

NOAA COASTAL MAPPING PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT NC1407A-TB-C

Back Bays, Winyah Bay to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Introduction

NOAA Coastal Mapping Program (CMP) Project NC1407A-TB-C provides a highly accurate database of new digital shoreline data for the back-bay side of the barrier islands along the coast, extending from Winyah Bay to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Project NC1407A-TB-C is a subproject of a larger project, NC1407-TB-C, which includes portions of the back-bays and marshes, and some areas of outer coastline and harbors, from Winyah Bay, South Carolina to Avon, North Carolina. 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

NC1407A-TB-C was designed to support the application of topographic and bathymetric (topo-bathy) data acquired under the Sandy Supplemental Topo-Bathy Project. The NOAA National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Remote Sensing Division (RSD) formulated the Project Instructions for this project following the guidelines of the “Scope of Work, Shoreline Mapping for the Coastal Mapping Program” (SOW), Version 14A, dated October 24, 2012, as well as the guidelines of the “Scope of Work for Shoreline Mapping In Support of Public Law No: 113-002, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act 2013, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Digital Camera Imagery Requirements.” The instructions discussed the project’s purpose, geographic area of coverage, scope and priority; data acquisition, processing, accuracy, and compilation requirements; product delivery and reporting instructions; and contact and communication information.

Field Operations

All of the field operations for NC1407A-TB-C were conducted as part of the Sandy Supplemental Topo-Bathy Project NC1408-TB-C in which Quantum Spatial Inc. (QSI) was a subcontractor to Dewberry Consultants, LLC. For that project QSI was responsible for the planning, acquisition and post-processing of aerial imagery and LIDAR data to support photogrammetric processing and feature compilation. This included the establishment of ground control, the post-processing of airborne Global Positioning System (GPS) data and calibration of the LIDAR data.

A total of 5 ground control points (GCPs) were established in project NC1407A-TB-C using a combination of static, fast-static, rapid-static, real-time kinematic and post-processed kinematic GPS techniques. One additional photo-identifiable check point was also occupied at a well-defined, discrete location. Survey field work was performed from September 2013 to July 2014. A Ground Survey Report is on file with other project data within the RSD Electronic Data Library.

The aerial photography acquisition phase of the project was conducted by QSI between January 2013 and April 2014. A total of 81 flight lines of natural color (NC) imagery were acquired within a tolerance of 25% of the Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) tide stage. Of the 81 flight lines acquired, 5 were used in project NC1407A-TB-C. Imagery was captured with an approximate nominal ground sample distance (GSD) of 0.3 meters through the use of three large format Intergraph Z/I Digital Mapping Cameras (DMC) with a focal length of 120 mm.

The LIDAR acquisition was conducted between November 2013 and July 2014 and consisted of a total of 262 LIDAR acquisition missions for airborne laser point cloud data covering the entire Sandy project area with an average point density of ≥ 4 pulses per square meter and a 50% swath overlap, though only a subset of these flights collected data over the NC1407A-TB-C project area. Topo-bathy Green LIDAR and topographic Near-Infrared (NIR) LIDAR were captured in tandem through the use of 3 Riegl VQ-820G sensors (topo-bathy), and a Riegl 480 or 2 Leica ALS50-II (topographic) sensors. The topo-bathy data was used to derive the Mean High Water (MHW) and MLLW shorelines, while the NIR data was used as an aid to developing the water surface model necessary for applying refraction corrections to the topo-bathy data.

The flight lines on the ocean side were required to be collected twice, once within 20% of the mean range of tide around MLLW, and once within 30% of the mean range of tide around MHW, but the flight lines on the estuarine side of the shoreline had no tide-coordination requirement. The contractor's plan for the project, however, called for all lines to be collected at both MLLW and Higher Water (HW – defined as everything not collected at MLLW) tide levels, with near-shore lines flown at a height of 600 meters above ground level (AGL) and lines over ocean waters at 300 meters AGL. For further information about all field operations see the Final Report of Survey on file within the RSD Electronic Data Library.

GPS Data Processing

Each acquisition aircraft used by QSI was equipped with either a POSAV Applanix Model 510 IMU or a dual frequency Trimble BD960 to collect the airborne GPS and Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) data. NGS Continuously Operated Reference Stations (CORS) and several cooperative CORS stations were used for base stations on the project, with at least two of these CORS stations being used to process each POSAV dataset to achieve the final image center locations. For further information refer to the Airborne Positioning and Orientation Report (APOR) on file with other project data within RSD Electronic Data Library.

