

# The Role of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey in Ensuring Safe Navigation

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Presented to:

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel



# The National Geodetic Survey's Role Includes:

- 1) Providing Precise Positions
- 2) Providing Accurate Timely Height Information
- 3) Defining Our Changing Shoreline
- 4) Developing Emerging Technologies
- 5) Meeting Future Challenges

# Providing Precise Positions:

*It's the other things* that complicate safe navigation.



Chan Lowe, Tribune  
Media Services,  
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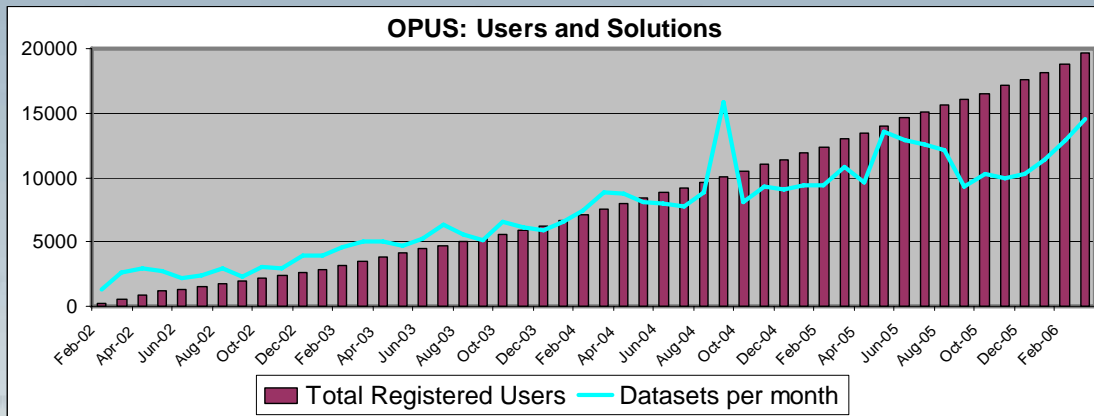
# Providing Precise Positions: CORS

- Critical component of land and ocean observing systems
- Accurate interface between land and ocean observing systems
- Also used to monitor atmospheric water vapor, improving weather prediction.



# Providing Precise Positions: Online Positioning User Service (OPUS)

- Users' GPS data processed relative to three CORS sites
- Uses NGS computers and software
- Precise positions e-mailed in minutes
- Use continues to grow.



# Providing Accurate Timely Height Information

Accurate heights are crucial for:

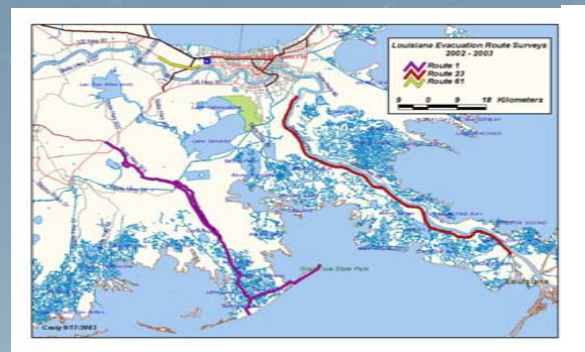
- safe clearance under bridges
- avoiding damage to ships and the environment.



# Providing Accurate Timely Height Information

## Accurate Heights Are Crucial For Coastal Areas

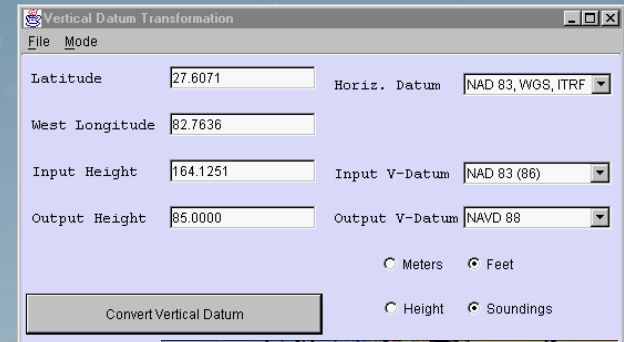
- Dam, levee safety
- Evacuation planning, prioritizing
- Hazard mitigation
- Flood-plain mapping
- Subsidence monitoring
- Determining high-water marks



