

CURRENTS IN THE ST. JOHNS RIVER, FLORIDA SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1998

Silver Spring, Maryland
September 1999



noaa National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Ocean Service
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Products and Services Division**

**Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
National Ocean Service
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CURRENTS IN THE ST. JOHNS RIVER, FLORIDA SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1998



1856 chart of the St. Johns River entrance

Richard Bourgerie

September 1999



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADCP	acoustic Doppler current profiler
ADR	analog-to-digital recorder
cfs	cubic feet per second
C&GS	Coast and Geodetic Survey
CO-OPS	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
COP	Current Observation Program
DQC	data quality control
FLDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
ft	feet
GOES	Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
ICW	Intracoastal Waterway
kHz	kilohertz
m	meters
MEC	maximum ebb current
MFC	maximum flood current
MLLW	mean lower low water
NGWLMS	Next Generation Water Level Measurement System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOS	National Ocean Service
NWLON	National Water Level Observation Network
PORTS	Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System
RMS	root mean square
SBE	slack before ebb
SBF	slack before flood
SJRWMD	St. Johns River Water Management District
US	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UTC	Universal Time, Coordinated

ABSTRACT

The National Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services conducted an oceanographic survey of the currents in the St. Johns River, Florida during the spring and summer months of 1998. The main goal of this survey was to collect new measurements of the currents at as many sites as feasible in the St. Johns River to update the published tidal current predictions. From the river's entrance near the Mayport Naval Station to the Trout River Cut, seven new current meter stations were occupied throughout a sixteen-mile stretch of river.

Earlier measurements of the currents in the St. Johns River were collected during surveys in 1934 and 1958 using instrumentation and methods that have long since been outdated. Over the decades, the currents have been affected by extensive dredging of channels, new harbor and channel construction, and other natural and man-made modifications. Also, because of the large military presence and heavy volume of shipping in the St. Johns River (more than 18 million tons per year), it was essential that the latest technology be applied to evaluate the adequacy of the tidal current predictions.

Several acoustic Doppler current profilers were deployed in locations throughout the St. Johns River; they have produced valuable new information on the currents in this tidal river. The results of this survey have led to the generation of new, more accurate tidal current predictions, which will serve to increase the safety and efficiency of navigation and commerce in the St. Johns River system. Because of this survey, 18 new tidal current prediction stations were added to the Tidal Current Tables, and 23 historical stations were validated, and added to the Tidal Current Tables.

In addition to the new current meter stations, a network of water level gages has been continually operating in the river for a few years. In the spring of 1995, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District, installed 13 water level gages along approximately a 100-mile stretch of the river. Data from two of these water level stations have been harmonically analyzed to produce new tide predictions, which are now incorporated into the NOS Tide Tables.

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Ocean Service's (NOS) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), manages the Current Observation Program (COP). This program's goal is to improve the quality and accuracy of the NOS Tidal Current Tables, which are published annually. Improving this information is a critical part of NOS's efforts toward promoting safe navigation in our Nation's waterways. CO-OPS acquires, archives, and disseminates information on tides and tidal currents in U.S. ports and estuaries; this has been a vital NOS function since the 1840s. Mariners have always required accurate and dependable information on the movement of the waters in which they navigate. Ships have doubled in length, width, and draft in the last 50 years and seagoing commerce has tripled, leading to increased risk in the Nation's ports (USACE, 1997).

The existing suite of NOS tidal current prediction stations are presently based on limited data sets that have rarely, if ever, been updated. Over two-thirds of NOS's more than 3,000 tidal current prediction stations are based on data that are more than 40 years old (Earwaker, 1999). To allow for the continued support of these tidal current predictions, with shrinking government resources, cost-effective methods are being established to maintain the Current Observation Program.

The circulation dynamics of an estuary or tidal river are modified by natural factors, and man-made alterations such as the dredging of channels, harbor construction, bridge construction, the deposition of dredge spoils, and diversion of river flow. These changes in the tidal regime and subsequent water flow can occur rapidly or over several decades, and will, by their nature, affect the accuracy of tide and tidal current predictions. New data must be collected periodically to assure that the information is reliable; the alternative is to distribute tide and tidal current predictions based on potentially inadequate and outdated information, or to stop distribution altogether.

1.1 Previous Measurements of Currents and Water Levels in the St. Johns River

The Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS), the predecessor of NOAA, last conducted measurements of the currents in the St. Johns River in 1934 and 1958 using current poles and Roberts Radio current meters. Eighteen stations yielded data of good quality, and predictions have been published for these stations for many years. Most of the observation periods ranged from three to eight days, except the reference station, "St. Johns River Entrance," which consisted of two 15-day periods (Haight, 1938).

The type of current pole used in the 1930s was a 15-foot pole of white pine, 2 3/4" in diameter, submerged 14 feet with an attached graduated log line. The pole was weighted at the lower end to cause it to float upright with the top about one foot out of the water. Every 30 minutes, the current was measured continuously for 60 seconds, with a stopwatch, and logged to a file (C&GS, 1926).

The Roberts radio current meter was a big improvement over the current pole. It was an automated electronic system that eliminated the necessity of maintaining a crew and vessel during the entire observation period. The meters were suspended from an anchored mooring connected to a 10 ft. surface buoy. A rotating impeller was actuated by the current flow; the meter was able to measure current speeds ranging from 0.1 knots to seven knots. Current directions were accurate to within

10 degrees. The data were relayed by VHF telemetry to a remote base station, generally every 30 minutes, and logged to a file (C&GS, 1950).

Approximately 43 water level stations along the St. Johns River have been occupied by NOS since 1923, although most of the stations were established and removed during the mid-to-late 1970s. Before this survey, 32 stations on the St. Johns River were published in the annual NOS Tide Tables (NOS, 1999a). The water level station at Mayport is part of the NOS National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) and has continuous observations since April of 1928.

Prior to 1989, NOS measured water levels with systems that utilized an analog-to-digital recorder (ADR) driven by a float within a stilling well. Water level data were recorded on punched paper tape at 6-minute intervals. Each measurement was a discrete instantaneous value measured when the wire leading to the float was mechanically locked in place while the ADR unit punched the paper tape with a binary code representing the value of the water level. Measurements were recorded with 0.01 foot resolution. A local “tide observer” would periodically remove the paper data roll and mail it to NOS headquarters for processing and analysis (Mero, 1988).

In 1985, NOS embarked on a major upgrade of the NWLON. This network presently consists of about 175 continuously operating water level stations around the US coast (including the Great Lakes), and several Atlantic and Pacific islands. The stations are now equipped with measurement systems called Next Generation Water Level Measurement Systems (NGWLMS). The NGWLMS uses acoustic sensors, electronic data storage, and backup pressure sensors. The systems are also equipped to ingest ancillary sensor data, such as wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, air temperature, water temperature, and salinity. The data are telemetered every one to three hours, via NOAA’s Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), to NOS headquarters for processing, analysis, archival, and dissemination (Mero, 1998).

1.2 General Description of the St. Johns River

The St. Johns River (SJR) is the longest river in Florida, meandering more than 300 statute miles—it is an unusual river in that it flows from south to north. The source of the river (its headwaters) is a broad marsh area about 15 miles west of Vero Beach; the river ends at the Atlantic Ocean at Mayport. The St. Johns River is considered a “lazy” river--the total elevation drop from its headwaters to the Atlantic Ocean is less than 30 feet, an average slope of about one inch per mile (NOS, 1998).

Over its entire length, the river’s average depth is relatively shallow. However, the 26-mile stretch of river from the mouth to downtown Jacksonville (the deepest segment) has an average depth of approximately 30 ft. (Morris, 1995). The main navigation channel, extending about 23 miles inland from the mouth, is presently dredged to 38 feet. Plans are currently underway to deepen the channel to 40 feet. Many small rivers, creeks, and tributaries feed into the St. Johns River, increasing the overall river flow, and affecting the tidal signal, especially during storm events. Some of the larger rivers and creeks along the lower portion of the St. Johns River include: Pablo Creek, Sisters Creek, Clapboard Creek, and Cedar Point Creek. Others, farther upriver, include: Dunn Creek, Broward River, Trout River, Arlington River, and Ortega River.

The St. Johns River runs through the city of Jacksonville, which is the largest city in the state of Florida—it has boundaries from the ocean to more than 35 statute miles upriver. Jacksonville is a major southeastern deepwater port, handling more than 18 million tons per year of cargo. Principal exports include paper products, phosphate rock, fertilizers, and citrus products. Principal imports include petroleum, coffee, limestone, automobiles, and lumber (USACE, 1997). Deep-draft vessels transit as far as downtown Jacksonville, or about 24 statute miles upriver. Beyond this point, commercial traffic is light and consists almost entirely of oil barges (NOS, 1998).

The climate of the St. Johns River basin is classified as a “humid subtropical” zone. Daily maximum temperatures in the summer average approximately 90° F; below-freezing temperatures generally occur about a dozen times per year in the winter. The rainy season is from late summer to early fall, while the drier months occur during the winter (NOS, 1998).

The effect of the tides on the river is significant. Tidal influences are prevalent from the mouth of the river to slightly more than 100 statute miles upriver, near Georgetown, where the tide becomes negligible. The exact point where the river becomes nontidal will constantly change, depending on the strength of the tide signal (e.g., spring or neap tides), and the interaction of the tide with the variable river flow. Tidal effects have been reported as far south as Lake Harney, upstream of De Land (NOS, 1993).

The total flow in the river is comprised of about 80%-90% tide-induced flow, with the remaining flow caused by wind, freshwater inflow (from tributaries and rain), and industrial and treatment plant discharges. The river flow generally increases downstream, with the highest flows occurring at the mouth of the river. The total discharge of the river is normally greater than 50,000 cfs and can exceed 150,000 cfs. River flow is seasonal, generally following the seasonal rain patterns, with higher flows occurring in the late summer to early fall, and the lower flows occurring in the winter months. The average annual nontidal discharge at the river mouth is approximately 15,000 cfs (NOAA, 1985).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the past sixty years, the currents (and to a lesser extent, the water levels) in the St. Johns River have been significantly affected by extensive dredging of channels and harbors, new channel construction, and other natural and man-made modifications that have occurred over the years. Because of the large military presence and heavy volume of shipping in the St. Johns River (more than 18 million tons per year), it was essential that the latest technology be applied to evaluate the reports of inadequate tidal current predictions.

From mid-April through mid-September 1998, CO-OPS conducted an oceanographic survey of the currents in the St. Johns River. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate reports of decreased reliability and usefulness of the published NOS Tidal Current Tables. Seven current meter stations were strategically selected (Figure 1.1) to collect new data and produce new tidal current predictions at critical sites where the local maritime community expressed a need for more accurate information.

In addition to the new current meter sites, a network of water level gages has been continuously operating in the river since the spring of 1995. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP), in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), installed and maintains 13 water level gages along more than a 90-mile stretch of the river. Figure 1.1 shows the locations of six of these gages. As part of this project, the six-minute data from two of these water level stations were harmonically analyzed to produce new tide predictions, which are now incorporated into the NOS Tide Tables.

2.1 Station Locations and Observation Periods

A summary of the current meter stations deployed during this survey is presented in Table 1.1. Station names, numbers, positions, depths, and dates are presented. Because of limited resources and time constraints, only seven stations were occupied during three different 7-8 week periods. The total station occupation periods ranged from 48 days to a maximum of 96 days (Figure 1.2).

The station, “St. Johns River Entrance” (**J1**) was selected because this location is one of NOS’ 48 Tidal Current Reference Stations. It had been 64 years since NOS conducted measurements at this site. This is a critical site for the St. Johns River Bar Pilots. Published navigational guidelines require all vessels with more than 32 feet of draft, and tows, to base their inbound and outbound movements on predicted tidal currents at this station (NOS, 1998). During this survey, there were 96.0 continuous days of good data collected at this station.

The “Mayport Basin Entrance” station (**J2**) was requested by the Naval Station Mayport. Naval Pilots have been concerned for many years with the cross-channel currents that the Navy ships and tugs frequently encounter (particularly on an ebb flow) when transiting in and out of the basin. During this survey, there were 48.0 continuous days of good data collected at this station.

The Naval Station Mayport also requested a current meter station be placed within their basin, to help understand the nature of the water circulation, especially during the maneuvering of ships. To this end, the “Inner Mayport Basin” station (**J3**) was deployed. There were 48.3 continuous days of

data collected at this station; unfortunately, the current meter was placed too close to the south side of the basin, and the measured currents were weak and variable. The majority of current speeds were measured at less than 1/4 knot, therefore the data were considered unusable.

Table 1.1 St. Johns River current meter station deployment information.

Station	Station Name	Position	Water Depth (MLLW)	# Days Data	Deployment Period
J1	St. Johns River Entrance	30° 24.022' N 081° 23.154' W	50.8 ft. (15.5 m)	96.0	04/16 - 07/21 1998
J2	Mayport Basin Entrance	30° 23.820' N 081° 23.929' W	43.0 ft. (13.1 m)	48.0	06/03 - 07/21 1998
J3	Inner Mayport Basin	30° 23.661' N 081° 24.403' W	37.1 ft. (11.3 m)	48.3	06/04 - 07/22 1998
J4	Intracoastal Waterway Intersection	30° 23.020' N 081° 27.519' W	53.8 ft. (16.4 m)	49.8	04/15 - 06/04 1998
J5	Dames Point Bridge	30° 23.078' N 081° 33.276' W	39.0 ft. (11.9 m)	22.6	07/23 - 08/15 1998
J6	Trout River Cut	30° 23.029' N 081° 37.694' W	43.3 ft. (13.2 m)	55.5	07/22 - 09/16 1998
J7	East Blount Island	30° 23.521' N 081° 30.511' W	44.3 ft. (13.5 m)	54.0	07/23 - 09/15 1998

The “Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) Intersection” station (**J4**) was one of the highest priority station’s requested by the St. Johns River Bar Pilots. In this area, it was reported that ships frequently encounter unpredictable cross-channel currents at various stages of the tide, especially during high streamflow conditions. In addition, many tugs and tows cross over the river while transiting the ICW, further complicating navigation. Prior to this survey, there were no tidal current predictions published for this junction of the river. During this survey, 49.8 continuous days of good data were collected at this station.

The “East Blount Island” station (**J7**) is another point in the river where it was reported that unpredictable cross-channel currents are encountered. Before this survey, there were no tidal current predictions published for this junction of the river. In addition, the Navy maintains a large storage facility along the Back River, and they were interested in collecting new information on the currents in this area. During this survey, 54.0 continuous days of good data were collected at this station.

The “Dames Point Bridge” station (**J5**) was deployed in an area of particular concern for large vessels transiting the river. Just to the west of this station, there is a sharp turn in the river. Pilots have reported their ships being “set deep into the bend” on both the flood and the ebb, presumably from cross-channel currents from the Blount Island Channel. In addition, vessels use this area of the

channel as a turning basin when using the Blount Island Terminal (NOS, 1998). Due to instrument battery failure, only 22.6 days of continuous good data were collected at this station.

The “Trout River Cut” station (**J6**) was requested by the St. Johns River Bar Pilots because of the effect of the Trout River on the currents in the main shipping channel. This location is the farthest upriver of the seven stations occupied during this survey. Cross-channel currents are reported to “set across the channel on both the flood and ebb.” Also, there are many oil terminals in this area, on the west bank, adding to the pilots’ concerns (NOS, 1998). This location is one of the existing 17 subordinate tidal current stations that have been published for many years, however, it had been 40 years since NOS conducted new measurements at this site. During this survey, 55.5 continuous days of good data were collected.

Original survey plans included the deployment of a current meter farther upriver in downtown Jacksonville, near the FEC railroad bridge. However, logistical constraints and instrumentation recovery concerns (reports of bottom debris and bridge construction), prompted a last-minute change in plans, and this current meter was placed at the Dames Point Bridge (station **J5**).

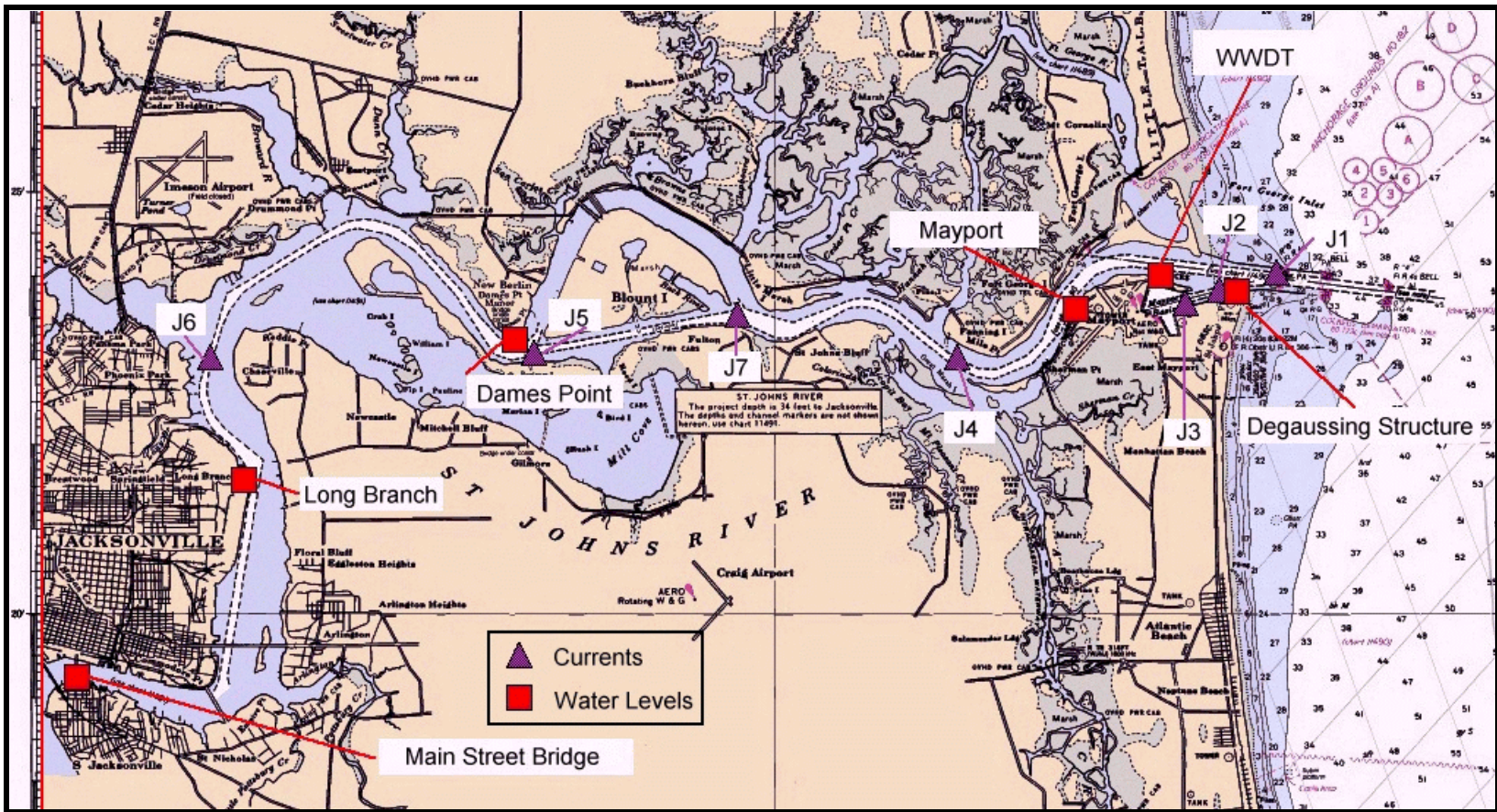


Figure 1.1 Chartlet of the station locations: current meters and water level gages.

