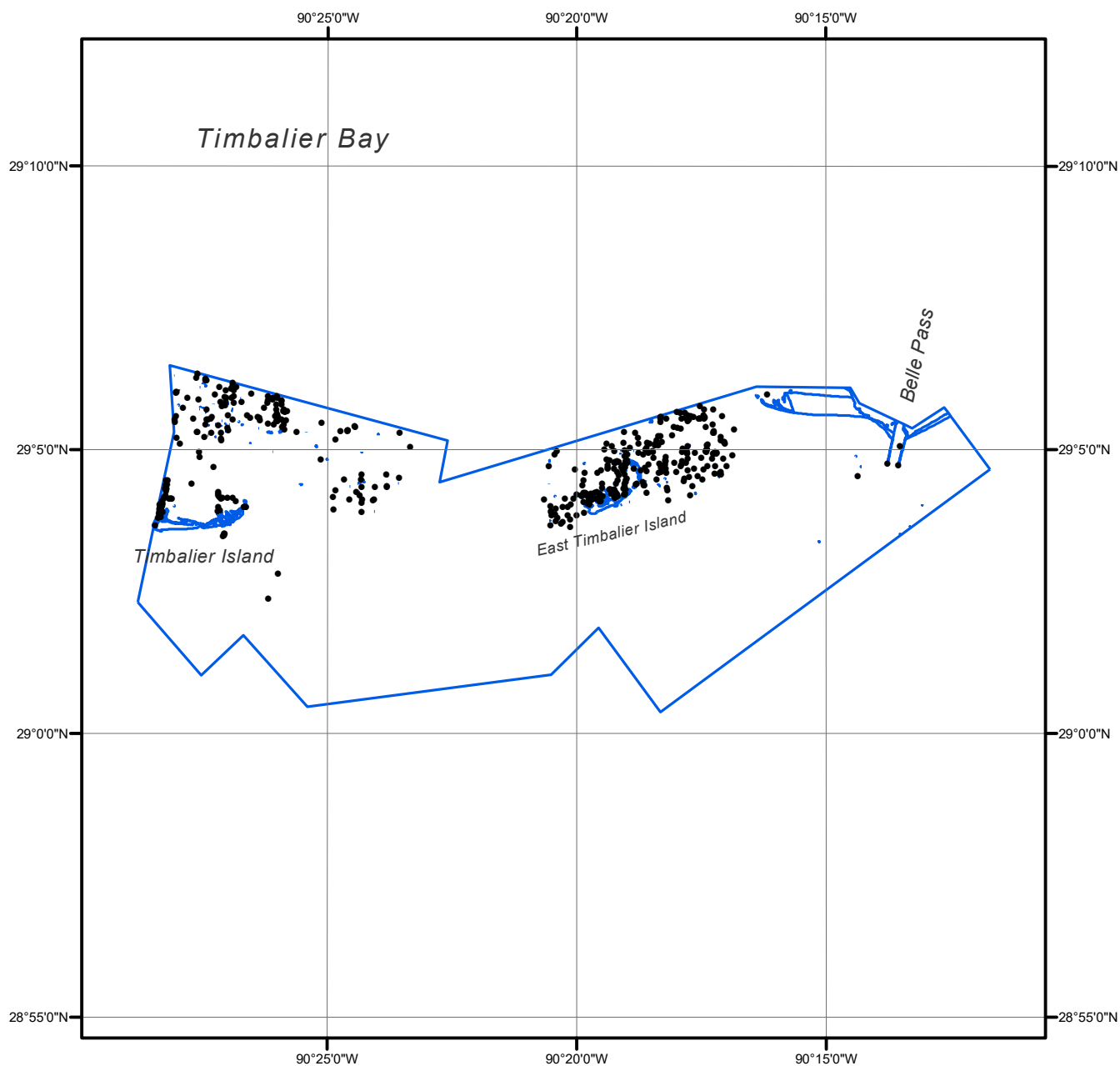
NOAA Shoreline Data Explorer

- GC11283 in shapefile format
- Metadata file for GC11283
- Digital copy of the PCR in Adobe PDF format

End of Report

TIMBALIER ISLAND TO BELLE PASS

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Overview



LA1501A-CM-N

GC11283