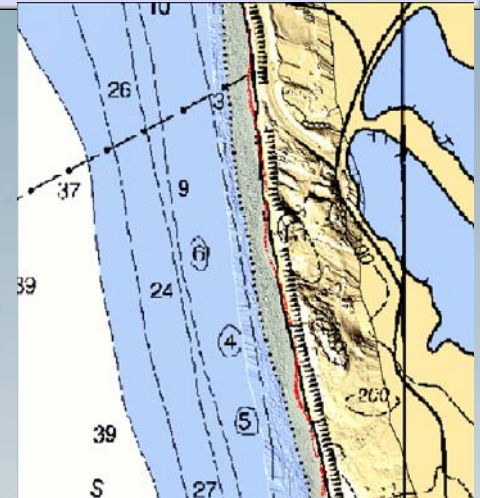
# Providing Accurate Timely Height Information

## VDatum Provides a Common Base of Reference

- Allows using disparate data in GIS, other applications
- Critical to evaluating levee design and performance
- Supports efficient hydrographic data collection
- GPS data can be converted to local tidal references
- Aids many coastal rebuilding efforts



The screenshot shows the 'Vertical Datum Transformation' software window. It features a menu bar with 'File' and 'Mode'. The main area contains several input fields and dropdown menus: 'Latitude' (27.6071), 'West Longitude' (82.7636), 'Input Height' (164.1251), and 'Output Height' (85.0000). There are also dropdown menus for 'Horiz. Datum' (NAD 83, WGS, ITRF), 'Input V-Datum' (NAD 83 (86)), and 'Output V-Datum' (NAVD 88). At the bottom right, there are radio buttons for 'Meters', 'Feet', 'Height', and 'Soundings'. A 'Convert Vertical Datum' button is located at the bottom left of the form area.





# Defining Our Changing Shoreline

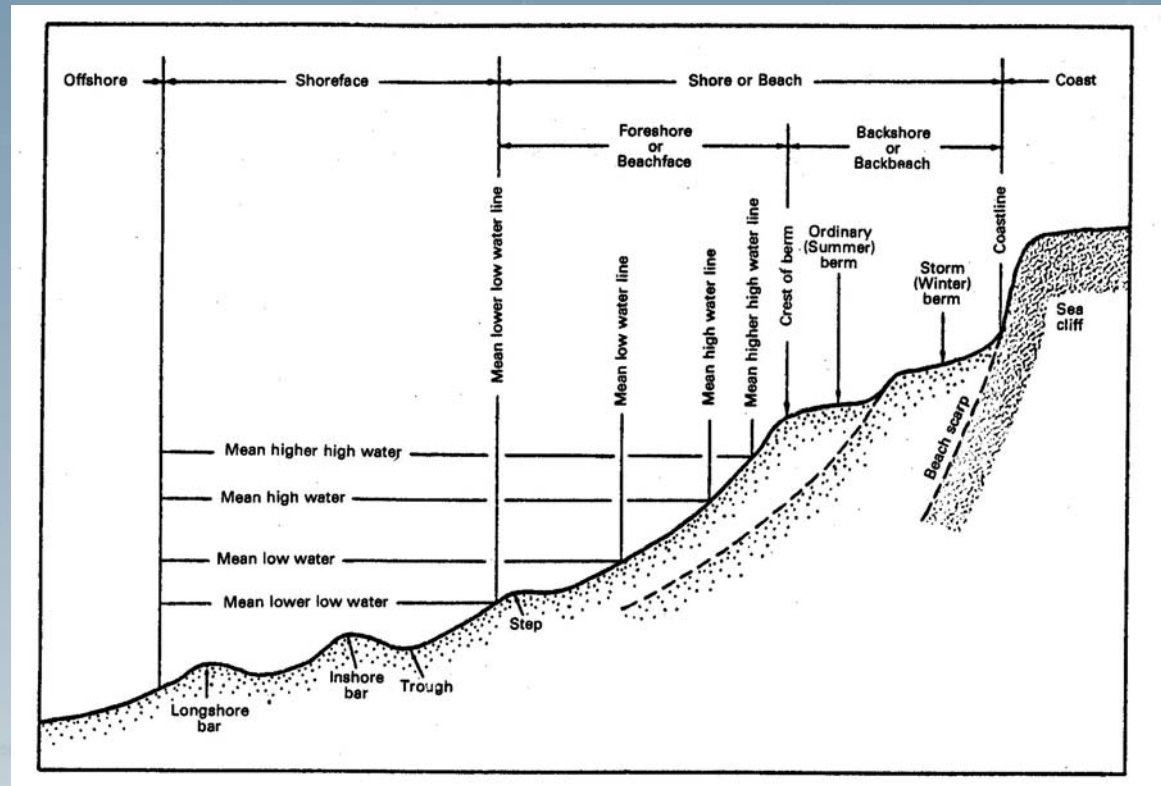
- Accurate, consistent, up-to-date shoreline is essential for charting, coastal management, and GIS uses
- Critical to accurately portraying the marine navigation environment
- Minor portion of NOAA hydrographic survey observations