LIDAR Data Processing

LIDAR point cloud data for all of the areas acquired for the Sandy Supplemental Topo-Bathy Project were processed from January 2014 to September 2015. Riegl RiProcess software was utilized to transform the LIDAR point cloud into a mapping projection and to check the calibration stability. Terrasolid software was used for assessing relative and absolute accuracies between overlapping lifts and relative with each lift, initial point cloud classification, editing of the LIDAR point cloud, and for classification of water surface, erroneous returns, bathymetric surface, and bare earth points. Refraction correction was performed through Dewberry's LIDAR Processor. Additional quality control (QC), point classification, and formatting were performed with GeoCue, Terrasolid, and Global Mapper software. NOAA VDatum software was used to convert the vertical datum of the LIDAR points from NAD83 ellipsoid to local MHW and MLLW tidal datums. QTMModeler and custom ArcGIS Scripts were used to produce bare earth

MHW and MLLW digital elevation models (DEMs) at a 1 meter grid resolution and to create and format the MHW and MLLW vectors into shapefile format.

The LIDAR point cloud was compared to higher accuracy ground control points to determine vertical uncertainties of the data set and then compared to the morphologic slope around the derived shoreline at 91,460 sample sites in the NC1408-TB-C project area (63,748 points for MHW and 27,712 points for MLLW sites) to determine the uncertainty of the vectors. Based on this assessment the MHW LIDAR derived shoreline vectors meet a horizontal accuracy ranging from 1.1 to 2.8 meters at the 95% confidence level and MLLW LIDAR derived shoreline vectors meet a horizontal accuracy ranging from 1.3 to 4.2 meters at the 95% confidence level.

Aerotriangulation

The aerotriangulation (AT) phase of the project was performed by QSI using digital AT methods to establish the network of photogrammetric control required for the compilation phase. The NC images from all 81 flight lines were adjusted in three separate blocks. Project NC1407A-TB-C was covered entirely by block one containing flightlines 300 to 304. The Intergraph ImageStation Automatic Triangulation (ISAT) software (ver. 6.1) was used to perform automatic point measurements and interactive point measurements of tie points. Upon successful completion of the aerotriangulation process, the ISAT software provided the RMS of the standard deviations of the residuals for each aerotriangulated ground point which were used to compute a predicted horizontal circular error of 0.2 meters based on a 95% confidence level for block one. For further information see the Aerotriangulation Report on file with other project data within the RSD Electronic Data Library.

The project database consists of project parameters and options, camera calibration data, interior orientation parameters, ground control parameters, adjusted exterior orientation parameters, and positional listing of all measured points. Positional data is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

Compilation

The data compilation phase of project NC1407A-TB-C was initiated by QSI personnel in April 2016. NGS supplied the LIDAR derived MHW and MLLW shapefiles to be edited, attributed and generalized by QSI. Additional features were then manually compiled using stereo imagery. This work was accomplished using a Digital Photogrammetric Workstation (DPW), which consists of a stereo-enabled PC-based graphics workstation running the Windows 2007 operating system and a suite of digital photogrammetric software known as DAT/EM Summit Evolution (ver. 7.0). Feature identification, segmentation, and attribution occurred within an ArcMap (ver. 10.2) geodatabase using DAT/EM's stereo module, and were based on imagery analysis of the processed digital images and information extracted from the appropriate NOAA Nautical Charts, the U.S. Coast Guard Light List 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 NC1407A-TB-C were determined according to standard Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) practices. Stereo compiled cartographic features were compiled to meet a horizontal accuracy of 0.4 meters at the 95% confidence level. This

predicted accuracy of compiled, well defined points is derived by doubling the circular error calculated from the aerotriangulation statistics. The LIDAR derived features had horizontal accuracies that varied depending on location and shoreline type, from 1.6 meters to 3.0 meters.

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

Date	Time (UTC)	Strip ID	AT Frame #s	Index Frame ID	Tide Level*
02/14/2014	17:26 – 17:37	30-303	0049 – 0001	0910 – 0958	0.5 m
02/14/2014	17:40 – 17:43	30-300	0017 – 0001	0959 – 0975	0.4 m
02/14/2014	17:49 – 17:52	30-302	0015 – 0031	0990 – 1006	0.4 m
02/14/2014	17:56 – 18:02	30-001	0028 – 0002	1007 – 1033	0.3 m
02/14/2014	18:08 – 18:16	30-304	0001 – 0052	1035 – 1086	0.2 m

* Tide levels given in meters above MLLW and are based on verified observations recorded by the NOS tide gauge at Oyster Landing station in South Carolina. The height of the MHW tidal datum in the project area varies between 1.1 and 1.6 meters above MLLW.

Quality Control / Final Review

Quality control tasks were conducted during all phases of project completion by a senior member of QSI. The final QC review was completed in May 2016. The review process included analysis of AT 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 (ver. 10.7.1) software. All project data was evaluated for compliance to CMP requirements.