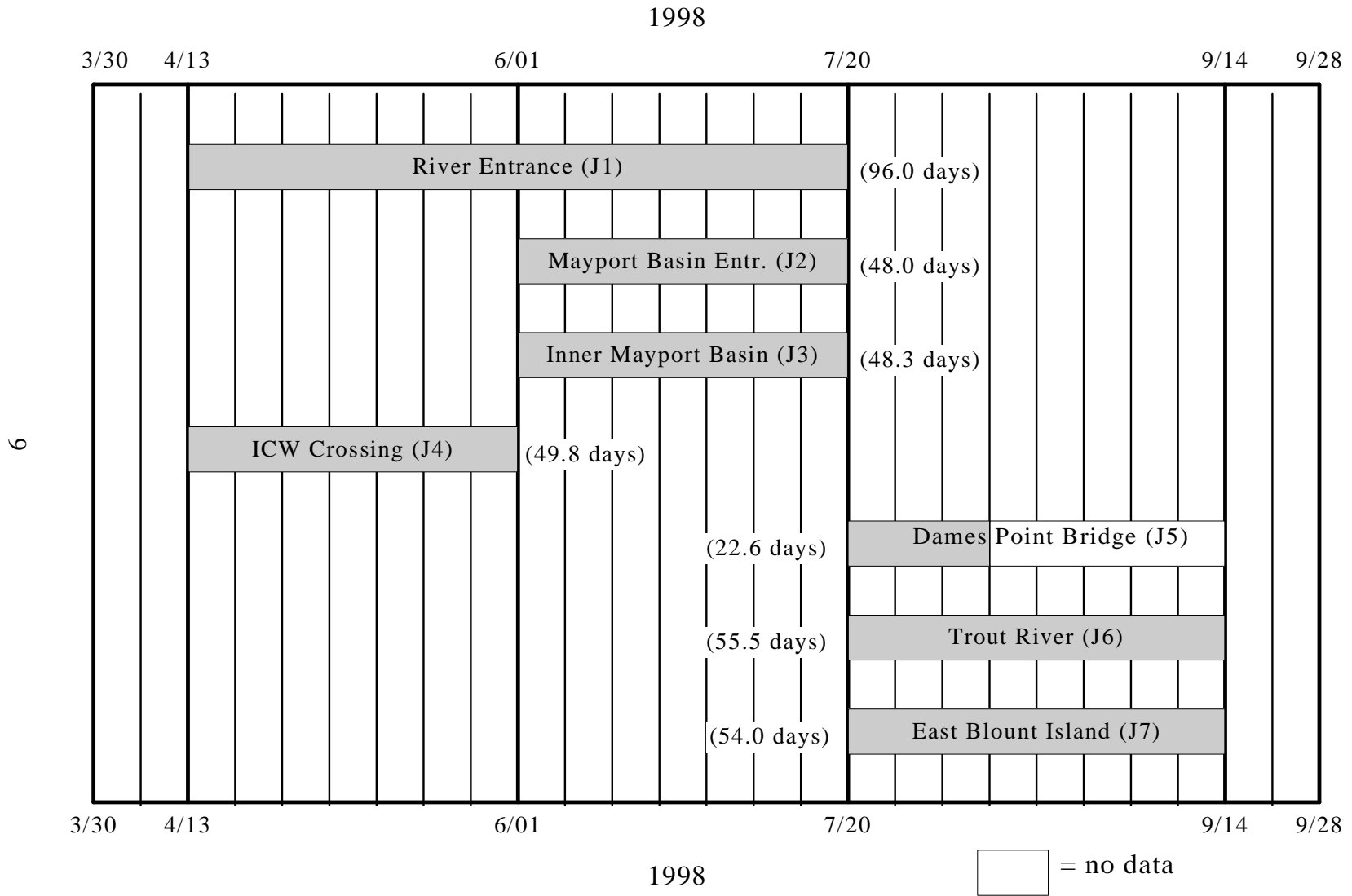


Figure 1.2 Time-line of the current meter station deployments.

2.2 Instrumentation and Sampling Methods

RD Instruments (RDI) “Workhorse Sentinel” acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCP) were used at all of the current meter stations in this survey (Figure 2.1). NOS personnel have deployed dozens of RDI ADCPs in various harbors and estuaries throughout the U.S. for more than 10 years; these instruments have a proven reliability and performance. The advent of ADCP technology has enabled NOS to obtain water current data throughout an entire water column with long-term theoretical accuracies of approximately 0.02 knots or better (RDI, 1996).



Figure 2.1 RDI Workhorse ADCPs used for this survey.

The ADCP computes current velocities throughout a water column by measuring the Doppler shift of a fixed-frequency sound transmission. Sound scatterers in the water (i.e., plankton, particles, air bubbles) reflect the transmitted sound back to the ADCP in the form of a "backscattered" echo. The ADCPs used in this survey have four acoustic transducer heads equally spaced in the azimuth, known as the “JANUS” configuration. They have four transducers angled at 20 degrees from the horizontal, and operate at a frequency of 300 kHz.

The most important feature of the ADCP is its ability to *remotely* measure current profiles, which are divided into uniform segments called depth cells or "bins" (Figure 2.2). All of the current meters used in this survey were programmed to collect and internally record data at six minute intervals, in 1 meter bin lengths throughout the water column.

All of the current meters were deployed on the river bottom in an upward-looking configuration, on platforms specially designed for instrument protection and leveling: Flotation Technologies Trawl Resistant Bottom-Mounts (Figure 2.3) were used. These platforms have the shape of a truncated pyramid (with the sides angled at approximately 35° from horizontal) built to lift and deflect passing trawl-type fishing gear. They have overall dimensions of 6 ft. × 6 ft. × 1.7 ft. Their weight in air is approximately 800 pounds, including the lead ballast.

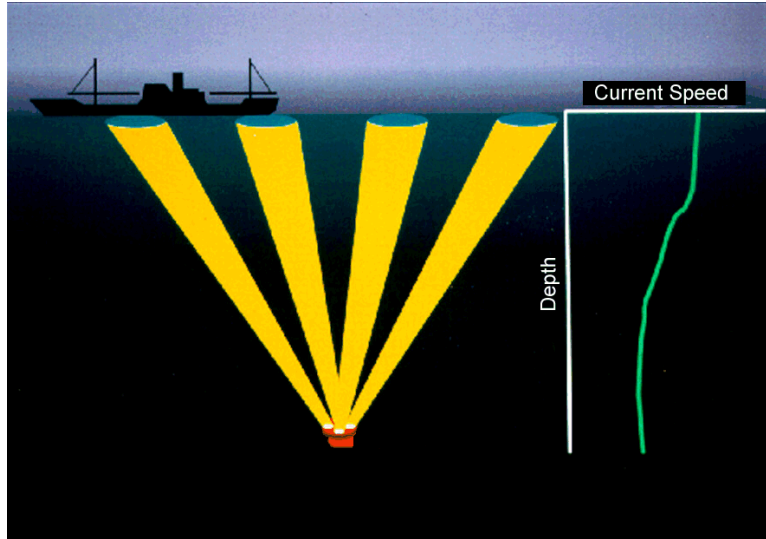


Figure 2.2 Illustration of the profiling ability of a bottom-mounted ADCP.

The bottom-mounts consist of three main components: a base section made of corrosion resistant aluminum, a recovery pod made of syntactic foam, and a gimbal mechanism made of machined PVC. The gimbal mechanism orients the ADCP to vertical at bottom slopes of up to 20°. An acoustic release, housed in the recovery pod, is used for recovering the package. Upon activation of the acoustic release, the recovery pod floats to the surface and the attached line is used to haul the base onto the ship. One interesting feature of this bottom-mount is that most of the buoyancy is situated on the top half, making it self-righting in “free-fall” when placed in the water at angles up to and even beyond 90 degrees.

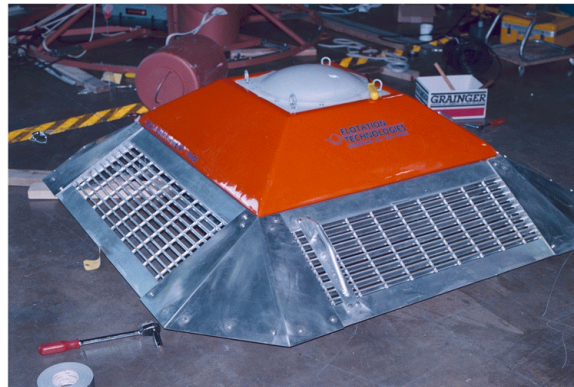


Figure 2.3 Flotation Technologies, Inc. bottom-mount used for the survey.

Because these bottom-mounts present a relatively low profile, they were all placed directly in the main navigation channel, usually in a deeper section, as determined from the latest hydrographic survey sounding data. This provided more representative and useful current measurements than if the current meters had been placed on the edge of the navigation channel (as was often necessary with older technology) to avoid becoming a hazard to navigation.

2.3 Data Processing and Quality Control

After the bottom-mounts and current meters were recovered and brought to shore, the raw data were downloaded from the ADCP's internal recorder to a laptop PC. The data were then transported to NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, where they were subjected to a set of standard data quality control (DQC) procedures and thoroughly processed and analyzed. The data were converted from instrument format (binary ADCP) into ASCII engineering units for analysis. Data were then checked for time validity, outliers, trends, and noise bursts. Time-series plots were created for each station for the various measured parameters.

Each data set was checked for instrument tilts greater than 15 degrees. Any data record that had an instrument tilt of greater than 15 degrees was not used for analysis. Similarly, if there were any sudden movement of the bottom-mount (illustrated by the tilt sensor, compass, and pressure sensor), the data were scrutinized because a significant movement of the bottom-mount may have occurred. This only occurred in one of the data sets for a relatively short time period.

In order to compute the water depth (from the surface) of each depth cell, some simple computations are required. First, the distance above the bottom for the center of each depth cell is calculated. To obtain these, three values are added:

- 1) the height of the ADCP acoustic heads off of the river bottom;
- 2) the depth cell length;
- 3) the "blanking distance".

For all of the deployments, these three parameters were fixed at 0.6 m, 1.0 m, and 1.7 m, respectively. To this total, a speed of sound correction of about 0.2m (based on measured water temperature and estimated conductivity) is added. This gives a "fixed" height above the bottom (for the first depth cell) of 3.5m for all stations. The second depth cell is 4.5m off of the bottom, and the nth depth cell is $(n+2.5)$ m above the bottom.

Finally, to determine the water depth of each depth cell, the distance above bottom for a given depth cell is subtracted from the total station depth, which was either computed directly from the ADCP's internal pressure sensor or estimated from a fathometer and/or bathymetric soundings.

Because of acoustic side lobe interference effects near the river surface, in which the vertically oriented side lobes combine with the 20-degree main beam, the ADCP data are not assured valid in the top 6% of the water column (RDI, 1996). Even with this limitation, good data were collected very near the surface at each of the seven stations. Depending on the total station depth, the shallowest depth having good data ranged from five to 10 feet below MLLW.

3. CURRENTS

Currents in the lower St. Johns River are tidally dominated. Because the river is basically a constricted channel, the currents are rectilinear (or reversing), in that the water flows alternately in approximately opposite directions, with a slack water at each reversal of direction. The currents are semidiurnal, consisting of two flood and two ebb periods each day.

In the 16-mile stretch of river studied in this survey, the currents exhibit mostly progressive wave characteristics, meaning that the maximum strengths of flood and ebb occur *near* the times of high and low water, respectively. This relationship varies along the river (Figure 3.1), depending on the distance from the mouth of the river, the water depth, and other physical factors. At the river entrance, the maximum flood and ebb currents occur approximately one hour before the high and low tides at the river entrance (Figure 3.2). Further upriver, at Dames Point (approximately 10.5 miles from the river entrance), the maximum flood and ebb currents precede the times of high and low water by only about 15-35 minutes (Figure 3.3). Somewhere around 15 to 17 miles from the river entrance, the flood and ebb strengths occur almost simultaneously with the times of high and low waters (Figure 3.1).

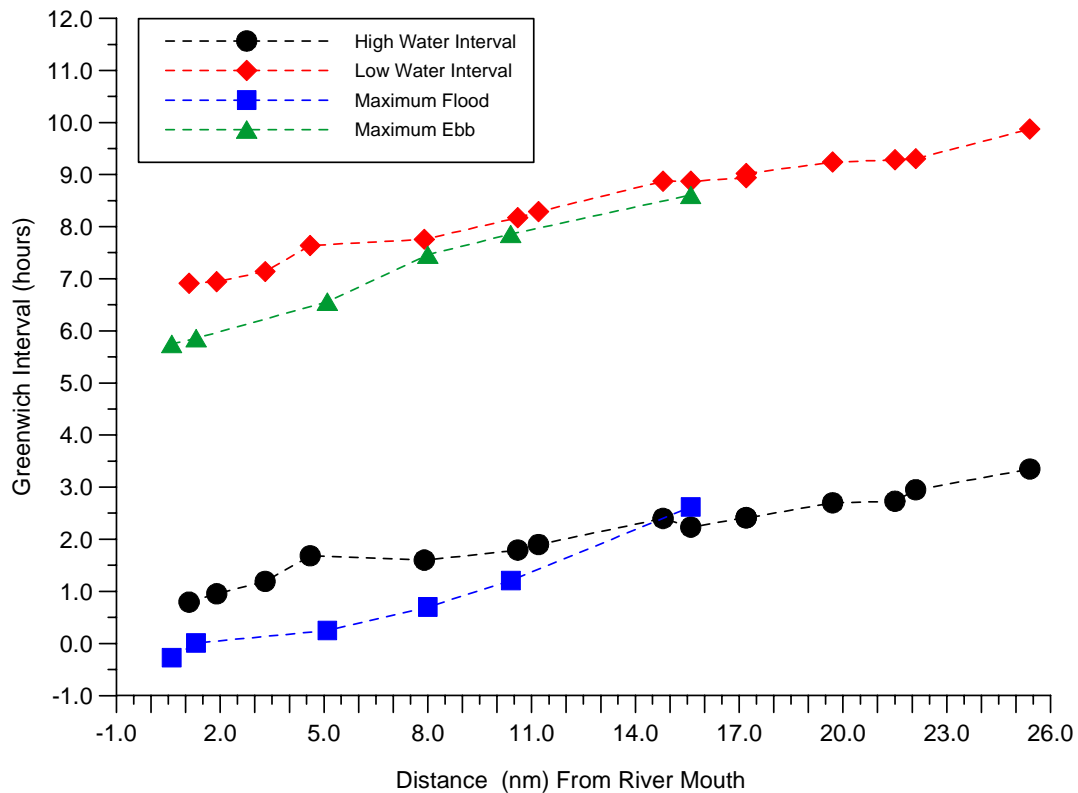


Figure 3.1 Time differences, from the river mouth, of two tide and two tidal current phases. Note that the tidal current phases are for depth cells nearest 15 feet.

