



Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System

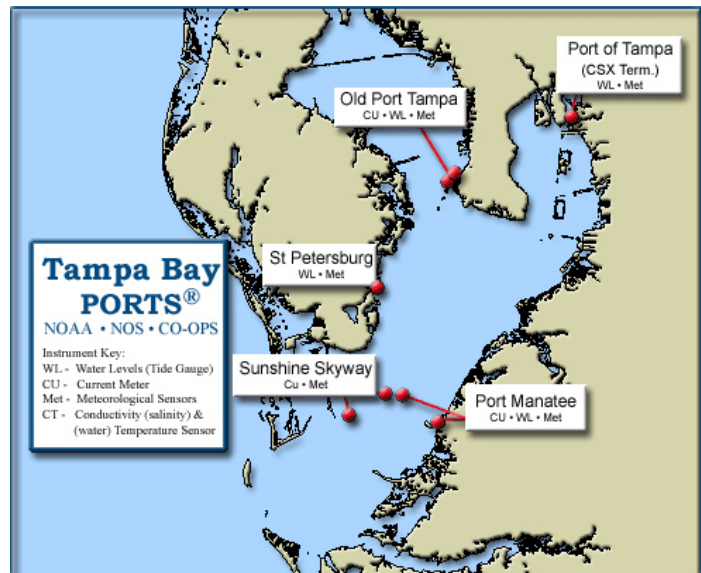
PORTS®



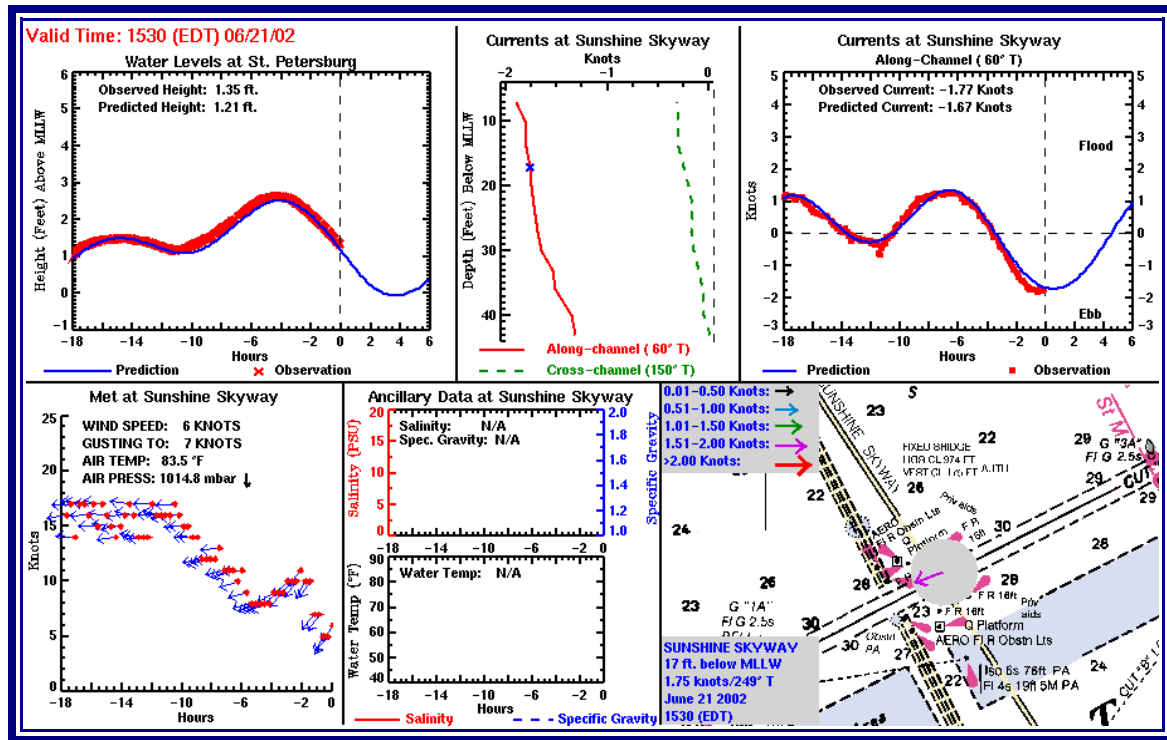
Internet: <http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov> (select PORTS)
Voice Data Response System: 866-TB-PORTS

The Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service 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. Real-time information from the Tampa Bay PORTS® System can be obtained via telephone or the internet by accessing the above website or voice data response system.