# Defining Our Changing Shoreline

## Which Shoreline Do We Map?

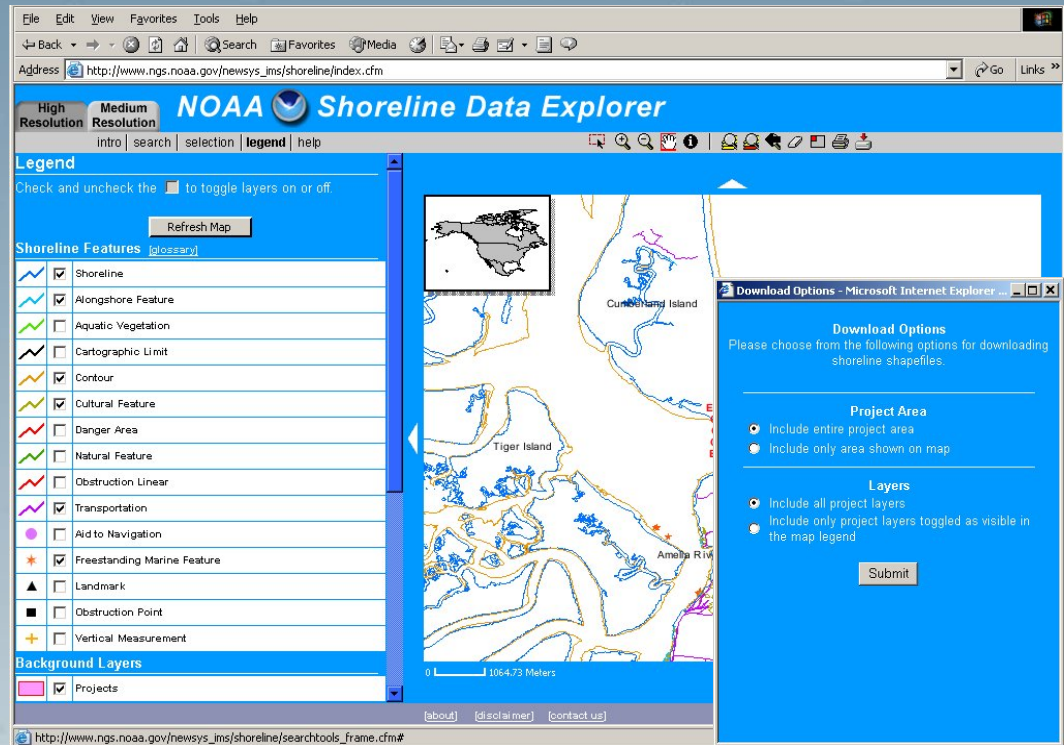
- Shoreline based on position of the land/water interface at various tide levels
- For nautical charting, shoreline in tidal areas represented by the Mean High Water Line