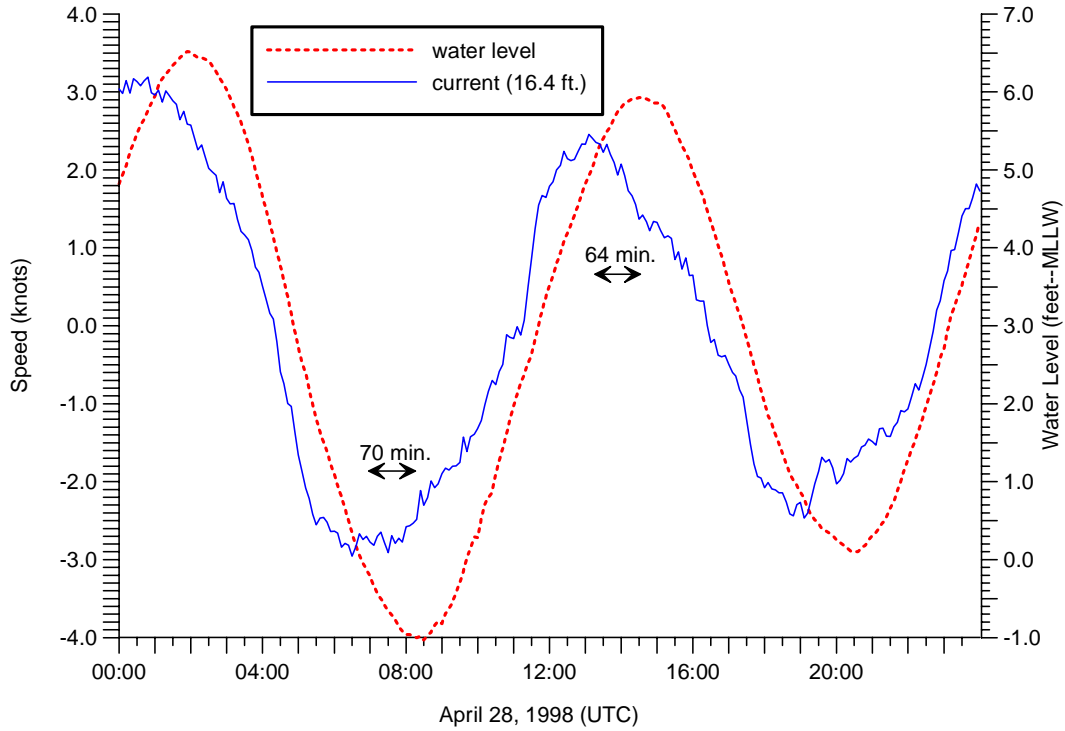


Figure 3.2 Phase lag of water level at Mayport D.S. and current at the River Entrance (J1). Note that both plots are actual observations, while the time differences are mean values.

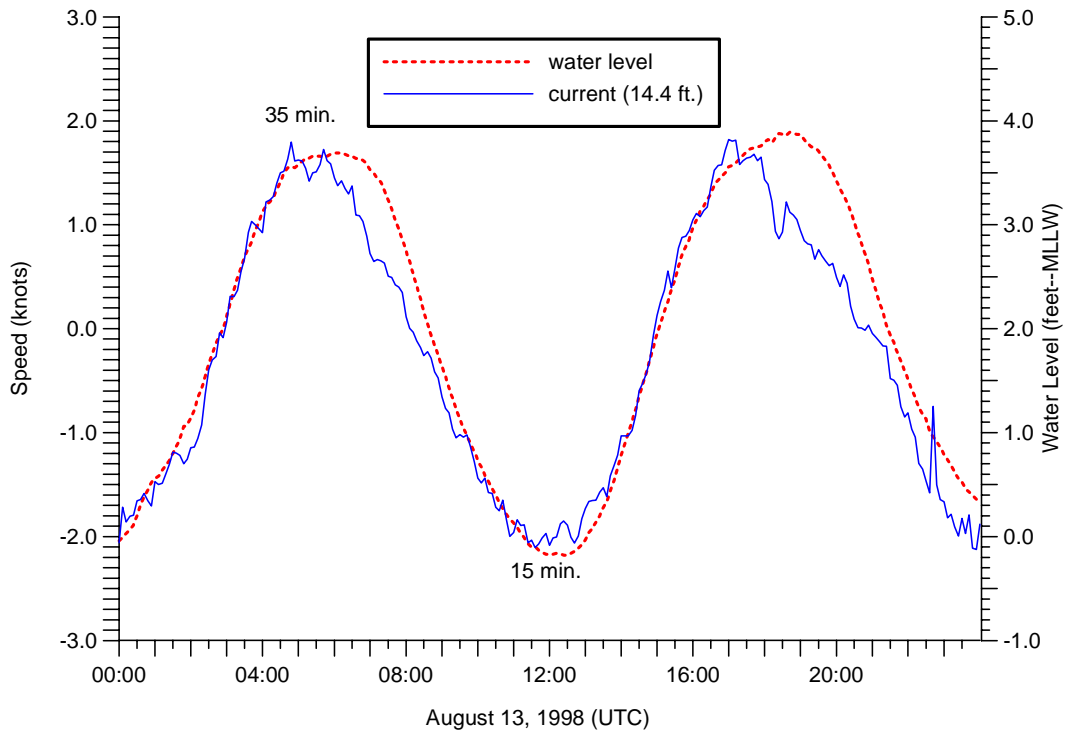


Figure 3.3 Phase lag of water level and current at Dames Point. Note that both plots are actual observations, while the time differences are mean values.

The progression of the tidal current from the mouth of the river to the Trout River Cut station (J6) is highly linear. In this approximately 16-mile stretch of river, there was a measured time difference of 2.3 to 2.9 hours (Figure 3.4) for all four of the tidal current phases—slack before flood (SBF), maximum flood current (MFC), slack before ebb (SBE), and maximum ebb current (MEC). This corresponds to an average progression speed of about 5.5 to 7.0 knots, which is important information to mariners when planning for the most efficient times to transit up or down the river.

This direct linear relationship of the tidal current phases along the river was used as a tool to verify all of the older (1934 and 1958) published tidal current prediction stations. After the final analysis, only one old station was removed from the tidal current tables because the timing of its tidal current phases fell far outside of the interpolated tidal current phase progression line.

The currents at all of the stations exhibited vertical profiles that are typical of tidal rivers. Figure 3.5 shows the deployment-averaged vertical profiles from all of the stations. The current speeds were strongest near the surface (due to bottom frictional effects), and the down-river stations generally had stronger currents than the up-river stations.

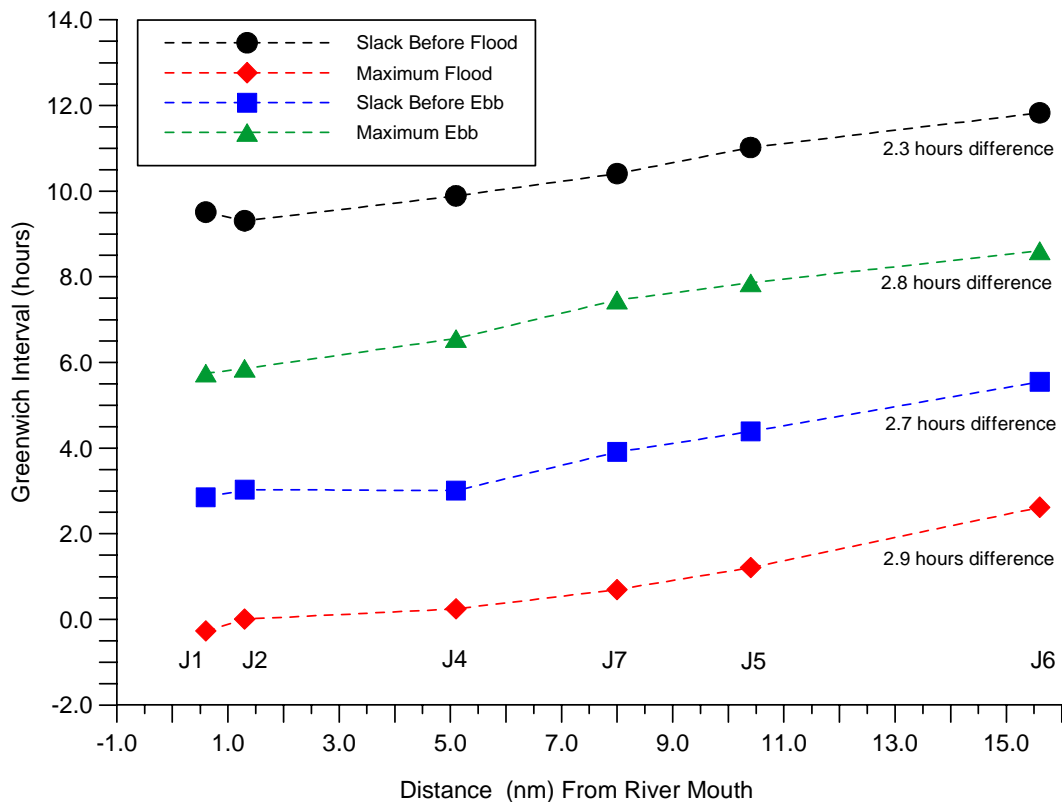


Figure 3.4 Time differences, from the river mouth, of the four tidal current phases. Note that all of the values are for depth cells nearest 15 feet.

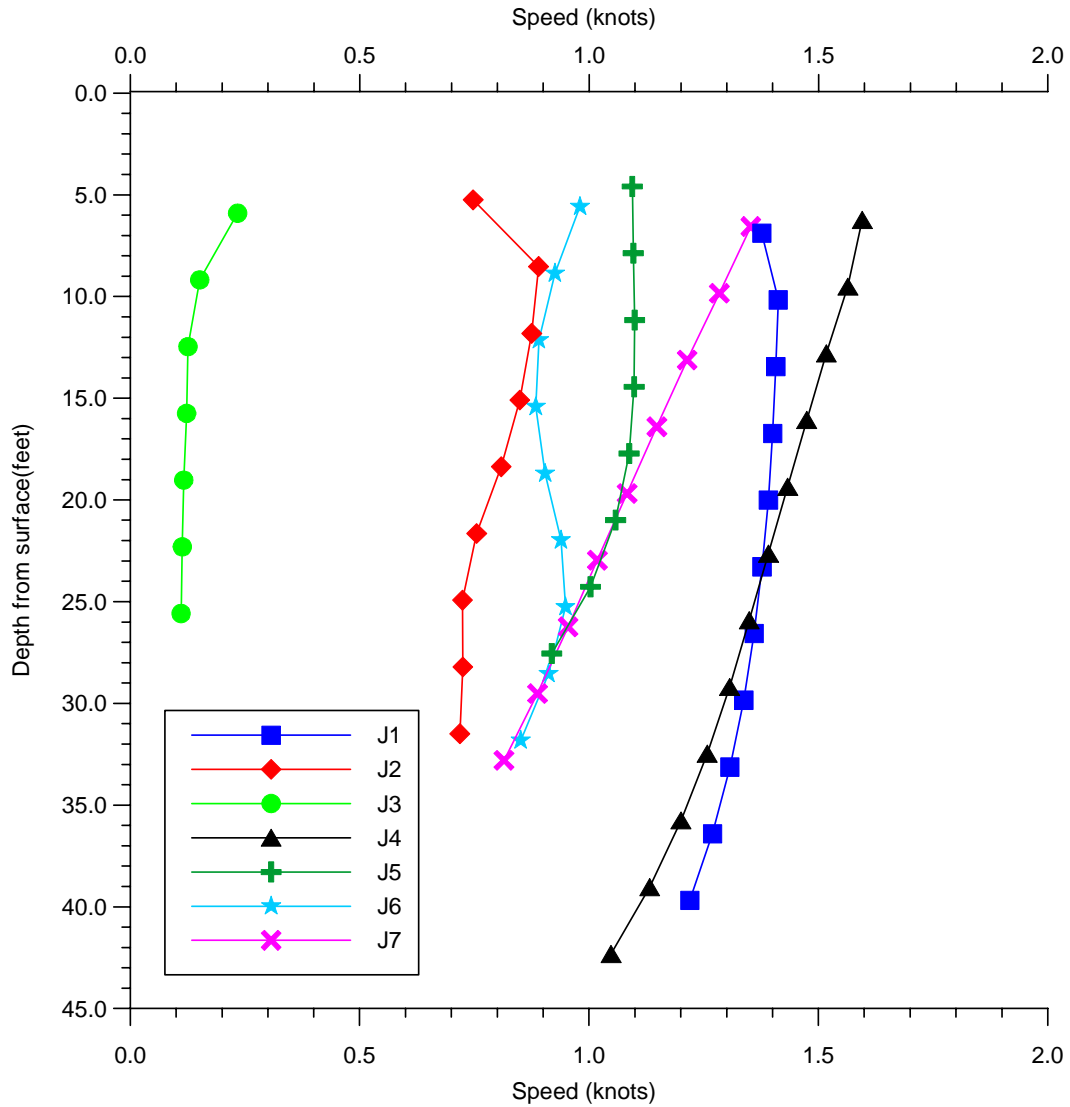


Figure 3.5 Vertical profiles of mean current speeds at all stations.

3.1 Harmonic Analysis and Tidal Constituents

The currents in the St. Johns River are primarily driven by the astronomical tides coming from the continental shelf in the South Atlantic Bight. The astronomical tides consist of a set of sinusoidal waves, known as tidal constituents, at a finite number of discrete frequencies. Harmonic analysis is the primary method used to solve for tidal constituents. Using the tidal current constituents, computed from measured data, the tidal currents can be predicted for any given time into the relatively near future. While NOS routinely performs many other analyses on current meter data, harmonic analysis is the most important. It is the foundation upon which all tide and tidal current predictions are based.

Two different harmonic analysis methods were used on the data collected in this survey. Least squares harmonic analysis (Harris et al., 1963) was performed on the five stations that had 48 days or more of data, and Fourier harmonic analysis (Dennis and Long, 1971) was performed on the Dames Point station (J5), which collected only 23 days of data. The five principal tidal current harmonic constituents computed for the six stations are listed in Table 3.1. They are listed in order from down-river to up-river, with three depths each. In general, all of the epochs (phases) increase upriver, which is typical for a tidal river.

Table 3.1 Principal tidal current constituents: amplitudes (along-channel in knots) and epochs (kappas) of the five most significant tidal current constituents. Stations are listed from down-river to up-river.

Station	Depth (ft.)	M ₂		S ₂		N ₂		K ₁		O ₁	
		Amp.	Epoch	Amp.	Epoch	Amp.	Epoch	Amp.	Epoch	Amp.	Epoch
J1	9.8	2.02	195.6	0.24	215.1	0.42	168.1	0.21	76.0	0.17	93.7
J1	16.4	2.01	194.1	0.24	216.7	0.40	167.6	0.21	74.4	0.17	91.5
J1	29.5	1.91	191.2	0.23	220.1	0.38	167.7	0.20	70.6	0.17	89.7
J2	8.5	1.25	195.0	0.09	176.5	0.18	160.9	0.15	73.6	0.05	92.8
J2	15.1	1.22	194.6	0.08	189.1	0.18	163.9	0.15	69.6	0.07	91.7
J2	31.5	0.91	205.7	0.08	197.8	0.13	174.2	0.12	81.0	0.10	109.7
J4	9.5	2.10	207.2	0.28	220.9	0.43	173.5	0.27	64.4	0.19	93.6
J4	16.1	2.03	205.3	0.28	221.3	0.42	174.2	0.26	60.3	0.19	95.4
J4	29.2	1.81	200.4	0.25	220.1	0.39	174.9	0.23	56.1	0.18	90.5
J7	6.6	1.85	230.1	0.21	253.5	0.29	211.7	0.18	129.8	0.12	121.3
J7	16.4	1.58	225.5	0.18	247.4	0.25	204.4	0.16	125.1	0.12	123.2
J7	29.5	1.22	222.6	0.16	248.9	0.22	201.8	0.13	121.8	0.08	130.4
J5	4.6	1.54	245.0	0.17	266.1	0.30	233.7	0.15	113.8	0.07	149.3
J5	14.4	1.60	240.6	0.19	267.3	0.31	227.0	0.14	115.3	0.06	134.9
J5	27.6	1.30	244.6	0.19	280.7	0.25	225.4	0.19	130.5	0.12	144.5
J6	5.6	1.40	269.2	0.14	294.0	0.19	253.5	0.14	150.5	0.12	139.4
J6	15.4	1.24	269.1	0.14	299.0	0.20	255.9	0.13	150.7	0.10	149.5
J6	31.8	1.17	266.3	0.12	299.1	0.18	253.8	0.12	149.4	0.08	153.2

The least squares harmonic analysis directly solves for up to 175 different tidal current constituents, depending on the length of the data set. For the data in this survey, 23 tidal current constituents were computed. Fourier harmonic analysis (29-day) solves for 25 tidal current constituents: eleven tidal

current constituents are directly computed, while 14 others are derived using standard amplitude and phase relationships from equilibrium theory.

The M_2 constituent is the major semidiurnal lunar constituent. It is due to the direct tide producing force of the moon and has a period of 12.42 hours. S_2 is the major semidiurnal solar constituent due to the sun; it has a period of 12.00 hours. The interaction of the two constituents going in and out of phase with each other causes the spring/neap cycles.

3.2 St. Johns River Entrance (J1)

Prior to this survey, the St. Johns River Entrance was an NOS Reference Station for only 17 subordinate tidal current stations; the previous predictions at this Reference Station had been based on two 15-day current pole observations collected in 1934. The new data collected at this station are now being used to compute all of the published NOS tidal current predictions in the St. Johns River. Starting with the 1999 edition of the NOS Tidal Current Tables, a total of 55 subordinate tidal current stations (including multiple depths at 20 individual sites) will be referenced to the St. Johns River Entrance station. Appendix B contains the year 2000 tidal current predictions (Table 1 and Table 2) for the St. Johns River. In addition to the new data collected during this survey, there were older, archived data that were previously unpublished. These data were revisited, and where appropriate, they were fully processed and analyzed.

The new Reference Station was deployed approximately 270 yards to the west of the published position of the 1934 station, allowing for a direct inter-comparison of the two data sets. Figure 3.6 is a 16-hour time-series plot comparing the tidal current predictions based on the 1934 data with the tidal current predictions based on the new 1998 data. The most apparent difference between the two sets of predictions is seen in the phase of the currents: all four phases (SBE, MEC, SBF, MFC) of the new tidal current predictions occur earlier than the old tidal current predictions, by as much as almost an hour. Over the past 64 years, there have been numerous bathymetric and hydrological changes in the river, having a pronounced effect on the amplitude and phase of the currents.

The new predicted maximum *flood* speeds are slightly *stronger* than the old predicted maximum flood speeds, while the new predicted maximum *ebb* speeds are slightly *weaker* than the old predicted maximum ebb speeds. The smaller ebb speeds may be a result of the considerable deepening and widening of the river over the past 60-plus years. Currents (especially ebb currents) in a tidal river such as the St. Johns River will generally decrease when the cross-sectional area (depth and width) is increased, assuming the overall discharge stays fairly constant during that time (Pond and Pickard, 1983).

