Initiatives in Using Crowdsourcing, Satellite Derived Bathymetry, and Other Non-Traditional Hydrographic/Bathymetric Measurements in the Assessment and Improvement of NOAA Nautical Charts



NOAA

GEBCO Science Day – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – 5 October 2015 LT Anthony Klemm, NOAA – Office of Coast Survey – Marine Chart Division

### Agenda

- Chart Adequacy Evaluation Procedure
- 1<sup>st</sup> NOAA/GEBCO International Chart Adequacy Workshop
- Satellite Derived Bathymetry Applications
- Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiatives



Courtesy: Hydrographische Nachrichten June 2013 (www.dhyg.de)

### Background

We are responsible to survey and map a dynamic environment

 The nautical chart is vital to world economic and environmental health

We create world-class products

AND... We want to improve our products















# "Why would we ever print d char we know is wrong?" -CAPT Shep Smith Former Chief, NOAA Marine Chart Division



# Chart Adequacy Procedure







# Vessel Traffic Layer – AIS Processing



# **Hydrographic Characteristics Layer**



Most recent hydrographic survey outlines

HC Layer - classified based on survey date, technology, and bottom coverage



# **Bathymetric Difference Layer**





# **Charted Depth (Reference Depth)**



**Reference Surface** 





#### **Reference Surface (1** - $\infty$ )





# **Chart Adequacy Final Product**



Chart Adequacy Stretched Visualization

#### 0.5 Chart Adequacy Threshold





1<sup>st</sup> NOAA/GEBCO Chart Adequacy Workshop – Silver Spring, MD – July 2015







# 1<sup>st</sup> NOAA/GEBCO Chart Adequacy Workshop – Silver Spring, MD – July 2015





# 1<sup>st</sup> NOAA/GEBCO Chart Adequacy Workshop – Silver Spring, MD – July 2015 Next Workshop used for the Scheduled for July 2016 tudy sites Mombasa, Kenya



### **NOAA's vision to use Satellite Derived Bathymetry**

### Reconnaissance value

- Assess chart adequacy
- Locate possible bathymetric discrepancies
- Selective application to the chart
  - Interim update until traditional survey techniques can be deployed to systematically survey the area
  - Updates are depicted as approximate, with corresponding caveats and notes on the chart



# SDB as Reconnaissance







## SDB as Reconnaissance













#### Mean Difference of USACE Survey Reference Data and GeoEye SDB Solution, with Standard Deviation - in Feet







## **Crowdsourcing Efforts**

- ActiveCaptain Navigation Hazards

   Crowdsourced navigation hazard data
- Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB)

   IHO's Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry
   Software based solution concept study



# ActiveCaptain – Crowdsourced Hazards from social media

#### Shoaling

#### Details Comments

marker 116

#### Watch depth at R116

Date: 2013-05-23 Captain: Christelle, Trenton ON (514)

We ran hard aground between 116a and 116 Charts said 12' but there was just over 1' at high tide!! Beware, please. A boat behind us had to get towed off we managed to rock ourselves off. If you follow the magenta line it will take you right across the shallow spot and you will touch. We draw 3.5 feet.

#### Shoaling here

Date: 2011-03-01 Captain: Norman Mason+, Norfolk, VA (434)

I nearly ran aground between R 120 and G 123. I was definitely where the markers and my chartplotter showed I should be. I turned toward R 120, and actually went beyond it to find deep water. The key here is to look for the still water. Remember, "still waters run deep". It very obviously applied here.

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Very Shallow!

#### Office of Coast Survey

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NOAA R/V Bay Hydro II Crowdsourced Bathymetry Concept Study

> Coastal Explorer Electronic Charting System CSB extracted from ECS Data Logs

# NMEA Data log file is automatically created for developer troubleshooting within Rose Point Coastal Explorer ECS software

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#### Office

GGA (Time and Position from GPS) and DPT (Depth of water from bridge fathometer) were parsed out and imported into ArcGIS as a point feature class



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## Six days of data = ~70,000 soundings



![](_page_35_Picture_3.jpeg)

Derivative Surface is compared to a reference surface created from Survey Scale (aka fair sheet) Soundings extracted from NOAA's NGDC/NCEI/Coast Survey Bathy Point Store

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

Derivative Surface is compared to a reference surface created from Survey Scale (aka fair sheet) Soundings extracted from NOAA's NGDC/NCEI/Coast Survey Bathy Point Store

Ta	ble	
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Reclass_diff_25_AUG		
	Description	Count
	CSB deeper than 1 meter of Reference Surface	1633
	CSB +/- 1 meter of Reference Surface	104788
	CSB shoaler than 1 meter of Reference Surfac	e 717
<u> </u>		

# **98%** of grid nodes fall within 1 meter of the reference surface

![](_page_37_Picture_3.jpeg)

### **Conclusions and recommended next steps:**

 This is a promising potential method to extract Crowdsourced Bathymetry from a typical light-commercial or high-end recreational ECS setup

Next Steps:

- Automate parsing of GGA and DPT strings for input into GIS
- Evaluate solution with cursory tides and transducer offsets applied
- Establish contact with Rose Point Developers
  - Discuss possibility to adopt direct interface with Coastal Explorer and Rose Point ECS software to the IHO DCDB in NCEI – Boulder
- Use this case study to work with other chartplotter software and hardware developers to expand potential crowd contributors

![](_page_38_Picture_8.jpeg)

### Thank you & terima kasih!

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![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)