

## 6.0 **Tides and Water Levels.**

6.1 **General Requirements.** Tidal zoning shall be constructed and tidal data observed and recorded such that derived tidal corrections to the sounding data meet 0.5 meter accuracy standards. The survey area shall be sufficiently zoned and tide gauges strategically located to ensure tidal corrections meet accuracy requirements.

## 6.2 **Tidal Data Collection, Scope of Work.**

6.2.1 The primary NOAA tide Gauges. Also NOAA CO-OPS was responsible for posting preliminary unverified tidal data on the CO-OPS web site, tidal data processing and verification, posting of verified data to the web site and tidal zoning.

## 6.3 **Tide Gauges**

NOAA-maintained automatic tide gauges are at the following locations:

Honolulu Harbor, Oahu  
Mokuoloe, Oahu (northern Kaneohe Bay)  
Nawilili, Kauai  
Kawaihae, Hawaii

6.2.3 **Additional Gauges.** NAVOCEANO installed backup gauges on Oahu at the Barbers Pt. Harbor and the Waianae small craft harbor. On Kauai NAVOCEANO installed a tide gauge at a small craft harbor just south of PMRF between Kekaha and Waimea. NOAA gauges supporting the zoning were located on the windward side of the islands, well away from much of the survey area. The NAVOCEANO installed gauges were installed as a backup to the NOAA gauges. Furthermore, the data from the NAVOCEANO installed gauges were used to confirm the NOAA tide-zoning scheme.

## 6.4 **Preliminary Tidal Zoning.**

6.4.1 Tide zones were developed by NOAA CO-OPS based on historical data from the above mentioned gauges.

## 6.5 **Tide Zone Accuracy**

6.5.1 Results of comparing zone HAW213 (Oahu west coast from Barbers Pt. harbor to Kepuhi Pt. and including Waianae) referenced to NOAA's Honolulu gauge and the installed Waianae gauge are as follows:

Maximum difference:	0.35 meters
Mean difference:	0.15 meters
Standard Deviation:	0.179 meters

## 6.6 Final Tidal Zoning.

6.6.1 Tidal No adjustment was made to the NOAA CO-OPS zone scheme. Tidal time series from the NAVOCEANO gauges and tidal time series for the appropriate NOAA tide zone agreed very well. No adjustment to the NOAA zones was necessary.

## 6.7 Application of Tides.

6.7.1 The NAVOCEANO processing system does not utilize “tide correctors”, per se. The NOAA CO-OPS zoning scheme partitioned the survey areas into zones referenced to a reference tide gauge. For each zone there is a phase and amplitude correction, also referenced to the reference tide gauge. NAVOCEANO’s processing system handles tide correction by creating a tide file for each zone by applying zonal corrections to the reference gauge tides. The processing software identifies in which zone a sounding falls and applies that zone’s tide to the sounding. Tide correctors are applied during post processing, just prior to data editing and validation.

**8.2.7 Tide corrections.** (f), (g) Tide correction errors consist of the actual observation errors at the tide gauge and any errors resulting from a tidal zoning schema or cotidal analysis. Observation errors from the NOAA tide gauges are known to be very low. The estimated error for observed tides is 0.025 meters (1 SIGMA). A similarly small margin of error for co-tidal corrections (0.35 meters) was calculated from comparison of a gauge installed on the leeward sides of Oahu and Kauai and the zone corrected reference tide station data. The standard deviation between the observed tide at these locations and the tide derived from the zoning was 0.179 meters. A similarly small margin of error for co-tidal corrections is based on the range and extent of the survey area in relation to the reference tidal stations and minimal shallow water effects due to the deep surrounding ocean water.

8.2.7.1 Incidentally, the three-day period when there was 0.35 meter difference between the observed tide and the NOAA COOPs cotidal zoned tide on the west coast of Oahu, no data was being collected in the area at this time. This error was strictly an observation and part of the tidal zone validation.

Tide correction problems were identified early in the survey. The problem was not with the tides themselves, but with application of the tide correctors. There were three primary problems. (1) Extraneous and unprintable (viewable) ASCII characters contaminated some tide corrector files such that the tide would not apply when APPLY\_TIDES was run, and no error message issued. These were identified early and resolved. (2) A data file time stamp problem was identified in the OPTEK airborne software. When the day changed over at midnight GMT a bit is supposed to be set in the \*.fl file. This didn't always happen. However, the time stamp was not reset to zero, just continued. As ping time is derived from the ping counter, the tide correctors were being applied from the wrong day. (3) Four data file format changes occurred of which NAVO was never informed. Three of these affected data time. Addition to these main three problems, a couple of errors were discovered in the tide zone polygon definition files. One polygon was not closed and another had an extraneous point that caused the polygon to cross several others. These errors were all corrected and tides re-applied at NAVOCEANO. Currently, there are no discrepancies in the tide corrections and all soundings are properly corrected.