The maximum current speed observed during the 96.0 day measurement period was 3.43 knots toward 264.3 degrees, which is in the flood direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 9.8 feet on May 25, 1998, on the day of a new moon. Figure 3.7 is a velocity scatter diagram of the currents at a depth of 16.4 feet. The effect of the Mayport Basin is clearly seen here during the ebb current; in the northeast quadrant, there is a small divergence of the flow, especially at ebb speeds greater than about 1.5 knots.

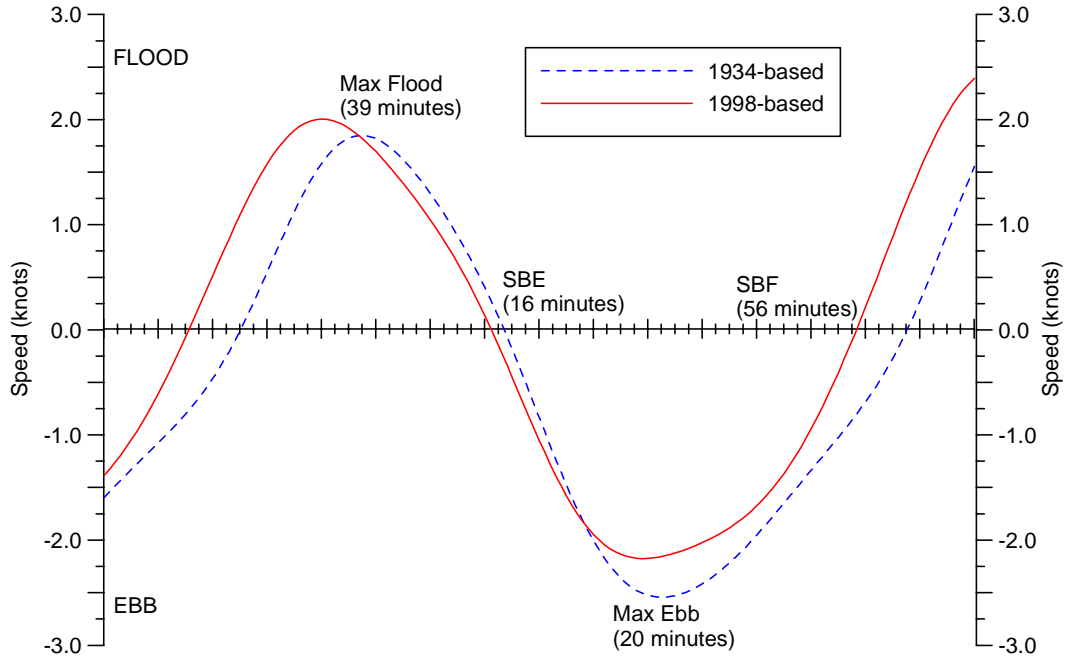


Figure 3.6 Comparison of the 1934-based and the 1998-based tidal current predictions at the River Entrance (J1).

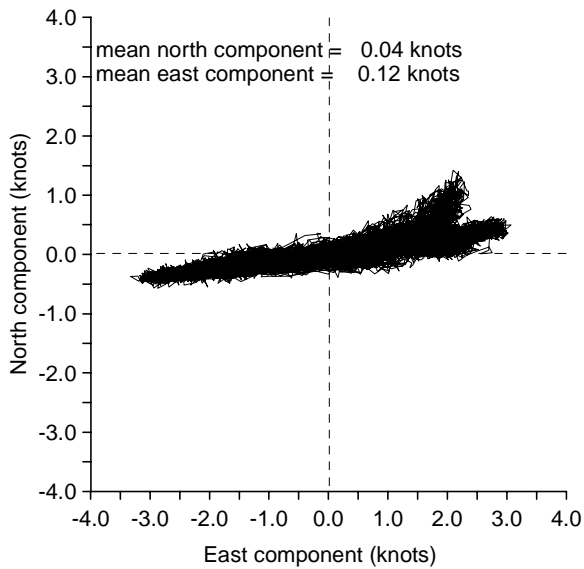


Figure 3.7 Velocity scatter diagram for the River Entrance (J1), 16.4 ft. depth.

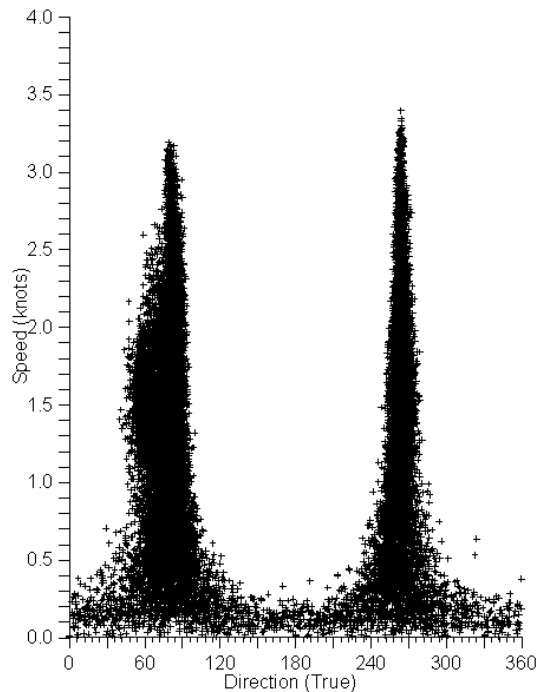


Figure 3.8 Speed-direction scatter plot for the River Entrance (J1), 9.8 ft. depth.

Figure 3.8 is a speed-direction scatter plot of the currents at a depth of 9.8 feet. This is a good illustration of the bipolar, rectilinear nature of the currents in the river. The ebb current (mean direction of 81° True) is not as “tight” as the flood current (mean direction of 262° True), again due to the draining of the Mayport Basin during the stronger ebb flows. The effect of the jetties in this area is to constrict the direction of the current.

A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 16.4 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.9. The tidal current constituents, obtained by least-squares harmonic analysis, were used to predict the tidal current for the 96.0-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current.

Analysis of the residual current at the 16.4 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.23 knots. The standard deviation is a direct measure of the observed variability in a time-series. When applied to the residual current, it is a good method to gage the proportion of nontidal energy in the total current. The astronomical constituents accounted for more than 97% of the total variance, with the M_2 constituent comprising over 90% of the total variance alone. The remaining 3% of the variance is due to meteorological and hydrological forces, such as weather fronts, offshore events, and streamflow. Results for the other depths are similar.

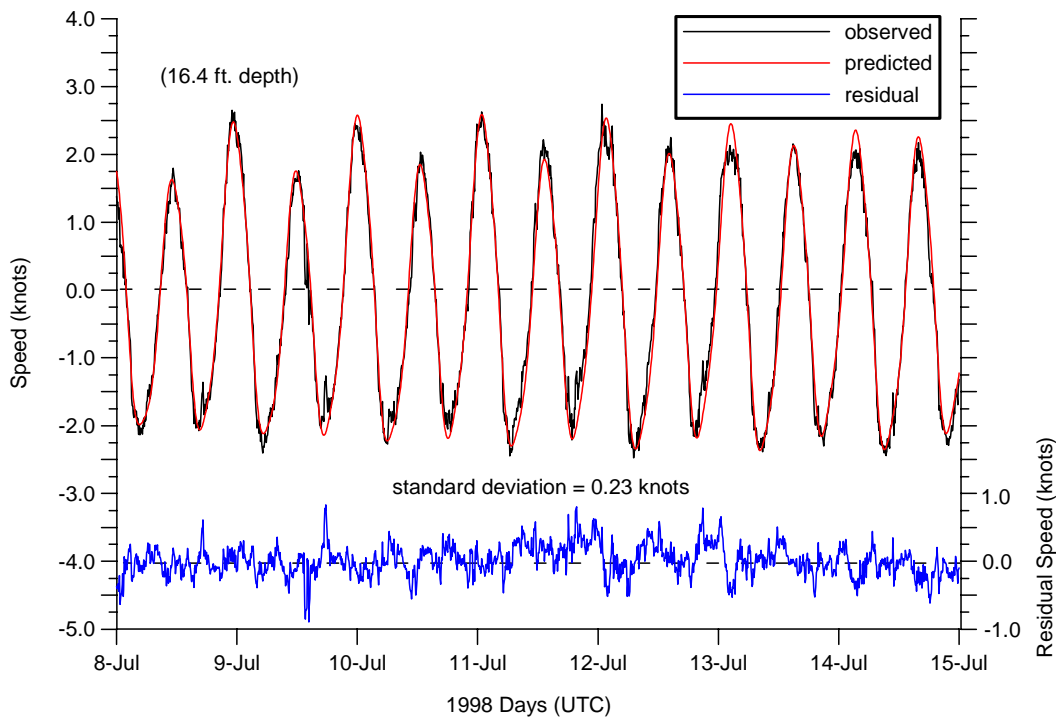


Figure 3.9 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel-- 262°) at the River Entrance (J1) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 96.0-day deployment period.

3.3 Mayport Basin Entrance (J2)

The Mayport Basin Entrance is a new station for NOS, so there are no prior data at this site to make comparisons. A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 15.1 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.10. The tidal current constituents were obtained by least-squares harmonic analysis, and used to compute the astronomical tidal current for the 48.0-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current. This procedure was performed on data at three different depths: 8.5 ft., 15.1 ft., and 31.5 ft.

Analysis of the residual current at the 15.1 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.19 knots. The astronomical constituents account for 96% of the total variance, with the M_2 constituent comprising over 90% of the total variance alone. The remaining 4% of the variance is due to meteorological and hydrological forces. Results for the other depths are similar.

The maximum current speed observed during the measurement period was 2.53 knots toward 103.4 degrees, which is in the ebb direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 5.2 feet on June 10, 1998, on the day of a full moon. The current in the upper five to 12 feet of the water column exhibits a significant cross-channel flow, cutting across the Mayport channel axis at about a 25° to 30° angle, especially during ebbing currents greater than about 1.8 knots (Figure 3.11). In fact, the vast majority of the strongest currents (from 1.8 knots to 2.2 knots) observed at this station occurred in the upper five to 12 feet, during ebb flow, at angles across the main channel.

The current below about 12 feet showed some cross-channel flow during ebb conditions, but not to the same extent as the surface water. The ebb current strength decreased with depth, and the angle of the cross-channel flow was not as extreme towards the deeper sections. The strongest currents below 12 feet were from about 1.4 knots to 1.7 knots, mostly in a flood direction, in-line with the channel.

Figure 3.12 is a speed-direction scatter plot of the currents at a depth of 8.5 feet; it illustrates the relative flood and ebb distribution. This figure shows that the ebb current (mean direction of 93° True) is slightly stronger than the flood current (mean direction of 255° True), and that the two axes are 162° apart, owing to the cross-channel flow at this depth.

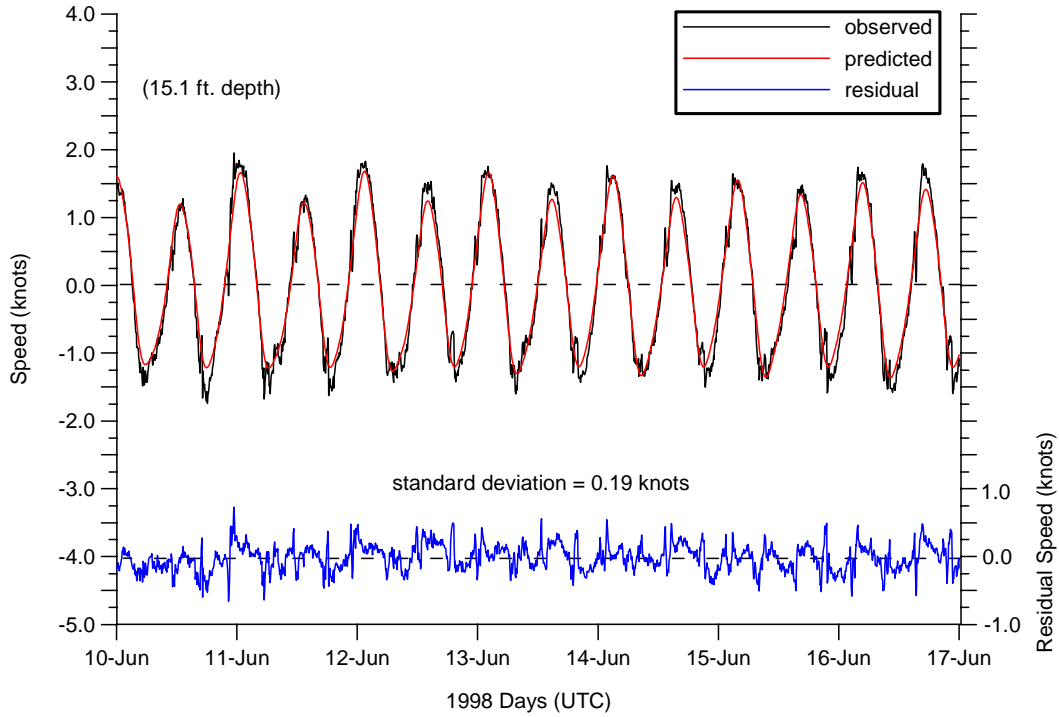


Figure 3.10 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel--259°) at Mayport Basin Entrance (J2) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 48.0-day deployment period.

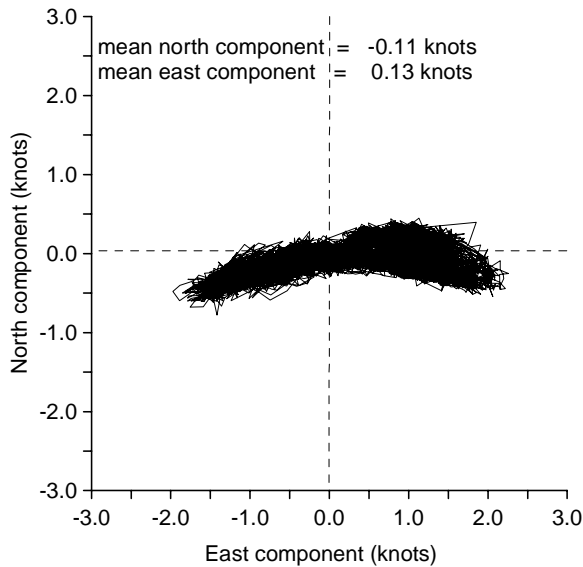


Figure 3.11 Velocity scatter diagram for Mayport Basin Entr. (J2), 8.5 ft. depth.

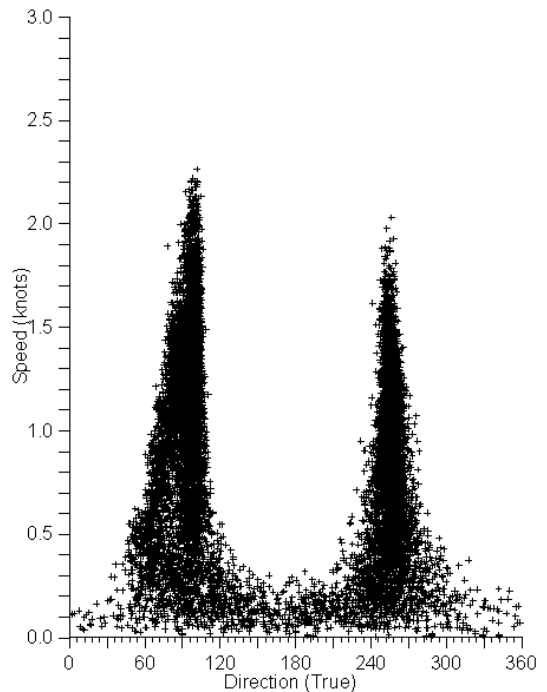


Figure 3.12 Speed-dir. scatter plot for Mayport Basin Entr. (J2), 8.5 ft. depth.

3.4 Inner Mayport Basin (J3)

Figure 3.13 is a velocity scatter diagram of the currents at a depth of 5.9 feet, and Figure 3.14 is a speed-direction scatter plot of the currents at a depth of 9.2 feet. Both figures clearly show the extremely slow currents measured at this station. These weak currents were most likely a result of the current meter's position—it was placed too close to the south side of the basin, very near the Naval pier known as “foxtrot” pier. If the station had been positioned just 100 yards to the north, the measured currents most likely would have been more substantial. Because of the very low observed currents at this station, the data were considered unusable, and no harmonic analyses were performed or astronomical predictions computed. The NOS standard is that any current less than 1/4 knot is considered weak and variable.

The maximum current speed observed during the measurement period was 0.91 knots toward 247.0 degrees, which is in the flood direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 5.9 feet on June 10, 1998, on the day of a full moon. However, it was an anomalous value; less than 10% of the measurements at this depth exceeded 1/2 knot. All other depths showed even slower speeds: as the depth increased, the observed current decreased markedly. The current at 9.2 feet exceeded 1/2 knot only eight times out of the more than 11,000 six-minute observations, and exceeded 1/4 knot only 13% of the 48.3-day measurement period.

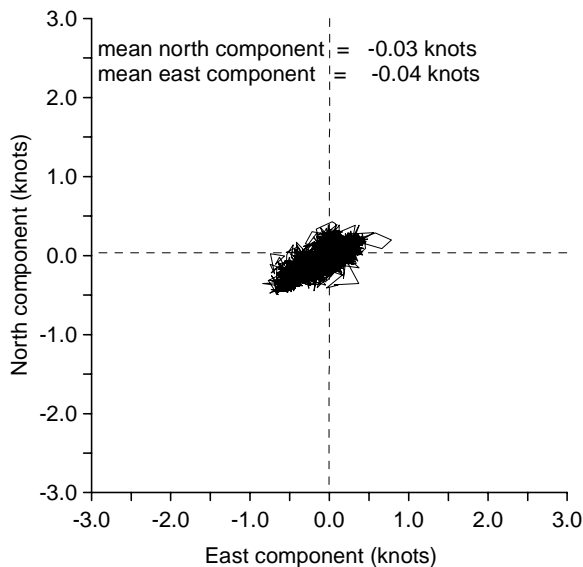


Figure 3.13 Velocity scatter diagram for Inner Mayport Basin (J3), 5.9 ft. depth.

