



Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System

PORTS[®]



Internet: <http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/> (select PORTS)
Voice Data Response: 866-SB-PORTS

The **Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS[®])** is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS) partnership program designed to provide the maritime community with high quality, real-time oceanographic and meteorological data. PORTS[®] is a decision support tool which improves the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce, assists coastal resource management, and aids recreational boaters.

The precursor to today's San Francisco Bay PORTS[®] originated in 1995 to meet freshwater monitoring needs in the upper bay. Through a partnership to promote navigation safety with the San Francisco Marine Exchange and the United States Geological Survey, the coverage area was expanded to include the lower bay. In January 1998, an agreement was signed between the State of California, Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), and NOS in which OSPR assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the system. In turn, OSPR commissioned the San Francisco Marine Exchange to oversee local operation of the PORTS[®].



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NOAA's contributions to this partnership include the development of national PORTS[®] standards, technical support and oversight of the design, installation and operation of PORTS[®], and data quality control. In addition, NOAA continues to develop, test, and evaluate new sensors, data collection, and data telemetry systems that enhance real-time measurement capabilities.

This PORTS[®] includes five water level measurement systems each equipped with meteorological sensors, three bottom-mounted current profilers, and a stand-alone meteorological measurement system. Information is collected from each sensor every six minutes by a centralized data acquisition system located at the California Maritime Academy campus in Vallejo, California. NOAA's Continuous Operational Real-Time Monitoring System (CORMS), located in Silver Spring, Maryland, provides 24 hours/day, 7 days/week quality control of the data to ensure that only accurate, reliable information is disseminated. The real-time information is provided to users via local graphics displays, internet, and through a telephone voice data response system.

The San Francisco Bay PORTS[®] is an invaluable tool that supports a wide range of needs, including marine navigation, coastal resource protection, and recreational activities.