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

- 11532, Winyah Bay, SC, 22nd Ed., Oct. 2012
- 11534, Myrtle Grove Sound & Cape Fear River to Casino Creek, 39th Ed., Nov. 2015
- 11535, Little River Inlet to Winyah Bay Entrance, NC/SC, 13th Ed., Feb. 2012

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

- Airborne Positioning and Orientation Report (APOR)
- Ground Survey Report
- Final Report of Survey
- Aerotriangulation Report
- Project Completion Report (PCR)
- Project database
- GC11209 in shapefile format
- CEF in shapefile format

NOAA Shoreline Data Explorer

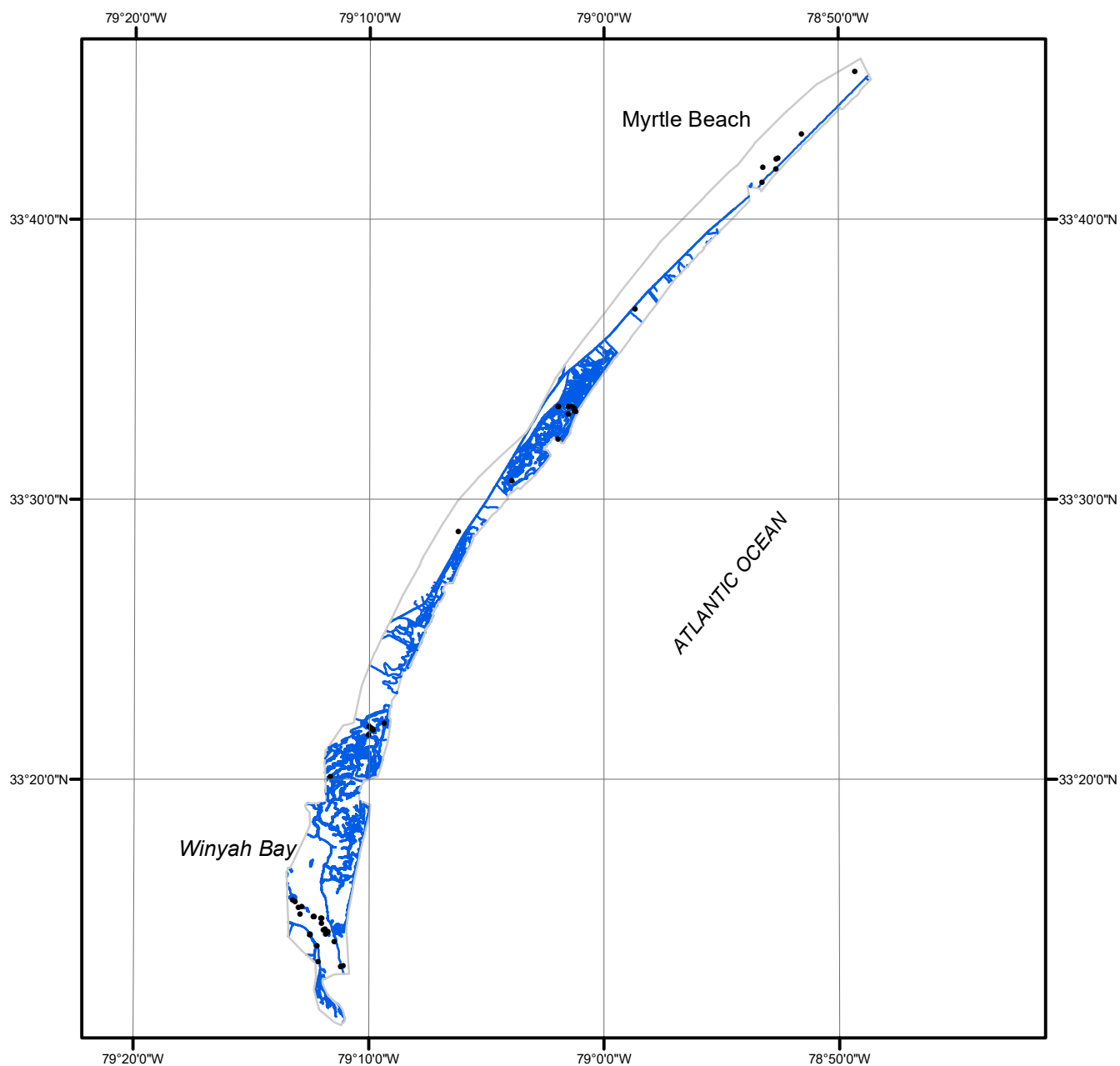
- GC11209 in shapefile format

- Metadata file for GC11209
- PCR in Adobe (PDF) format

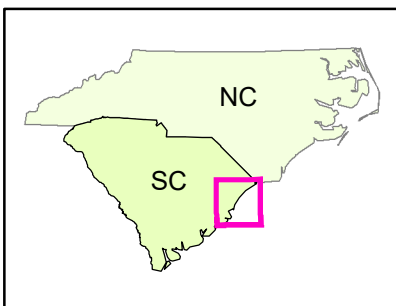
End of Report

BACK BAYS, WINYAH BAY TO MYRTLE BEACH

SOUTH CAROLINA



Overview



NC1407A-TB-C

GC11209