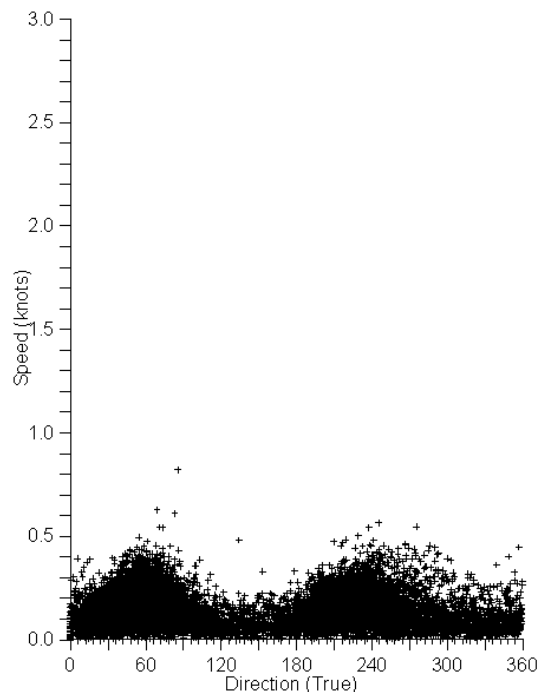


Figure 3.14 Speed-Dir. scatter plot for Inner Mayport Basin (J3), 9.2 ft. depth.

3.5 Intracoastal Waterway Intersection (J4)

The Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) Intersection is a new station for NOS, so there are no prior data at this site to make comparisons. A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 16.1 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.15. The tidal current constituents were obtained by least-squares harmonic analysis, and used to compute the astronomical tidal current for the 49.8-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current. This procedure was performed on data at three different depths: 9.5 ft., 16.1 ft., and 29.2 ft.

Analysis of the residual current at the 16.1 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.25 knots. The astronomical constituents account for more than 97% of the total variance, with the M_2 constituent comprising almost 90% of the total variance alone. The remaining 3% of the variance is due to meteorological and hydrological forces. Results for the other depths are similar.

The ICW crosses the main channel of the St. Johns River at about a 45° angle from the north; while, from the south, it enters almost parallel to the main channel. Because of the influence of the ICW, the current in the upper six to 23 feet of the water column exhibits a significant cross-channel flow, mainly early in the ebb cycle, when the current is between about 0.5 knots to 1.3 knots. During these conditions, the water from the ICW (flowing out from the south) causes a cross-channel flow at about 30° to 40° across the main channel (Figure 3.16). When the ebbing current in the upper 23 feet becomes greater than about 1.5 knots, the direction of the flow comes in-line with the main channel. The current below about 23 ft. depth showed some cross-channel flow, but not nearly to the same extent as the surface water.

The maximum current speed observed during the measurement period was 3.79 knots toward 132.6 degrees, which is in the ebb direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 6.2 feet on April 27, 1998, one day after a new moon. The flood currents are significantly weaker than the ebb currents at this station: at 9.5 ft., the maximum flood currents (mean direction of 293° True) average only 1.6 knots, while the maximum ebb currents (mean direction of 125° True) average 2.6 knots (Figure 3.17). Also, at 16.1 ft., the maximum flood currents average only 1.6 knots, while the maximum ebb currents average 2.4 knots.

In the upper 23 ft., the current at this station rotates clockwise during a given tidal cycle; the ebb current will start flowing toward about 80° to 90° until the speed reaches about 1.3 knots to 1.5 knots, when the direction of the current will rapidly change to about 120° to 130° , in-line with the main channel. The current then remains in this state, slows to a minimum current, then quickly turns to a flood toward about 300° . Because of the influence of the ICW, the slack-before-ebb at this station is relatively high; it is usually greater than $1/3$ knot, while the slack-before-flood is almost always less than $1/4$ knot.

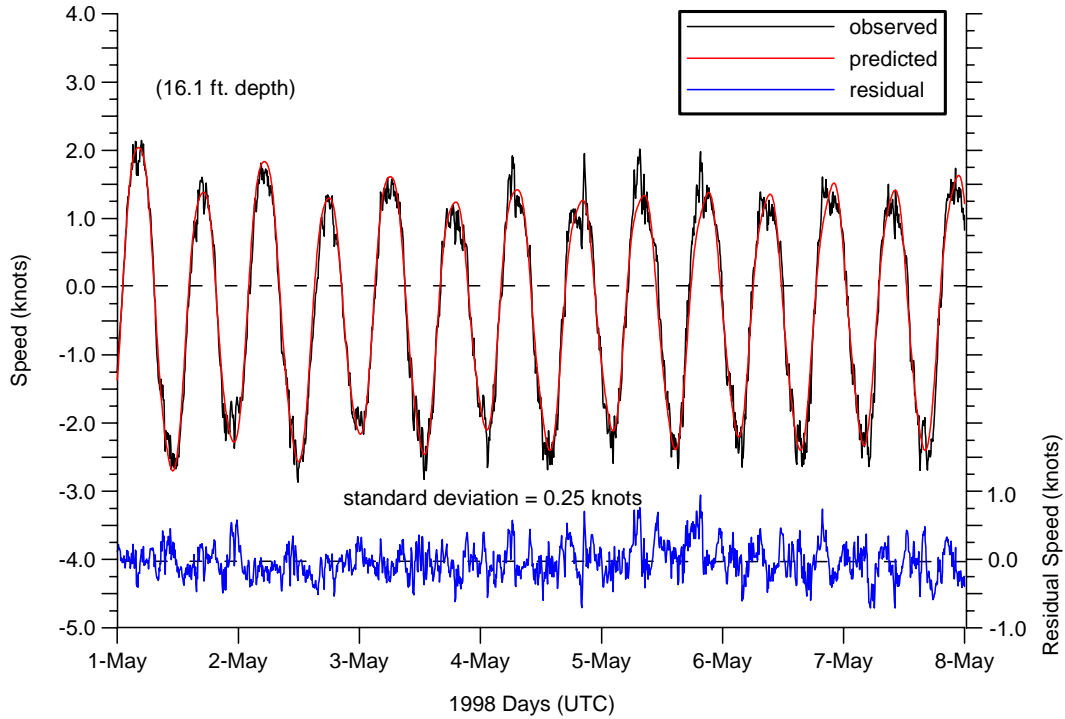


Figure 3.15 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel--293°) at the I.C.W. Intersection (J4) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 49.8-day deployment period.

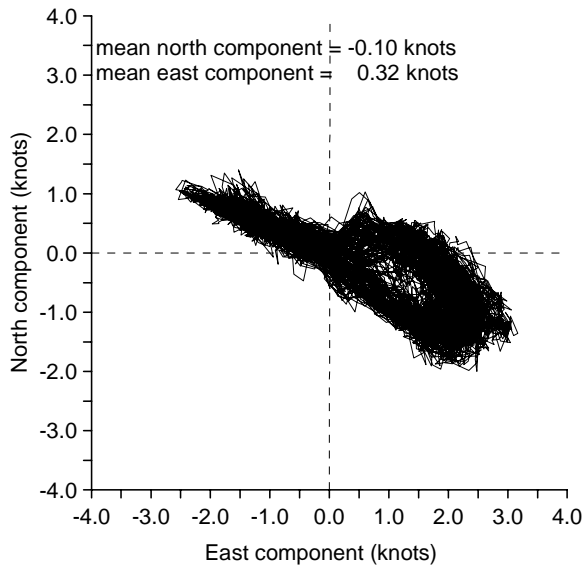


Figure 3.16 Velocity scatter diagram for I.C.W. Intersection (J4), 16.1 ft. depth.

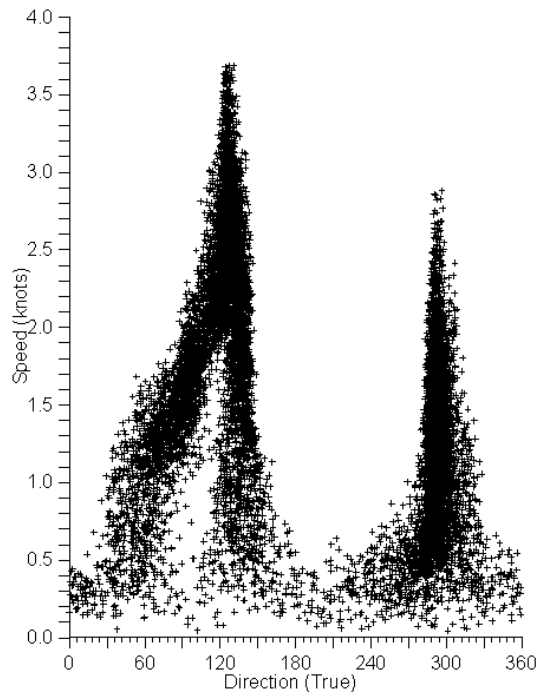


Figure 3.17 Speed-Dir. scatter plot for I.C.W. Intersection (J4), 9.5 ft. depth.

3.6 East Blount Island (J7)

East Blount Island is a new station for NOS, so there are no prior data at this site to make comparisons. A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 16.4 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.18. The tidal current constituents were obtained by least-squares harmonic analysis, and used to compute the astronomical tidal current for the 54.0-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current. This procedure was performed on data at three different depths: 6.6 ft., 16.4 ft., and 29.5 ft. Analysis of the residual current at the 16.4 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.25 knots. The astronomical constituents account for almost 96% of the total variance, with the M_2 constituent comprising 90% of the total variance alone. The remaining 4% of the variance is due to meteorological and hydrological forces. Results for the other depths are similar.

The maximum current speed observed during the measurement period was 3.36 knots toward 72.5 degrees, which is in the ebb direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 6.6 feet on September 8, 1998, two days after a full moon. The station was located in the center of the navigation channel, on the east end of the Dames Point-Fulton Cutoff, about 130 yards due south of the breakwater light #36. Here, the main channel makes a slight turn ($\sim 25^\circ$). This area is a confluence of three sources of flow: the main shipping channel (Dames Point-Fulton Cutoff), the natural St. Johns River (flowing north of Blount Island), and the Back River. Even with the three sources of water in this area, the current exhibited only a slight cross-channel flow, and only in the upper 16 feet (Figure 3.19).

The current at this station rotates counter-clockwise during a given tidal cycle. In the upper 16 ft., the ebb current will start flowing toward about 120° (influenced by the flow from the Back River and the natural St. Johns River, until the speed reaches about one knot, when the direction of the current changes to about 80° , in-line with the main shipping channel. The current remains in this direction, slows to a minimum current, then quickly turns counter-clockwise to a flood, toward about 270° .

The flood currents are significantly weaker than the ebb currents at this station, especially in the upper 16 feet. At 6.6 ft., the maximum flood currents (mean direction of 275° True) average only 1.5 knots, while the maximum ebb currents (mean direction of 79° True) average 2.3 knots (Figure 3.20). Also, at 16.4 ft., the maximum flood currents average 1.4 knots, while the maximum ebb currents average 1.7 knots. Below about 20 feet, the average maximum flood and ebb currents are almost equal, at approximately $1 \frac{1}{4}$ to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ knots.

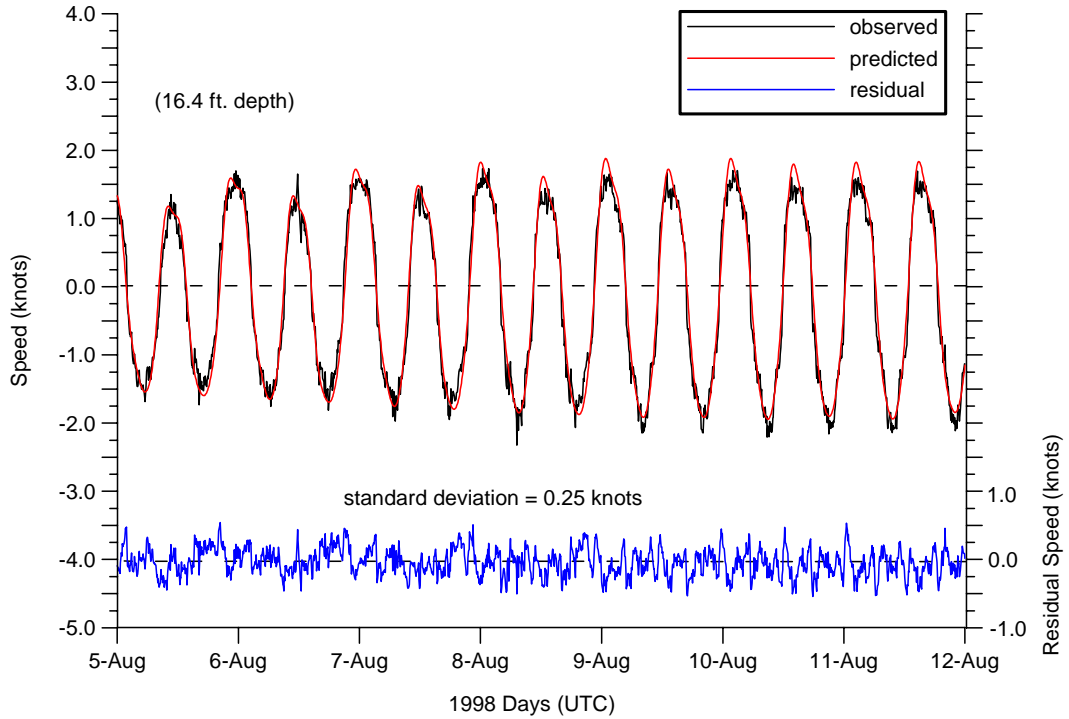


Figure 3.18 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel-270°) at East Blount Island (J7) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 54.0-day deployment period.

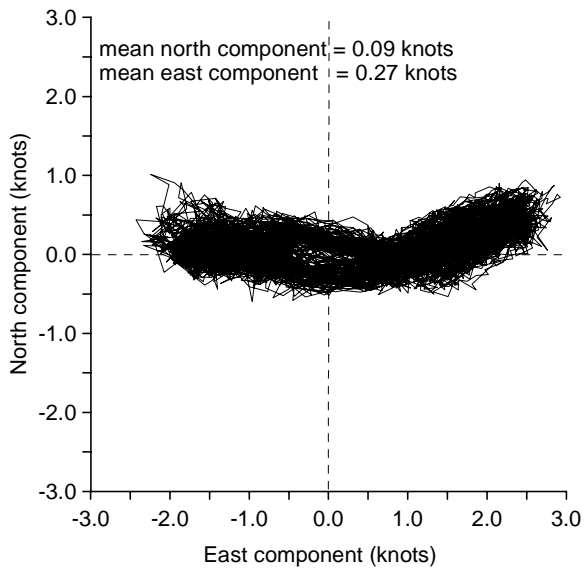


Figure 3.19 Velocity scatter diagram for East Blount Island (J7), 9.8 ft. depth.

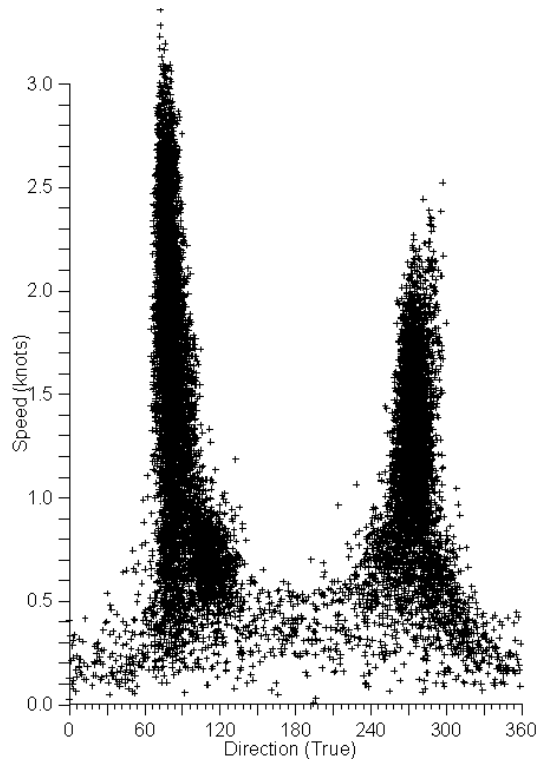


Figure 3.20 Speed-Dir. scatter plot for East Blount Island (J7), 6.6 ft. depth.

3.7 Dames Point Bridge (J5)

Dames Point Bridge is a new station for NOS, so there are no prior data at this site to make comparisons. A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 14.4 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.21. The tidal current constituents were obtained by 15-day Fourier harmonic analysis, and used to compute the astronomical tidal current for the 22.6-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current. This procedure was performed on data at three different depths: 4.6 ft., 14.4 ft., and 27.6 ft. Analysis of the residual current at the 14.4 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.28 knots.

Only 22.6 days of data were collected at this station, so a 15-day Fourier harmonic analysis was performed, as opposed to a 29-day Fourier harmonic analysis or a least-squares harmonic analysis. The main difference in the 15-day Fourier harmonic analysis is that the N_2 tidal constituent is inferred from the M_2 tidal constituent, and 14 other tidal constituents are inferred (from equilibrium theory) rather than computed directly as with the least-squares harmonic analysis. This explains the highest prediction error (based on the residual standard deviation) of any of the stations in this survey.

The maximum current speed observed at this station during the measurement period was 2.56 knots toward 85.1 degrees, which is in the ebb direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 4.6 feet on July 25, 1998, two days after a new moon. The station was located in the center of the navigation channel, on the west end of the Dames Point-Fulton Cutoff, about 200 yards due east of the Dames Point bridge. Here, the Blount Island channel enters the main shipping channel from the north. Even with this confluence, the current exhibited only a slight cross-channel flow, and only in the upper 14 feet, late in the flood cycle (Figure 3.22).