# Defining Our Changing Shoreline

## Shoreline Data Explorer

- Web-based access to vector shoreline
- Browse by area; project name, location, other attributes

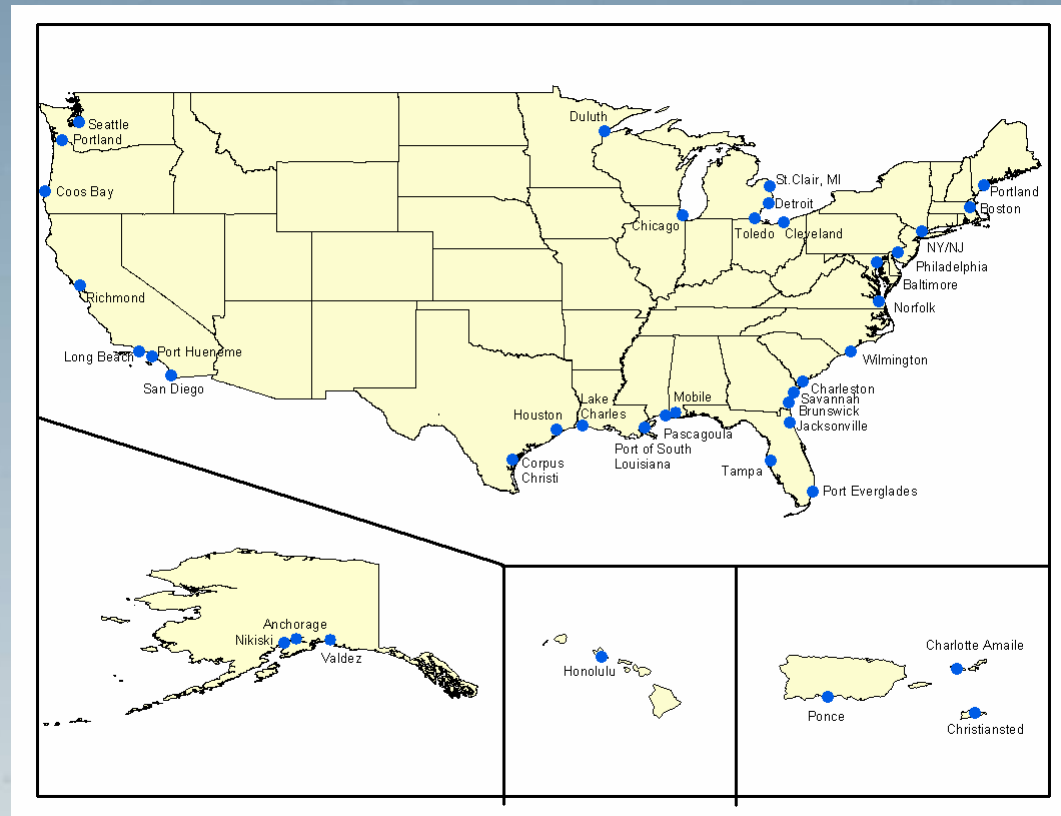


# Defining Our Changing Shoreline

## Top Priority Port Areas, Defined in Conjunction With Office of Coast Survey

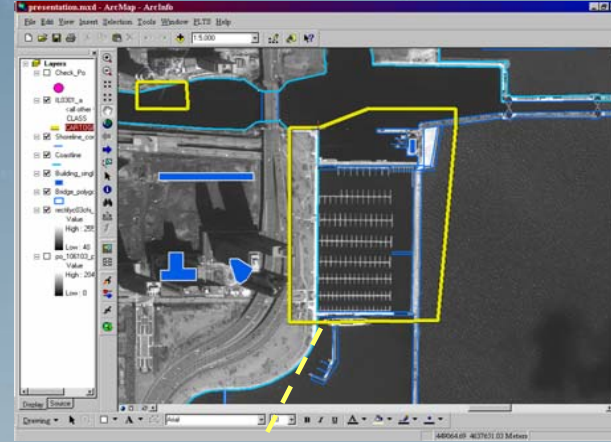
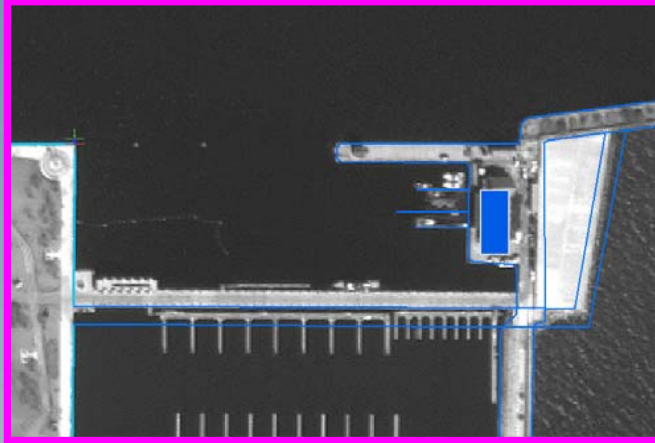
### Ranking Factors:

- Cargo tonnage
- Commercial fishing
- Military ports



# Defining Our Changing Shoreline

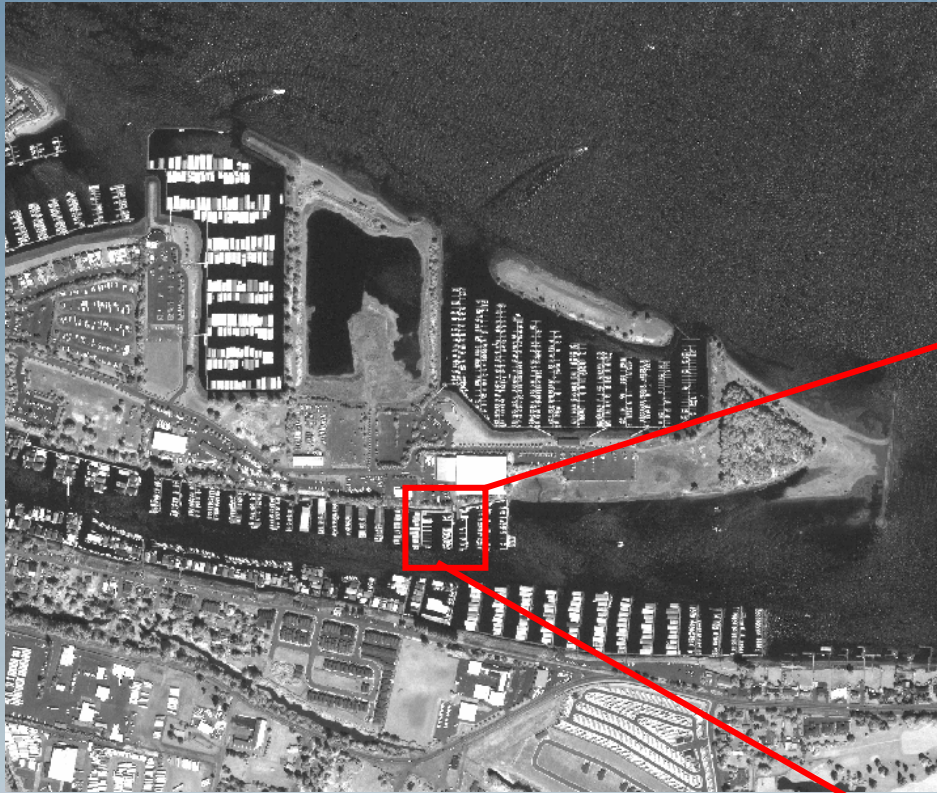
## Coast and Shoreline Change Analysis Program (CSCAP)



Selected Attributes of ILO301_CEF			
ATTRIBUTE	S57_CODE	CHG_NOTE	EM
▶ ALONGSHORE FEATURE Pier.Fixed	SLCONS catslc 4	marina piers are not shown in this area (they are shown elsewhere)	