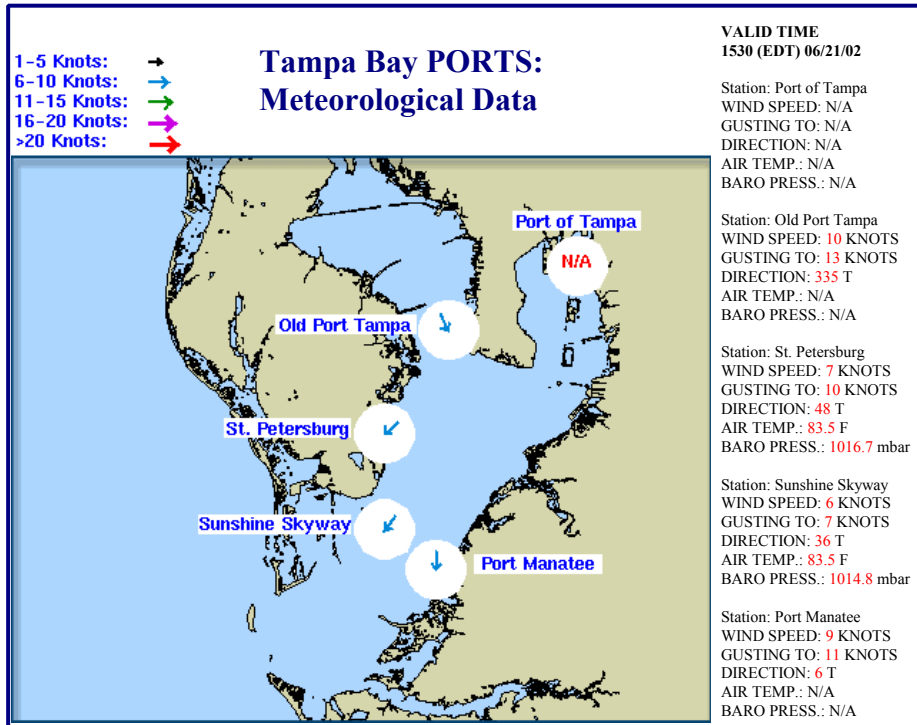
Tampa Bay is home to the first PORTS® and was installed in 1991. The PORTS® includes four water level measurement systems each equipped with meteorological sensors, three bottom-mounted current profilers, and a stand-alone meteorological measurement system. Information is collected from each sensor every six minutes by a centralized data acquisition system located at the University of South Florida Marine Science campus in St. Petersburg, Florida. 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 to users. The real-time information is provided to users via local graphics displays, Internet, and through a telephone voice data response system.



For Further Information Contact:
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
NOAA/National Ocean Service
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301-713-2981



Funding for the system was provided to NOAA in 1991 through a congressional budget add-on. In July 1992 the Greater Tampa Bay Marine Advisory Council (GTBMAC) assumed the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the PORTS®. GTBMAC obtains funding from various local sources including state, county, and private corporations.



The NOAA PORTS® program is based on a partnership with the local community. NOAA's contributions include technical oversight of the design, installation, and operation of PORTS®, the data quality control of all PORTS® information, and the development of national standards. In addition, NOAA continues to develop, test and evaluate new sensors, data collection, and data telemetry systems to enhance real-time measurement capabilities. The local community's contribution includes providing funds for the PORTS® implementation and operations.

The Tampa Bay PORTS® is an invaluable tool that supports a wide range of needs, including marine navigation, coastal zone concerns, and recreational activities. The NOAA Tampa Bay PORTS® Internet site receives over 10,000 visits per month.