In the upper 14 ft., the current rotates counter-clockwise during a given tidal cycle; the ebb current will start flowing toward about 70° to 80°, in-line with the main shipping channel. The current remains in this direction, slows to a minimum current, then turns counter-clockwise to a flood, toward about 280°. The flood direction remains at about 280°, until late in the flood cycle, when the current slows to less than one knot. The current then turns to about 230° to 260°, being influenced by the inflowing water of the Blount Island channel to the north.

The flood currents are significantly weaker than the ebb currents at this station. At 4.6 ft., the maximum flood currents (mean direction of 254° True) average only 1.2 knots, while the maximum ebb currents (mean direction of 80° True) average 1.9 knots (Figure 3.23). Also, at 14.4 ft., the maximum flood currents average 1.4 knots, while the maximum ebb currents average 1.8 knots.

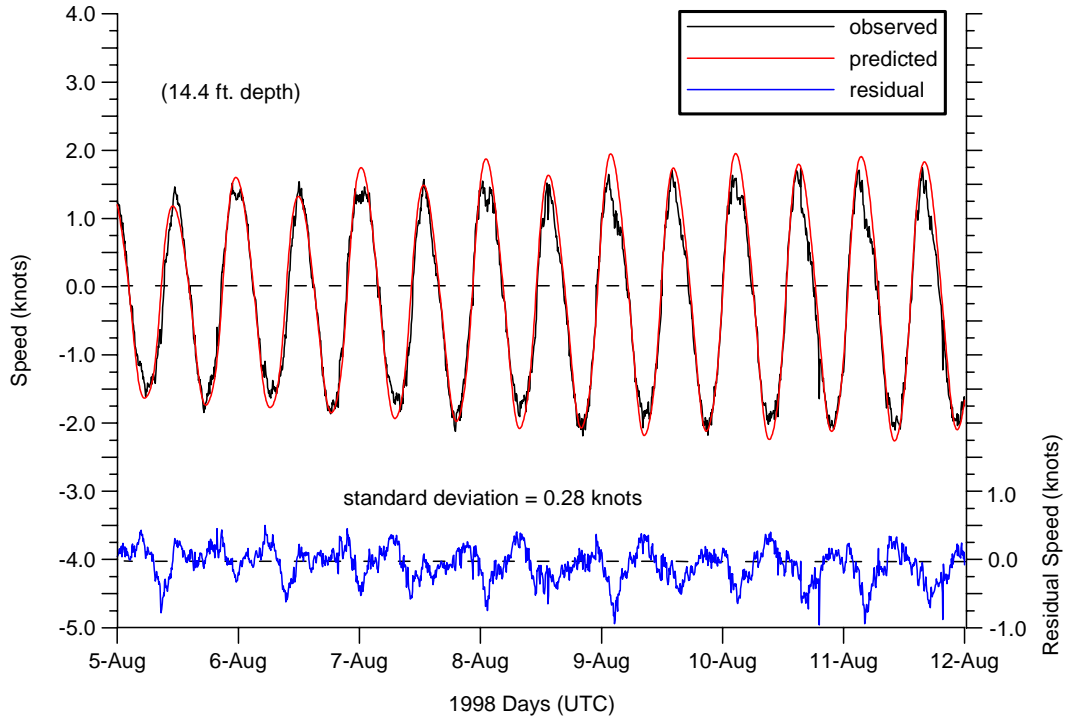


Figure 3.21 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel-257°) at Dames Point Bridge (J5) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 22.6-day deployment period.

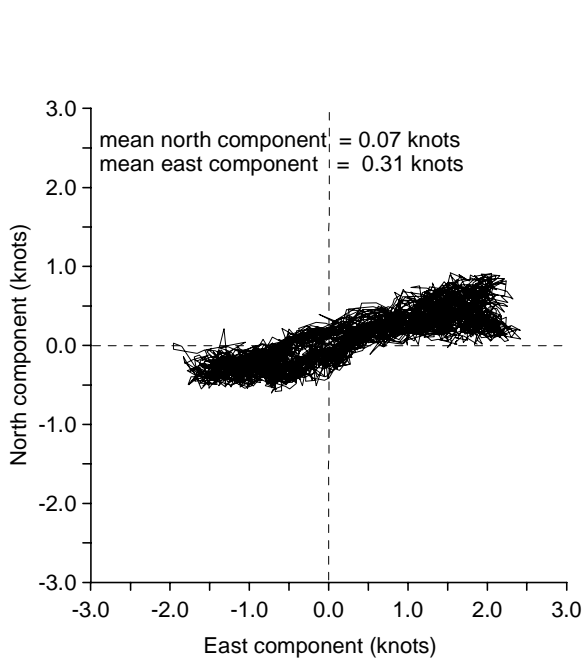


Figure 3.22 Velocity scatter diagram for Dames Point Bridge (J5), 7.9 ft. depth.

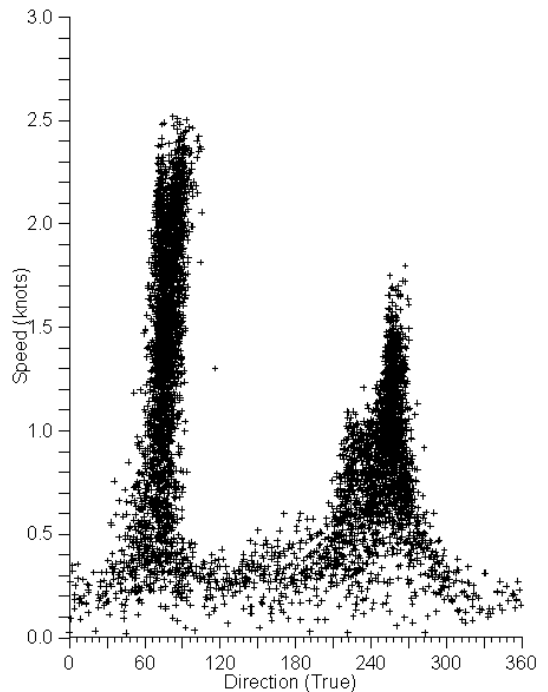


Figure 3.23 Speed-Dir. scatter plot for Dames Point Bridge (J5), 4.6 ft. depth.

3.8 Trout River Cut (J6)

Prior to this survey, the Trout River Cut station was known as “Phoenix Park.” This was an NOS subordinate station, based on the St. Johns River Entrance reference station. The previous predictions at this station had been based on five days of observations collected in 1958. The new data collected at this station are now being used in the NOS Tidal Current Tables (Appendix B). The new current meter at this site was located about 240 yards to the north of the published position of the 1958 station, so, a direct inter-comparison of the two data sets is possible.

Figure 3.24 is a 16-hour time-series plot comparing the tidal current predictions based on the 1958 data and the new 1998 data. The most apparent difference between the two sets of predictions is seen in the phase of the currents: all four phases (SBE, MEC, SBF, MFC) of the new tidal current predictions occur earlier than the old tidal current predictions, from at least a half-hour to as much as an hour. The new predicted maximum *flood* speeds are about the same as the old predicted maximum flood speeds, while the new predicted maximum *ebb* speeds are *stronger* than the old predicted maximum ebb by about 25%. As with the St. Johns River Entrance station, numerous bathymetric and hydrological changes have occurred in this area over the past 40 years, causing changes to the amplitude and phase of the currents.

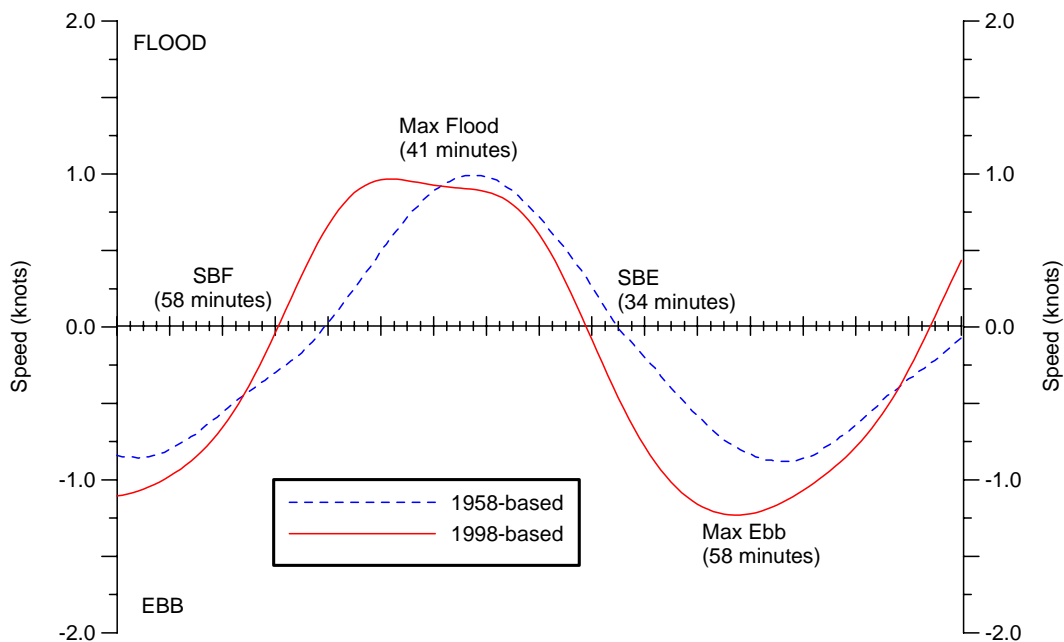


Figure 3.24 Comparison of the 1958-based and the 1998-based tidal current predictions at Trout River Cut (J6).

A seven-day time-series plot representing the measured currents, astronomical predictions, and residual currents (all along-channel at 15.4 ft. depth) is presented in Figure 3.25. The tidal current constituents, obtained by least-squares harmonic analysis, were used to predict the tidal current for the 55.5-day measurement period. These values were then subtracted from the observed current to obtain the residual current.

Analysis of the residual current at the 15.4 ft. depth reveals that the standard deviation for the measurement period is 0.19 knots. The astronomical constituents account for almost 96% of the total variance, with the M_2 constituent comprising more than 90% of the total variance alone. The remaining 4% of the variance is due to meteorological and hydrological forces. Results for the other depths are similar.

The station was located in the center of the navigation channel, on the south end of the Trout River Cut Range, about 150 yards from the navigational buoys "67" and "68". Here, the Trout River enters the main shipping channel from the west. The current at this station generally did not exhibit any cross-channel flow, even with the proximity of the Trout River. This may have been a function of the particular position of the instrument. Had the station been positioned further to the north, there may have been a significant cross-channel flow observed.

The maximum current speed observed during the 55.5-day measurement period was 2.18 knots toward 15.4 degrees, which is in the ebb direction. This speed was measured at a depth of 8.9 feet on September 8, 1998, two days after a full moon. Figure 3.26 is a velocity scatter diagram of the currents at a depth of 8.9 feet. It shows that, overall, the flood currents are slightly weaker than the ebb currents at this station, and there is little cross-channel flow.

Figure 3.27 is a speed-direction scatter plot of the currents at a depth of 5.6 feet. This again illustrates the rectilinear nature of the currents at this station. At 5.6 ft., the maximum flood currents (mean direction of 193° True) average 1.3 knots, while the maximum ebb currents (mean direction of 005° True) average 1.5 knots. Also, at 15.4 ft., the maximum flood currents average 1.1 knots, while the maximum ebb currents average 1.3 knots (Appendix B).

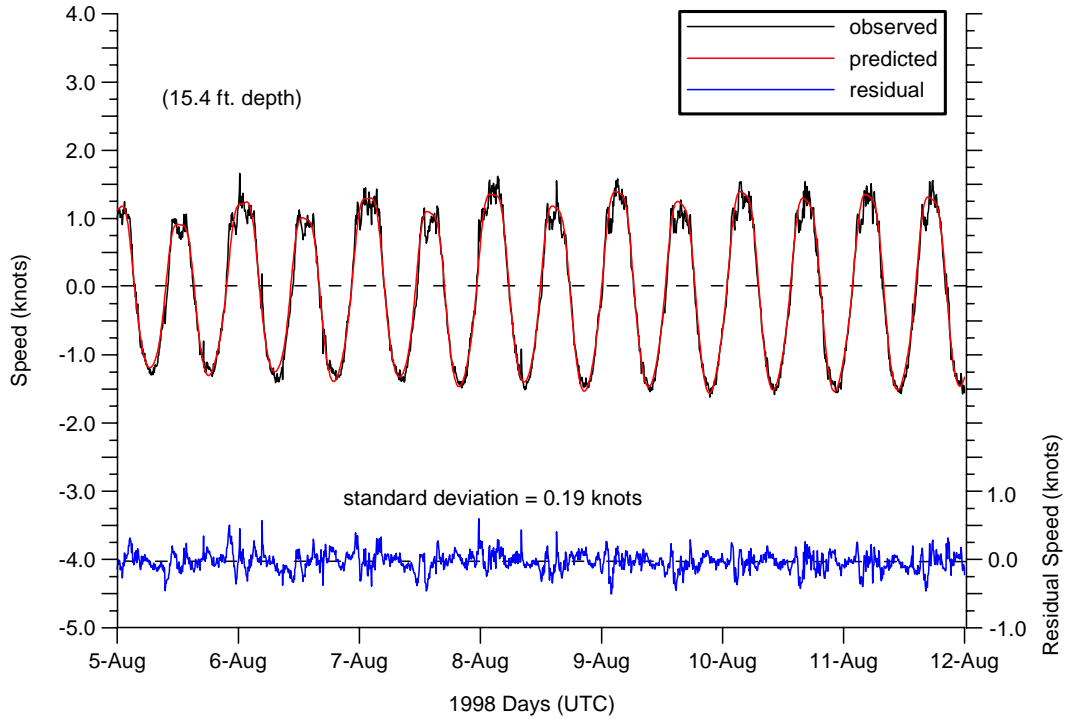


Figure 3.25 Observed, predicted, and residual current (along-channel-191°) at Trout River Cut (J6) during a seven day period. Note that the residual standard deviation value is for the entire 55.5-day deployment period.

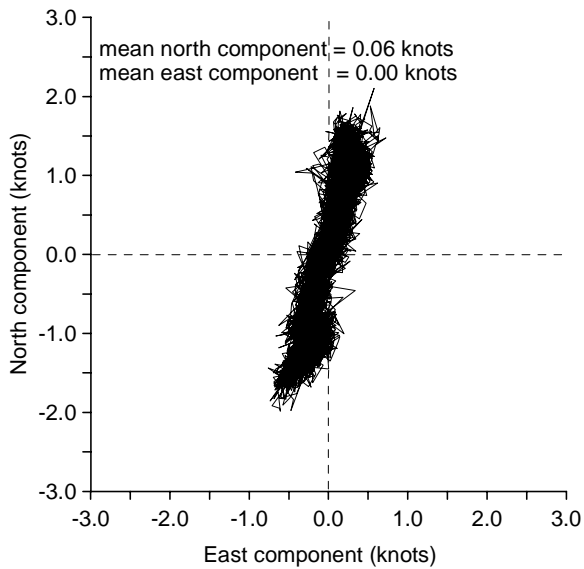


Figure 3.26 Velocity scatter diagram for Trout River Cut (J6), 8.9 ft. depth.

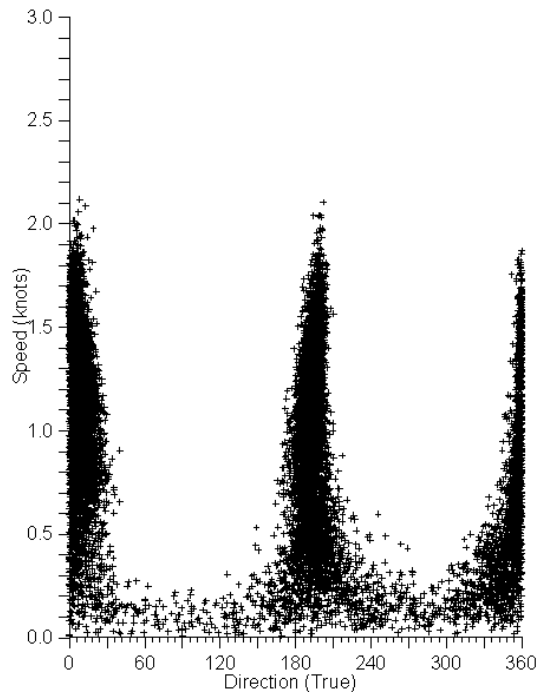


Figure 3.27 Speed-Dir. scatter plot for Trout River Cut (J6), 5.6 ft. depth.

4. RESPONSE OF THE CURRENTS AND WATER LEVELS TO A STORM EVENT

Prevailing winds in the lower St. Johns River basin are northeasterly in the fall and winter months, and southwesterly in spring and summer. The strongest winds generally occur in February and March, while lighter winds generally occur in July and August. The greatest rainfall, mostly in the form of local thundershowers, occurs during the summer months in the lower SJR basin. Rainfall of 1 inch or more in 24 hours normally occurs about fourteen times a year, and very infrequently heavy rains, associated with tropical storms, reach amounts of several inches with durations of more than 24 hours. Winter is the dry season, having the least rainfall. River flow is seasonal, generally following the seasonal rain patterns, with higher flows occurring in the late summer to early fall, and the lower flows occurring in the winter months (NOAA, 1998).

Throughout the lower St. Johns River, more than 80% of the total river flow is attributed to tidal forces (NOAA, 1985). However, during storm events, the tides can be overcome by nontidal factors such as wind, rain, and streamflow. Persistent winds from the north will cause a marked elevation of the water levels, a significant increase of the flood current speeds, and lengthening of the flood current duration. Winds from the south will have the opposite effect. Wind setup occurs at sustained wind speeds of greater than about 7 knots.

