

NOAA's Ocean Service
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS)
Environmental Measurement Systems
Sensor Specifications and Measurement Algorithm

Measurement Parameter	Sensor Manufacturer	Estimated Accuracy	Resolution	Sample Interval	Transmittal Interval	Measurement Algorithm
Water Level (Primary)	Aquatrak® (Air Acoustic sensor in protective well)	Relative to Datum ± 0.02 m (Individual measurement) ± 0.005 m (monthly means)	0.001 m	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	181 one-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers. (3 minute water level average) Note - Tsunami Ready stations also send 6 - 1 minute average water level measurements per Tx.
Water Level (Primary)	Dual Orifice Bubbler Paroscientific Quartz sensor Model # 1030G-01 (Pressure)	Relative to Datum ± 0.02 m (Individual measurement) ± 0.005 m (monthly means)	0.001 m	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	36 five-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers. Note - Tsunami Ready stations also send 6 - 1 minute average water level measurements per Tx.
Water Level Stations Great Lakes (Primary)	BEI Absolute Shaft Angle Encoder Model # MT-40D (Float)	Relative to Datum ± 0.006 m (Individual measurement) ± 0.003 m (monthly means)	0.001 m	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	181 one-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers.
Water Level (Backup) <i>Generally used to fill</i>	Single Orifice Bubbler Strain Gauge Sensor (Pressure)	Relative to Datum ± 0.05 m (Individual measurement)	0.001 m	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	181 one-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers.

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<i>Primary WL sensor data gaps.</i>		± 0.02 m (monthly means)				(3 minute water level average)
Water Level (Short Term)	Aquatrak® (Air Acoustic sensor in protective well)	Relative to Datum ± 0.02 m (Individual measurement) ± 0.005 m (monthly means)	0.001 m	6 minutes	1 hourly (Satellite-GOES)	181 one-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers. (3 minute water level average)
Water Level (Short Term)	Single Orifice Bubbler Paroscientific Quartz sensor Model # 1030G-01 (Pressure)	Relative to Datum ± 0.02 m (Individual measurement) ± 0.005 m (monthly means)	0.001 m	6 minutes	6 Hourly (Satellite-GOES)	36 five-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation are recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers.
Air Temp	Yellow Springs Instruments	± 0.2 Deg.C	0.1 Deg.C	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	20 equally spaced samples collected over a 2 minute period are averaged for each measurement. The samples are collected starting one minute prior to each tenth hour at PORTS® sites or centered on the hour otherwise.
Water Temp	Yellow Springs Instruments	± 0.2 Deg.C	0.1 Deg.C	6 minutes	Internet (every 6 minutes), GOES (1 hour, or 3 hour)	20 equally spaced samples collected over a 2 minute period are averaged for each measurement. The samples are collected starting one minute prior to each tenth hour at PORTS® sites or centered on the hour otherwise.
Wind S/D/G (Typically installed)	R.M. Young	Speed ± 0.3 m/sec. Direction	Speed 0.1 m/sec. Direction	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	Speed - 2 minute scalar average of 1 second wind speed measurements collected prior to each tenth hour.

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approximate 10 m above sea level)		± 3 Deg. (Speed Threshold 1 m/sec)	0.1 Deg.			Wind Direction - 2 minute unit vector average of wind direction collected prior to each tenth hour. Wind Gust - The maximum 5 second moving scalar average of wind speed that occurred during the previous 6 minutes for PORTS® stations, during the previous hour otherwise.
Baro Press.	Setra or Vaisala	± 0.5 mbar	0.1 mbar	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	20 equally spaced samples collected over a 2 minute period are averaged for each measurement. The samples are collected starting one minute prior to each tenth hour at PORTS® sites or centered on the hour otherwise.
Conductivity	Falmouth Sci. or Greenspan	Conductivity ± 0.1 mS/cm Temperature ± 0.05 Deg C		6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	20 equally spaced samples collected over a 2 minute period are averaged for each measurement. The samples are collected starting one minute prior to each tenth hour at PORTS® sites or centered on the hour otherwise.
Density	Derived from Conductivity and Water Temp.					
Water Current Profiler (Vertical - Bottom Mount)	RD Instruments (4 beam configuration with 20° beam angle) Frequency 600 or 1200 KHz depending on water depth.	Speed ± 0.25 cm/sec. (1200 & 600 kHz) ± 0.5 cm/s (300 kHz) Tilts ± 0.5° Compass ± 2° Max Tilts ± 15°	Velocity 0.1 cm/s Heading 0.01° Tilts 0.01°	6 minutes	6 minutes (IP Modem)	6 minute average comprised of approximately 345 profiles (pings) per measurement. Data includes east, north, and vertical velocities, echo amplitude, correlation magnitude, percent good pings for each beam and each bin. Included with each measurement are compass, pitch, and roll as well as water pressure and water temperature. Specs ref - http://www.rdinstruments.com/pdfs/datasheets/work_horse_sentinel_ds_lr.pdf
Water Current Profiler	SonTek (3 beam	Speed ± 0.5 cm/sec	Velocity 0.1 cm/s	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minute average comprised of approximately 2000 profiles (pings) per measurement. Data includes