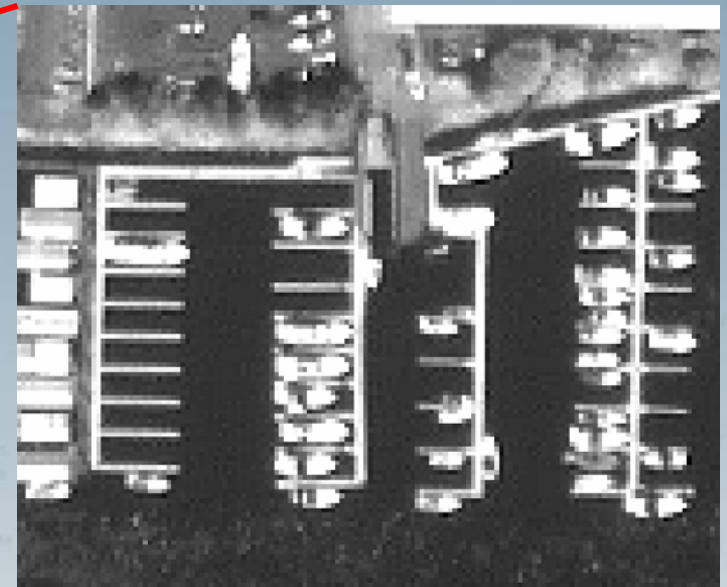
- Coastlines Change Continually
- Improves ability to update nautical charts
- Interim shoreline in areas of significant change

# Defining Our Changing Shoreline



Portland, OR,  
IKONOS Image

Image Source: Space Imaging



1 meter spatial resolution

# Developing Emerging Technologies Precise Heights On Vessels Transiting San Francisco Bay

GPS used to position a vessel's keel in real time to within 10 cm relative to the bottom of a channel, and measure the vessel's pitch, roll, settlement, and heading.



# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Precise Docking In All Weather Conditions

- High-accuracy docking charts will enable all-weather navigation, similar to aircraft Instrument Landing Systems
- Valuable where fog prohibits safe navigation and docking
- Real-time navigation to 10cm available in near future





# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Safe Clearance Underneath Bridges

- Vertical clearance determined using GPS
- Cooperation among Coast Guard, Port of Charleston, and South Carolina Dept. of Transportation

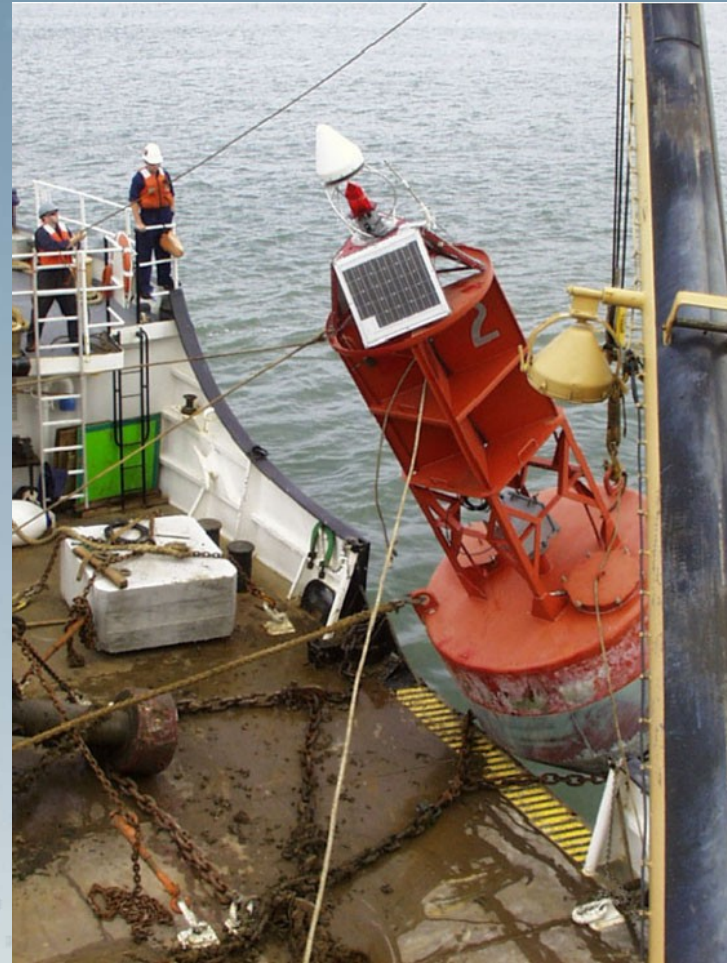


[www.cooperriverbridge.org](http://www.cooperriverbridge.org)

# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Real-time Water-level Data

- GPS receivers on buoys
- Real-time sea-state data at strategic locations in a harbor
- Includes wind-induced water-level changes



# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Shallow-Water Positioning System

- Precise positioning ( $\sim 10$  cm) of marine features, digitally recorded
- Accurate, reliable damage assessments from ship groundings, storms, significant events
- Results readily incorporated into GIS.
- Currently an optical system



# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Rapid Profiling Of Local Shoreline



Dune buggy equipped with GPS



# Developing Emerging Technologies

## Linking Technologies and Leveraging Resources

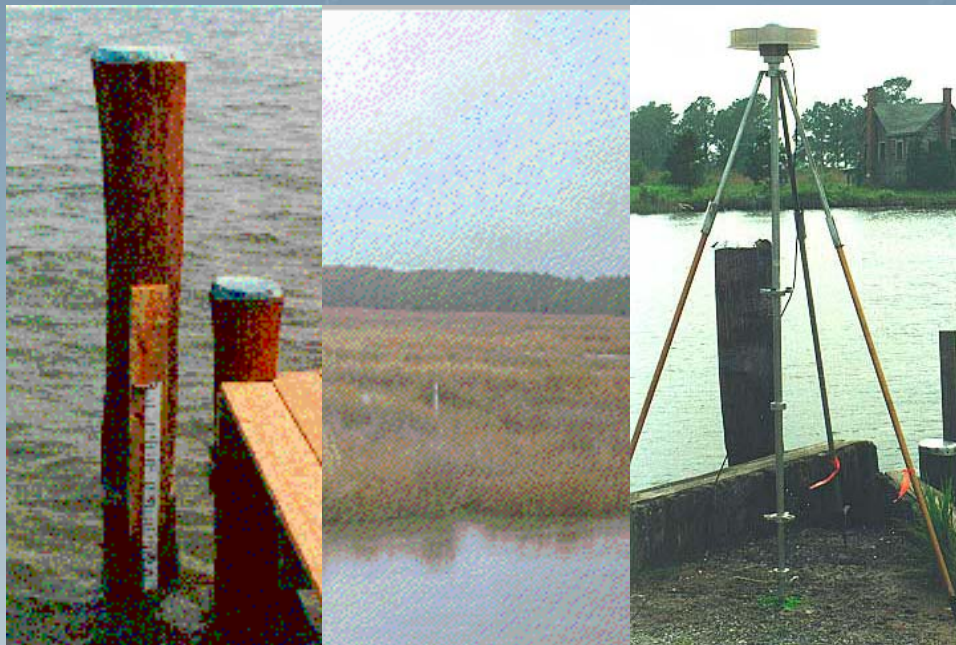
- CORS located with water-level station
- Supports subsidence measurements, sea-level trends, storm-surge monitoring, shoreline change, habitat monitoring
- CORS stations proximate to tide gages will increase
- Improved understanding of subsidence, sea-level changes