From August 2-4, a persistent wind blew from the north at 10-15 knots for more than 48 hours, gusting consistently near 20 knots (Figure 4.1). While not an extreme storm, the persistent direction and speed of the wind caused a significant setup in the water levels and affected the currents substantially (Figure 4.2, panels A and B).

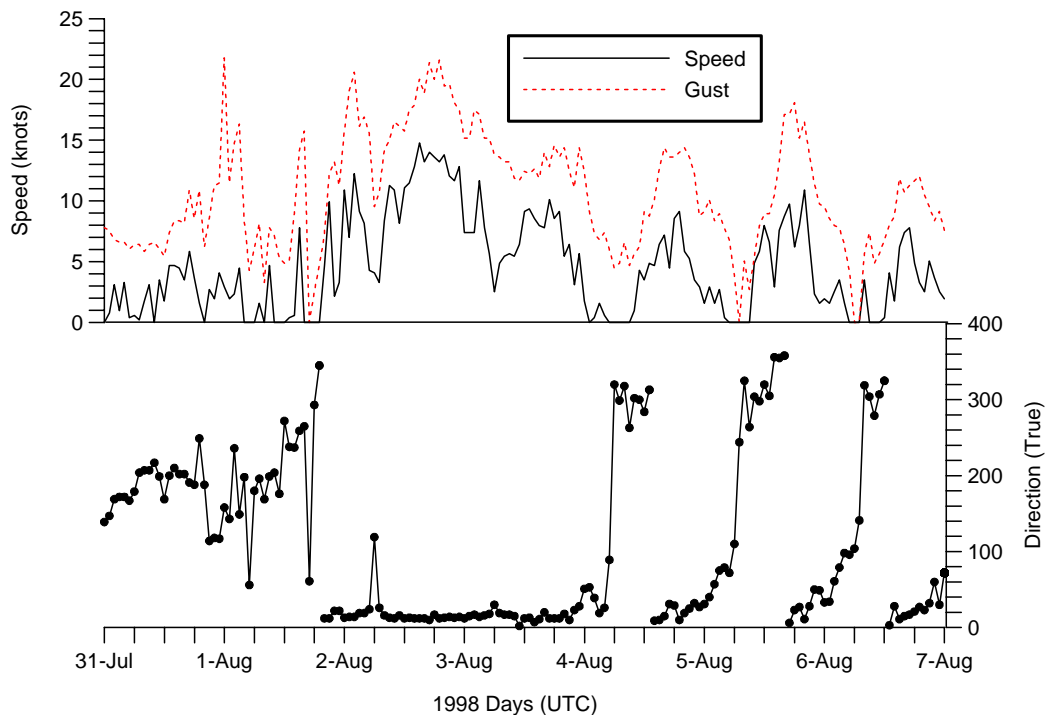


Figure 4.1 Wind speed, gust, and direction at Mayport during an early August 1998 storm event. Note that the wind direction is the direction the wind is from.

In addition to the steady wind, there was significant rainfall associated with this storm. This is reflected in the streamflow from a USGS gaging station in Pablo Creek, just south of the SJR, near Mayport (Figure 4.2, panel C). It shows that a sharp rise in the streamflow occurred in less than eight hours, late on August 1, peaking at over 530 cfs. This turned out to be the annual peak at this gaging station for 1998. The mean daily flow for this station is approximately 50 cfs.

Prior to the storm, the observed water levels throughout the lower SJR were all running at or just under predicted tides. The observed water levels at Dames Point were lower than the predicted tide by about 0.1 ft. to 1 ft. (Figure 4.2, panel A). Late on August 1, the water level began responding to the persistent northerly winds and increased streamflow, and rose to about 1 ft. over the predicted tide. The water levels continued in this state for about 2 1/2 days, until late on August 4, when they began to slowly fall back down in line with the predicted tide.

Observed currents at the two operating current meters (Trout River and East Blount Island) were in good agreement with tidal current predictions, prior to the storm. Late on August 1, the observed current at East Blount Island began responding to the persistent northerly winds (Figure 4.2, panel B). The ebb current speeds were reduced by as much as 3/4 knot, while the ebb current duration was reduced by about 1 1/2 hours. The flood current speeds were increased by as much as 1 knot, while the flood current duration was increased by about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The currents at this station were affected for about 1 1/2 days, until mid-day on August 3, when they quickly returned back to a normal tidal state.

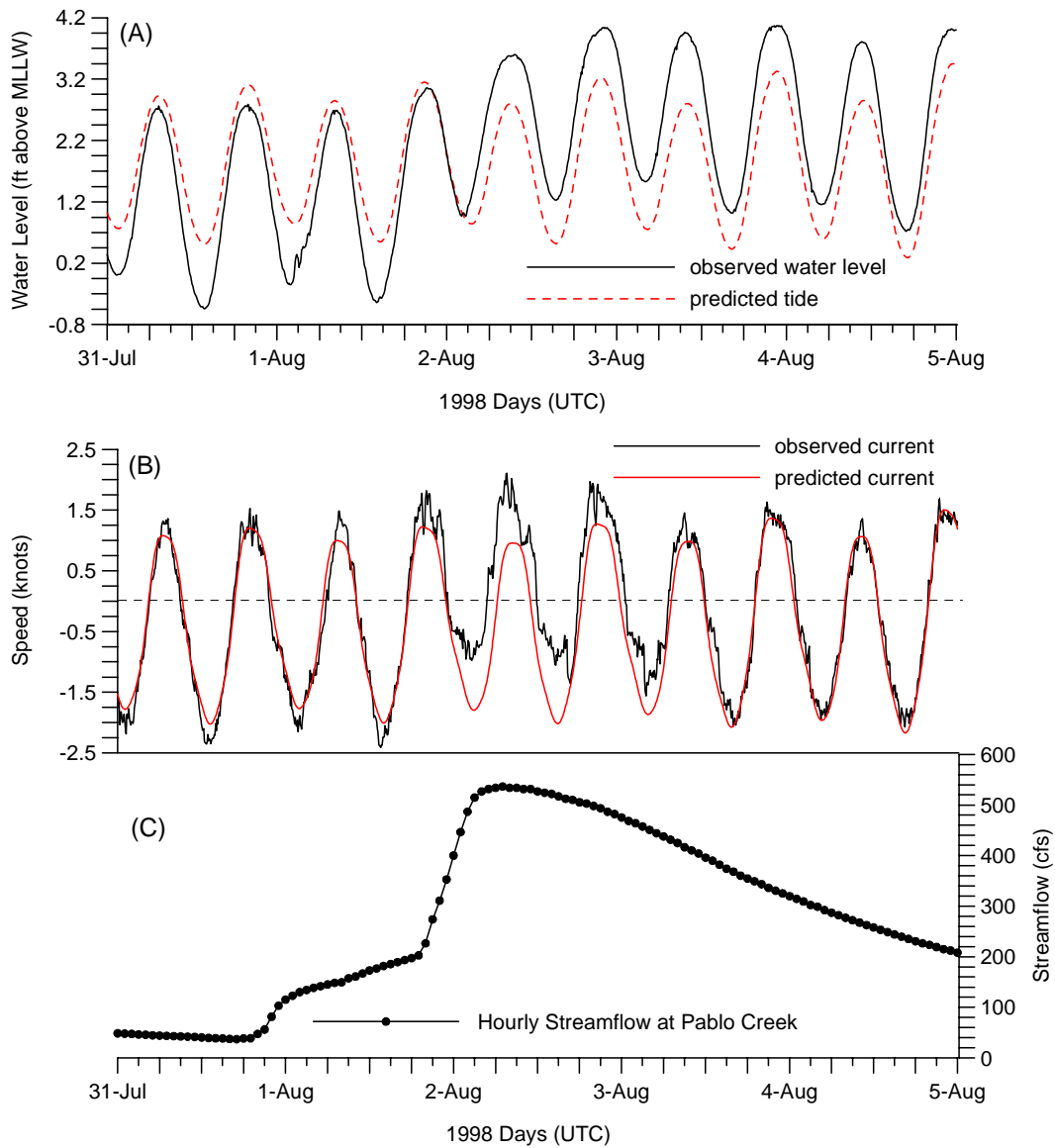


Figure 4.2 Observed water level, and predicted tides at Dames Point (Panel A), observed and predicted current (6.6 ft.) at East Blount Island (Panel B), and streamflow at Pablo Creek (Panel C) during an early August 1998 storm event.

5. SUMMARY

The National Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services conducted an oceanographic survey of the currents in the St. Johns River, Florida from mid April to mid September, 1998. The main goal of this survey was to collect new measurements of the currents in as many sites as feasible in the St. Johns River to update the published tidal current predictions. New measurements of the currents in the St. Johns River had not been collected since surveys in the 1930s and 1950s. Over the decades, the currents have been affected by extensive dredging of channels, new harbor and channel construction, and other natural and man-made modifications. The large military presence and shipping industry in the St. Johns River require that accurate tidal current predictions be available.

From the river's entrance near the Mayport Naval Station to the Trout River Cut, seven new current meter stations were occupied throughout a sixteen-mile stretch of river, where the local community expressed a need for more accurate information. The results of this survey have led to the generation of new, more accurate tidal current predictions, which will serve to increase the safety and efficiency of navigation and commerce in the SJR system. Because of this survey, 18 new tidal current prediction stations (six stations with three depths each) were added to the Tidal Current Tables, and 23 historical stations (twelve stations with one or two depths each) were validated, and incorporated into the Tidal Current Tables (Appendix B).

Currents in the lower St. Johns River are tidally dominated; they are semidiurnal, consisting of two flood and two ebb periods each day. Because the river is basically a constricted channel, the currents are rectilinear, and exhibit mostly progressive wave characteristics. This relationship varies along the river, depending on the distance from the mouth of the river, the water depth, and other physical factors. At the river entrance, the maximum flood and ebb currents occur approximately one hour before the high and low tides at the river entrance. Further upriver, at Dames Point (approximately 10.5 miles from the river entrance), the maximum flood and ebb currents precede the times of high and low water by only about 15-35 minutes. Somewhere around 15 to 17 miles from the river entrance, the flood and ebb strengths occur almost simultaneously with the times of high and low waters.

The progression of the tidal current from the mouth of the river to the Trout River Cut is highly linear. In this approximately 16-mile stretch of river, there was a measured time difference of 2.3 to 2.9 hours for all four phases of the tidal current. This corresponds to an average progression speed of about 5.5 to 7.0 knots, which is important information to mariners when planning for the most efficient times to transit up or down the river. This linear relationship of the tidal current phases along the river was also used as a tool to verify older tidal current prediction stations, prior to publishing the latest tidal current predictions.

The currents at all of the stations exhibited vertical profiles that are typical of tidal rivers. Current speeds were strongest near the surface and decreased with depth, due to bottom frictional effects. Down-river stations generally had stronger currents than up-river stations. The highest current speed measured during this survey was a 3.79 knot ebb flow at the ICW Intersection, at a depth of 6.2 feet on April 27, 1998, one day after a new moon.

Harmonic analysis was performed on six of the stations at three different depths each. The most significant astronomical tidal constituent at all of the stations is the semidiurnal lunar constituent, M_2 . This tidal constituent accounted for approximately 90% of the total variance in the observed currents at all six stations. Tidal current predictions were computed (using the astronomical tidal current constituents) for six of the stations. Analysis of the residual currents (nontidal current) revealed that between 93% and 99% of the observed currents were tidally-driven.

Although concern was expressed about cross-channel flows at most locations, only the instrument at the Intracoastal Waterway Intersection actually measured a significant cross-channel flow. Other stations exhibited some cross-channel flow, but not to the same extent as the ICW station. During storm events, the tides and tidal currents can be overcome by nontidal factors such as wind, rain, and streamflow. Persistent winds from the north will cause a marked elevation of the water levels, a significant increase of the flood current speeds, and lengthening of the flood current duration. During these conditions, astronomical tide and tidal current predictions are of limited value; real-time information would be much more useful.

The installation of a Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) may be a valuable tool for the local maritime community. PORTS is a decision support tool which improves the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce and coastal resource management through the integration of real-time environmental observations, forecasts, and other geospatial information. PORTS collects and disseminates observations and predictions of water levels, currents, air and water temperature, salinity, and meteorological parameters (winds, atmospheric pressure, visibility, etc.). Although PORTS has been developed by NOS, the funding for installation and operation of a PORTS remains the responsibility of the local maritime community (NOS, 1999b).

6. DATA AND INFORMATION PRODUCTS

The data collected from this survey are fully archived and available to the public from the National Ocean Service. To obtain any portion or the complete data set, use the following addresses:

Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Products and Services Division
N/OPS3
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-2877

e-mail address: ipss@ceob.nos.noaa.gov

INTERNET address: <http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author and NOS would like to express their gratitude to the US Navy. The Harbor Operations Department of the Naval Station Mayport in Mayport, Florida provided critical support for all of the instrument deployments and recoveries. Their vessel, the C-Tractor #13, a 105 ft. contract tug, proved an excellent platform for this type of work. In particular, Mr. Tom Reynolds, the Chief Naval Pilot, deserves a special thanks for finding time in the tug fleet's busy schedule to assist us on four different occasions. He also provided valuable advice and abundant local knowledge during station site selections and all of the field operations.

The tug captains and their crews deserve special recognition for their operational support. Captains Pete Coradi and Pat Winn operated the tugs, and showed much professionalism, alertness, and patience, especially when unexpected equipment problems were encountered. Harbor Operations Officer, LCDR Christofferson, and Mr. Bob Reeder, Surface Coordinator, provided logistical support for all of the tug operations.

Dive support was provided by Mr. Rodney Jones on two occasions. He also assisted with line handling during a couple of the instrument deployment and recovery operations. In addition, special gratitude is expressed to Messrs. Gary Collins and Phillip Murphy of the EPA, District 4 for gearing up (with only 1 hours notice) and successfully diving for, and recovering, a critical component of one of our stations.

NOAA employees, Messrs. Richard Bourgerie and Jim Lewis were field party chiefs. Mr. Peter Stone and Mrs. Karen Earwaker provided additional field support and constructive comments on the content of this report. The draft technical report was reviewed by Dr. Chris Zervas, Mr. Stephen Gill, and Mr. William Stoney. Mrs. Brenda Via critiqued, edited, and finalized the figures, and provided desktop publishing for this report.

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APPENDIX A. Photographs of Field Operations



Two of the RDI Workhorse ADCPs used for the survey.



105 ft. C-tractor tug used for the survey.



Loading a cleaned-up bottom-mount back onto the vessel, ready for re-deployment.



Initial retrieval of a recovery pod from a small support boat.



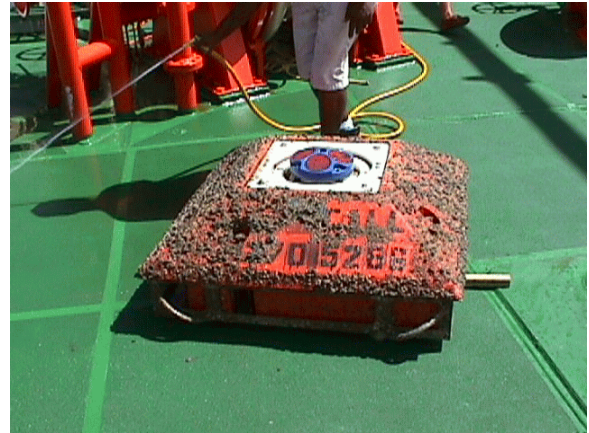
Preparing for the deployment of a bottom-mount using an acoustic release crane.



Deployment of a bottom-mount over the side of the vessel using an acoustic release and crane.



Lifting a recovery pod onto the vessel.



Barnacle growth on a recovery pod after retrieval.

APPENDIX B. Tidal Current Tables, 2000 (Tables 1 and 2 for the St. Johns River)

St. Johns River Entrance, Florida, 2000

F—Flood, Dir. 262 ° True E—Ebb, Dir. 081 ° True

January				February				March															
Slack		Maximum		Slack		Maximum		Slack		Maximum		Slack		Maximum									
	h m	h m	knots		h m	h m	knots		h m	h m	knots		h m	h m	knots								
1 Sa	0016	0310	2.0 F	16 Su	0531	0807	2.2 E	1 Tu	0117	0402	1.9 F	16 W	0058	0351	2.6 F	1 W	0040	0314	1.7 F	16 Th	0049	0337	2.4 F
	0631	1011	2.0 E		1213	1437	1.7 F		0732	1103	1.8 E		0715	0954	2.2 E		0653	1016	1.6 E		0700	1002	2.1 E
	1307	1553	1.4 F		1737	2027	2.2 E		1412	1642	1.3 F		1402	1627	1.7 F		1333	1550	1.3 F		1346	1619	1.7 F
	1835	2158	2.0 E						1938	2235	1.8 E		1928	2211	2.2 E		1904	2152	1.7 E		1920	2222	2.1 E
2 Su	0104	0406	2.0 F	17 M	0013	0308	2.6 F	2 W	0206	0453	2.0 F	17 Th	0201	0455	2.7 F	2 Th	0132	0411	1.8 F	17 F	0153	0446	2.5 F
	0720	1056	2.0 E		0632	0906	2.3 E		0818	1146	1.8 E		0814	1100	2.3 E		0743	1059	1.7 E		0758	1110	2.2 E
	1359	1651	1.5 F		1315	1539	1.7 F		1501	1728	1.4 F		1501	1731	1.9 F		1425	1646	1.4 F		1442	1725	2.0 F
	1925	2238	1.9 E		1840	2124	2.3 E		2025	2313	1.8 E		2026	2314	2.3 E		1953	2236	1.8 E		2018	2331	2.3 E
3 M	0152	0452	2.1 F	18 Tu	0111	0409	2.7 F	3 Th	0252	0538	2.1 F	18 F	0301	0555	2.8 F	3 F	0222	0504	2.0 F	18 Sa	0253	0547	2.6 F
	0805	1139	2.0 E		0731	1005	2.3 E		0901	1224	1.9 E		0909	1206	2.4 E		0828	1135	1.8 E		0851	1206	2.3 E
	1447	1732	1.5 F		1417	1642	1.8 F		1547	1808	1.5 F		1554	1827	2.0 F		1511	1734	1.6 F		1532	1817	2.2 F
	2011	2314	1.9 E		1940	2221	2.4 E		2108	2349	1.9 E		2122				2039	2318	1.9 E		2111		

Time meridian 75° W. 0000 is midnight. 1200 is noon.