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(Vertical - Bottom Mount)	configuration with 25° beam angle). Frequency 500 or 1500 KHz depending on water depth.	(± 1% measured velocity) Heading ±2° Pitch, Roll ±1° Profiling range 15-25 meter (1500 kHz) pressure sensor 0.1%	Heading 0.1° Tilts 0.1°		(IP Modem)	east, north, and vertical velocity, standard deviation, and echo amplitude for each beam and each bin. Included with each measurement are compass, pitch, and roll as well as water pressure and water temperature. Specs ref - http://www.sontek.com/download/brochure/adp.pdf
Water Current Profiler (Horizontal)	Sontek (2 beam configuration with 25° beam angle). Frequency 500 kHz and 250 kHz depending on range	Maximum profiling range is 70-120 meters (500 kHz) and 120-180 meters (250 kHz) Speed ± 0.5 cm/sec (± 1% measured velocity)	Velocity 0.1 cm/s Heading, 0.1° Tilts 0.1°	6 minutes	6 minutes (IP Modem)	6 minute average comprised of approximately 500 profiles (pings) per measurement (250kHz) and 700 profiles (pings) per ensemble (500kHz). Data includes east and north velocity, standard deviation, and echo amplitude for each beam and each bin. Included with each measurement are compass, pitch, and roll as well as water temperature and occasionally water pressure if ADP is equipped with one. Specs ref - http://www.sontek.com/download/brochure/adp.pdf
Water Current Profiler (Horizontal)	RDI (3 beam configuration with 25° beam angle for a Frequency 600 kHz system and 20° beam angle for a 300 kHz depen	Maximum profiling range is 85meters (600 kHz) Speed ± 0.25 cm/sec (± 1% measured velocity) And 250 meters	Velocity 0.1 cm/s Heading, 0.1° Tilts 0.1°	6 minutes	6 minutes (IP Modem)	6 minute average comprised of approximately 300 profiles (pings) per measurement (300kHz) and 300 profiles (pings) per ensemble (600kHz). Data includes east and north velocity, standard deviation, and echo amplitude for each beam and each bin. Included with each measurement are compass, pitch, and roll as well as water temperature and occasionally water pressure if ADP is equipped with one. Specs ref – Workhorse H-ADCP

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		(300kHz) \pm 0.5 cm/sec (\pm 1% measured velocity)				http://www.rdinstruments.com
Water Current Profiler (Vertical - Buoy Mount)	Nortek Aquadopp Profiler (3 beam configuration with 25° beam angle). Frequency 1 MHz.	Profiling range 15-25 meters Speed \pm 0.5 cm/sec (\pm 1% of measured velocity) Horizontal vel range \pm 10 m/s Max tilts \pm 30°	1 mm/s (Velocity) Heading, 0.1° Tilts 0.1° Pressure sensor 1mm Water Temp 0.01 Deg C	6 minutes	6 minutes (IP Modem)	6 minute average comprised of approximately 1800 profiles (pings) per measurement. Data includes east, north, and vertical velocity, and echo amplitude for each beam and each bin. Included with each measurement are compass, pitch, and roll, water temperature, and water pressure. Specs ref - http://nortekusa.com/hardware/AquadoppProfiler.html
Air Gap (Bridge Clearance)	Miros SM094 (microwave)	\pm 0.03 m one standard deviation	0.01 m	6 minutes	6 minutes (Satellite-GOES or IP Modem)	181 one-second water level samples centered on each tenth of an hour are averaged, a three standard deviation outlier rejection test applied, the mean and standard deviation is recalculated and reported along with the number of outliers.