Monitoring station: Ocean Springs, MS

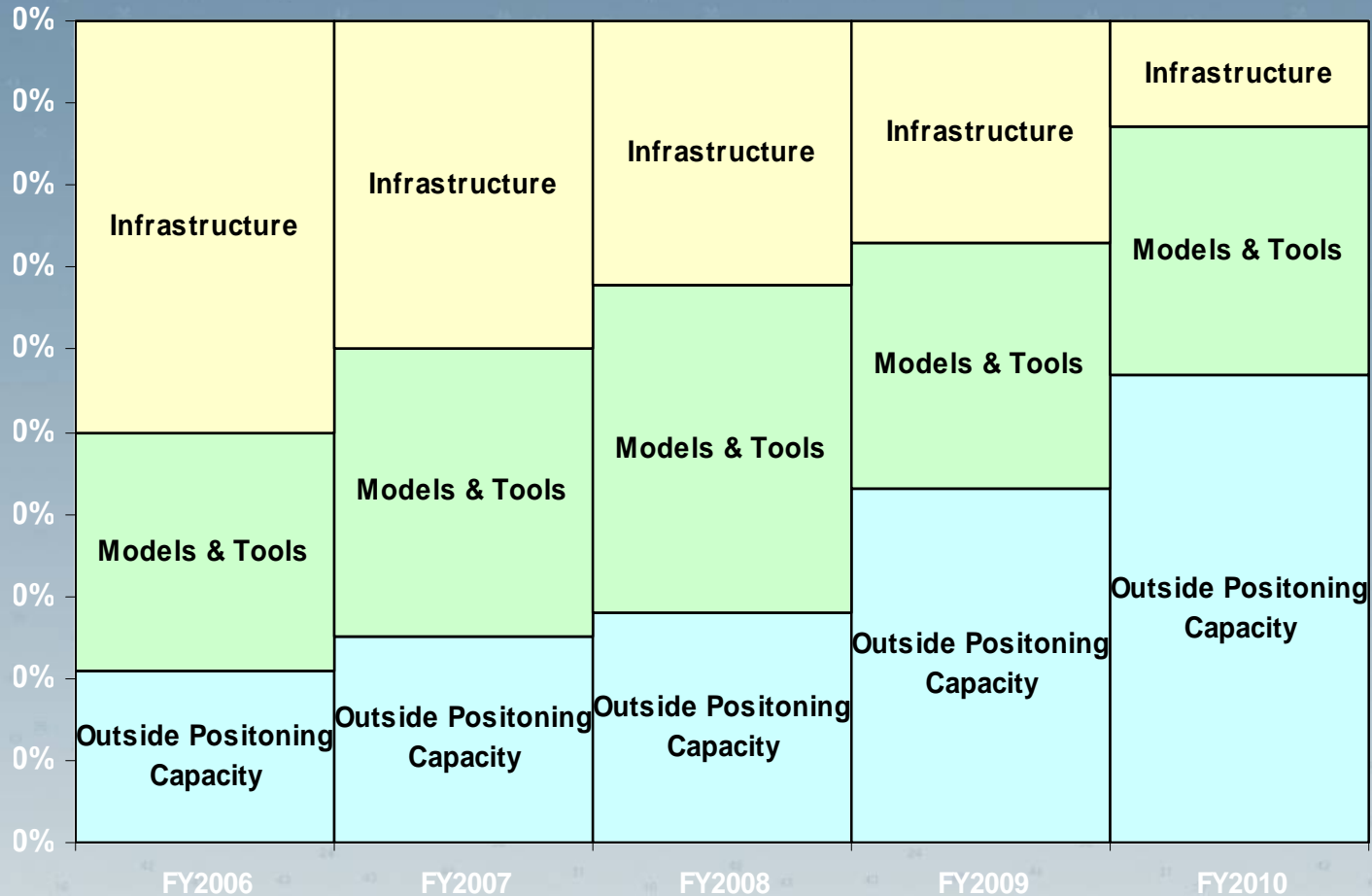
# Developing Emerging Technologies Monitoring Subsidence Along Chesapeake Bay

- Determine whether local sea-level increases are due to rising sea level or land subsidence
- Critical to success of wetland restoration, along with tidal information
- Interagency Cooperation



# Meeting Future Challenges

## Transitioning From “Doing” To “Training”



Percentage of Funds by Capability



# Meeting Future Challenges

## Partnership Opportunities

- Supporting the GIS community
- Coordinate information available in ShapeFile format - used in GIS, automated mapping systems
- How can coastal managers best utilize NGS products and services?





# Meeting Future Challenges

## What *Should* Be National Geodetic Survey's Role in Ensuring Safe Navigation?

- Real-time positioning
- All-weather navigation/docking
- Limited funding for new technologies



**End of Presentation.**

**Questions?**

(Slides following this one are for backup)