TABLE 2 – CURRENT DIFFERENCES AND OTHER CONSTANTS

No.	PLACE	Meter Depth	POSITION		TIME DIFFERENCES				SPEED RATIOS		AVERAGE SPEEDS AND DIRECTIONS					
			Latitude	Longitude	Min. before Flood	Flood	Min. before Ebb	Ebb	h	m	h	m	Minimum before Flood	Maximum Flood	Minimum before Ebb	Maximum Ebb
	NASSAU SOUND Time meridian, 75° W	ft	North	West	h	m	h	m	Flood	Ebb	knots	Dir.	knots	Dir.	knots	Dir.
7926	Midsound, 1 mi. N of Sawpit Creek entrance		30° 31.4'	81° 27.1'	+0 01	-0 24	-0 14	-0 30	0 9	1 1	1 7	312°	0 0	--	1 7	135°
7931	South Amelia River, off Walker Creek		30° 32.2'	81° 27.9'	-1 09	-0 21	-0 39	-2 06	0 8	0 9	1 4	341°	0 0	--	1 4	162°
7936	Nassau River, SW of Mesa Marsh		30° 32.0'	81° 28.8'	+0 08	-0 21	0 00	-0 22	0 8	1 1	1 5	294°	0 0	--	1 7	129°
7941	Ft. George River		30° 27.4'	81° 27.1'	-1 36	-1 20	-1 25	-2 29	0 2	0 6	0 3	334°	0 0	--	0 9	162°
	ST. JOHNS RIVER															
7946	St. Johns Point, 5 miles east of		30° 23.5'	81° 18.0'												
7951	ST. JOHNS RIVER ENT. (between jetties)	16	30° 24.02'	81° 23.15'	+0 06	+0 13	-0 04	+0 07	1 0	1 2	2 0	262°	0 0	--	2 0	081°
	do.	10	30° 24.02'	81° 23.15'	-0 19	+0 01	-0 02	+0 07	0 9	0 9	1 9	262°	0 0	--	2 1	081°
	do.	30	30° 24.02'	81° 23.15'	-0 02	-0 08	+0 01	+0 33	0 6	0 7	1 2	255°	0 0	--	1 9	080°
7956	Mayport Basin Entrance	9	30° 23.82'	81° 23.93'	-0 12	+0 17	+0 11	+0 07	0 7	0 6	1 3	251°	0 1	166°	1 4	093°
	do.	15	30° 23.82'	81° 23.93'	+0 24	+0 48	+0 17	+0 34	0 6	0 3	1 3	251°	0 1	166°	1 2	087°
	do.	32	30° 23.82'	81° 23.93'	+0 06	+1 02	+0 15	-0 04	1 1	1 6	2 2	211°	0 0	--	0 6	089°
7961	Mayport	7	30° 23.6'	81° 26.0'	-0 03	+0 38	+0 12	+0 05	1 1	1 3	2 2	211°	0 0	--	3 3	026°
	do.	17	30° 23.6'	81° 26.0'	-0 27	+0 26	+0 15	+0 14	0 9	0 0	1 7	211°	0 0	--	2 8	026°
	do.	27	30° 23.6'	81° 26.0'	+0 06	+0 38	+0 48	+0 44	1 5	1 6	2 0	241°	0 0	--	1 6	026°
7966	Mile Point, southeast of	7	30° 22.9'	81° 26.7'	-0 12	+0 38	+0 54	+0 56	1 2	1 2	2 5	241°	0 0	--	3 2	073°
	do.	18	30° 22.9'	81° 26.7'	-0 42	+0 38	+1 00	+0 38	1 1	0 9	2 5	241°	0 0	--	2 5	073°
	do.	29	30° 22.9'	81° 26.7'	+0 27	+0 29	+0 08	+0 58	0 8	1 3	1 6	293°	0 4	003°	1 8	073°
7971	ICW Intersection	10	30° 23.02'	81° 27.52'	+0 22	+0 31	+0 10	+0 49	0 8	1 2	2 1	213°	0 3	007°	2 6	125°
	do.	16	30° 23.02'	81° 27.52'	+0 09	+0 35	+0 10	+0 21	0 8	1 0	1 6	293°	0 3	007°	2 4	113°
	do.	29	30° 23.02'	81° 27.52'	-0 14	-0 18	+0 49	+0 59	1 7	2 5	0 1	200°	0 2	020°	2 1	099°
7976	Pablo Creek bascule bridge <40>	3	30° 19.4'	81° 26.3'	-3 30	-3 14	-2 13	-2 34	0 8	0 0	1 5	294°	0 0	--	5 2	000°
7981	Sisters Creek entrance (bridge)	4	30° 23.4'	81° 27.7'	-3 36	-3 04	-2 07	-2 34	0 8	0 6	1 6	000°	0 0	--	1 6	180°
	do.	10	30° 23.4'	81° 27.7'	+0 30	+1 21	-0 18	+1 02	0 8	1 2	1 2	000°	0 0	--	1 2	180°
7986	St. Johns Bluff	7	30° 23.4'	81° 29.5'	+0 18	+1 03	+0 30	+1 02	0 9	1 0	1 7	244°	0 0	--	2 4	059°
	do.	17	30° 23.4'	81° 29.5'	-0 12	+0 33	+0 24	+1 14	0 8	0 8	1 6	244°	0 0	--	2 0	059°
	do.	26	30° 23.4'	81° 29.5'	+1 21	+1 08	+0 49	+1 54	0 7	1 1	1 5	275°	0 0	--	1 6	059°
7991	Blount Island, East of	7	30° 23.52'	81° 30.51'	+0 54	+0 58	+1 12	+1 43	0 7	0 8	1 5	270°	0 1	183°	2 3	079°
	do.	16	30° 23.52'	81° 30.51'	+0 33	+1 08	+1 12	+1 32	0 6	0 9	1 4	270°	0 1	168°	1 7	090°
	do.	30	30° 23.52'	81° 30.51'	+1 52	+1 39	+1 28	+2 14	0 5	0 6	1 1	264°	0 2	155°	1 3	099°
7996	Dames Point Bridge	5	30° 23.08'	81° 33.28'	+1 30	+1 29	+1 32	+2 07	0 7	0 9	1 2	254°	0 0	--	1 9	080°
	do.	14	30° 23.08'	81° 33.28'	+1 15	+2 00	+2 01	+2 14	0 6	0 7	1 4	257°	0 0	--	1 8	073°
	do.	28	30° 23.08'	81° 33.28'	+1 51	+2 00	+2 01	+2 14	0 6	0 7	1 2	254°	0 0	--	1 4	073°
8001	Drummond Point, channel south of	7	30° 24.55'	81° 36.17'	+1 51	+2 32	+2 44	+3 00	0 7	0 8	1 4	241°	0 0	--	1 7	060°
	do.	17	30° 24.55'	81° 36.17'	+1 34	+2 35	+2 51	+3 01	0 7	0 7	1 3	222°	0 0	--	1 4	061°
	do.	27	30° 24.55'	81° 36.17'	+1 21	+2 20	+2 46	+2 51	0 6	0 5	1 2	243°	0 0	--	1 1	057°
8006	Trout River Cut	6	30° 23.03'	81° 37.69'	+2 19	+2 53	+2 42	+2 52	0 7	0 7	1 1	193°	0 1	280°	1 5	005°
	do.	15	30° 23.03'	81° 37.69'	+1 49	+2 31	+3 02	+2 58	0 6	0 6	1 1	191°	0 1	107°	1 3	025°
	do.	32	30° 23.03'	81° 37.69'	+2 39	+3 16	+3 02	+2 58	0 5	0 6	1 2	205°	0 0	--	1 1	023°
8011	Terminal Channel (north end) <70>	7	30° 21.42'	81° 37.08'	+2 16	+3 06	+3 20	+3 38	0 6	0 5	1 2	225°	0 0	--	1 3	001°
	do.	17	30° 21.42'	81° 37.08'	+2 16	+3 06	+3 20	+3 38	0 6	0 5	1 2	183°	0 0	--	1 1	001°
	do.	27	30° 21.42'	81° 37.08'	+1 51	+3 28	+3 16	+3 23	0 5	0 3	1 0	185°	0 0	--	0 7	001°
8016	Commodore Point, terminal channel <70>	7	30° 19.05'	81° 37.58'	+2 39	+3 28	+3 10	+3 37	0 5	0 5	0 9	197°	0 0	--	1 0	072°
	do.	17	30° 19.05'	81° 37.58'	+2 12	+3 13	+3 23	+3 25	0 5	0 4	1 1	221°	0 0	--	0 9	051°
	do.	27	30° 19.05'	81° 37.58'	+1 43	+3 10	+3 38	+3 08	0 6	0 4	1 0	221°	0 0	--	0 8	035°
8021	Jacksonville, off Washington St <70>	6	30° 19.3'	81° 39.2'	+1 48	+3 03	+3 12	+3 26	1 2	0 9	2 4	281°	0 0	--	1 8	118°
	do.	15	30° 19.3'	81° 39.2'	+1 48	+2 57	+3 12	+3 20	1 0	0 8	2 0	281°	0 0	--	1 6	118°
	do.	24	30° 19.3'	81° 39.2'	+1 48	+2 33	+3 12	+3 38	1 0	0 7	1 9	281°	0 0	--	1 4	118°
8026	Jacksonville, F.E.C. RR. bridge <70>	7	30° 19.3'	81° 39.9'	+1 48	+3 21	+3 30	+3 20	1 0	0 8	1 9	240°	0 0	--	1 6	060°
	do.	15	30° 19.3'	81° 39.9'	+1 48	+3 03	+3 24	+3 26	0 9	0 6	1 8	240°	0 0	--	1 3	060°
	do.	24	30° 19.3'	81° 39.9'	+1 48	+3 15	+3 24	+3 44	0 7	0 5	1 2	200°	0 0	--	1 0	060°
8031	Winter Point <70>	7	30° 18.5'	81° 40.5'	+1 54	+3 33	+4 30	+3 44	0 6	0 5	1 3	200°	0 0	--	1 0	015°
	do.	14	30° 18.5'	81° 40.5'	+1 54	+3 03	+4 24	+3 38	0 6	0 5	1 1	200°	0 0	--	1 0	015°
	do.	22	30° 18.5'	81° 40.5'	+1 54	+3 57	+4 36	+3 56	0 4	0 4	0 8	200°	0 0	--	0 8	015°

Endnotes can be found at the end of table 2.

TABLE 2 – CURRENT DIFFERENCES AND OTHER CONSTANTS

No.	PLACE	Meter Depth	POSITION		TIME DIFFERENCES				SPEED RATIOS		AVERAGE SPEEDS AND DIRECTIONS								
			Latitude	Longitude	Min. before Flood	Flood	Min. before Ebb	Ebb	Flood	Ebb	Minimum before Flood	Maximum Flood	Minimum before Ebb	Maximum Ebb					
			North	West	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	knots	Dir.	knots	Dir.	knots	Dir.			
	ST. JOHNS RIVER—cont. Time meridian, 75° W	ft																	
8036	Mandarin Point <70>	6	30° 09.3'	81° 41.1'	+3 07	+3 39	+3 24	+3 38	0.3	0.4	0.0	—	0.6	179°	0.0	—	0.8	013°	
	do.	15	30° 09.3'	81° 41.1'	+3 13	+3 33	+3 24	+3 38	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	0.6	179°	0.0	—	0.7	013°	
	do.	24	30° 09.3'	81° 41.1'	+2 48	+3 33	+3 24	+3 32	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	0.6	179°	0.0	—	0.5	013°	
8041	Red Bay Point, draw bridge <70>	4	29° 59.1'	81° 37.8'	+2 42	+3 57	+5 24	+4 02	0.5	0.3	0.0	—	0.9	115°	0.0	—	0.6	300°	
	do.	6	29° 59.1'	81° 37.8'	+2 42	+3 57	+5 18	+4 08	0.5	0.3	0.0	—	0.9	115°	0.0	—	0.5	300°	
	do.	14	29° 59.1'	81° 37.8'	+2 48	+3 57	+5 30	+4 08	0.4	0.2	0.0	—	0.8	115°	0.0	—	0.4	300°	
8046	Tocoi to Lake George		—	—	Current weak and variable														
	FLORIDA COAST																		
8051	Ft. Pierce Inlet		27° 28.3'	80° 17.5'	+1 19	+0 39	+0 48	+0 35	1.5	2.0	0.0	—	2.6	250°	0.0	—	3.1	072°	
8056	Lake Worth Inlet (between jetties)		26° 46.33'	80° 02.13'	+0 13	-0 07	-0 01	0 00	1.3	2.3	0.0	—	2.4	273°	0.0	—	3.6	094°	
8061	Fort Lauderdale, New River		26° 06.73'	80° 07.18'	-0 43	-0 39	-0 06	-0 16	0.4	0.3	0.0	—	0.8	005°	0.0	—	0.5	130°	
	PORT EVERGLADES																		
8066	Pier 2, 1.3 miles east of <41>		26° 05.63'	80° 05.78'	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.2	—	0.0	—	0.4	—	
8071	Entrance (between jetties)		26° 05.58'	80° 06.32'	-0 08	-0 49	-0 43	-0 34	0.3	0.4	0.0	—	0.6	275°	0.0	—	0.7	095°	
8076	Entrance from southward (canal)		26° 05.2'	80° 06.9'	+0 40	+0 07	+0 31	+0 09	0.7	1.1	0.0	—	1.3	167°	0.0	—	1.7	358°	
8081	Turning Basin		26° 05.70'	80° 07.05'	-1 01	-1 07	-1 02	-1 11	0.1	0.3	0.0	—	0.2	320°	0.0	—	0.5	155°	
8086	Turning Basin, 300 yards north of		26° 05.8'	80° 07.1'	-0 20	-1 09	-0 27	-0 14	0.5	1.1	0.0	—	0.9	349°	0.0	—	1.8	180°	
8091	17th Street Bridge		26° 06.02'	80° 07.13'	-0 38	-0 53	-0 28	-0 55	1.1	1.2	0.0	—	1.9	350°	0.0	—	1.9	170°	
	MIAMI HARBOR																		
8096	Bakers Haulover Cut		25° 54.0'	80° 07.4'	-0 01	+0 07	+0 14	-0 17	1.6	1.6	0.0	—	2.9	270°	0.0	—	2.5	090°	
8101	Government Cut	13d	25° 45.59'	80° 07.95'	-0 02	-0 19	-0 08	-0 26	0.4	0.9	0.3	157°	0.6	236°	0.1	317°	1.5	092°	
8106	East entrance, off north jetty	13d	25° 45.61'	80° 07.66'	-0 07	-0 06	-0 04	0 00	1.2	1.1	0.2	055°	2.1	343°	0.4	052°	1.8	116°	
8111	East entrance, inside south jetty	13d	25° 45.84'	80° 07.96'	-0 12	-0 03	-0 07	-0 08	0.7	0.5	—	—	1.2	292°	—	—	0.7	108°	
	Midway, north side	28d	25° 45.84'	80° 07.96'	-0 11	-0 05	-0 10	-0 06	0.4	0.3	—	—	0.7	288°	—	—	0.4	104°	
	do.	28d	25° 45.84'	80° 07.96'	-0 11	-0 05	-0 10	-0 06	0.4	0.3	—	—	0.7	288°	—	—	0.4	104°	
8116	MIAMI HARBOR ENTRANCE	16d	25° 45.90'	80° 08.17'	+0 01	-0 02	-0 02	+0 02	0.8	1.0	—	—	1.8	293°	—	—	1.6	112°	
	do.	31d	25° 45.90'	80° 08.17'	+0 01	-0 02	-0 02	+0 02	0.8	1.0	—	—	1.4	298°	—	—	1.6	104°	
	do.	15d	25° 45.85'	80° 08.25'	+0 09	+0 10	-0 04	+0 01	0.9	1.6	0.1	010°	1.6	288°	—	—	2.5	100°	
8121	West entrance, south side	15d	25° 45.85'	80° 08.25'	+0 09	+0 10	-0 04	+0 01	0.9	1.6	0.1	010°	1.6	288°	—	—	2.5	100°	
8126	Main Channel	13d	25° 46.06'	80° 08.58'	+0 01	+0 23	-0 01	-0 14	0.8	0.4	0.1	044°	1.4	306°	0.2	222°	0.7	131°	
8131	Causeway Is., 0.2 mi. SE of <65>	13d	25° 46.02'	80° 08.70'	-0 07	-0 02	+0 06	-0 04	0.1	0.4	—	—	0.2	265°	—	—	0.7	104°	
8136	Lummus Is., northeast corner <66>	12d	25° 46.89'	80° 10.90'	+0 17	-0 14	+0 01	+0 04	0.2	0.3	—	—	0.4	277°	—	—	0.4	093°	
	Dodge Is., 0.1 mi. off NW corner	12d	25° 46.89'	80° 10.90'	+0 12	-0 32	+0 14	+0 20	0.2	0.2	—	—	0.3	276°	—	—	0.3	091°	
	do.	26d	25° 46.89'	80° 10.90'	+0 12	-0 32	+0 14	+0 20	0.2	0.2	—	—	0.3	276°	—	—	0.3	091°	
	do.	26d	25° 46.89'	80° 10.90'	+0 12	-0 32	+0 14	+0 20	0.2	0.2	—	—	0.3	276°	—	—	0.3	091°	
	Fishermans Channel	15d	25° 45.87'	80° 09.08'	+0 14	+0 38	+0 17	+0 39	0.6	0.7	—	—	1.0	280°	0.1	014°	1.1	090°	
8141	Fisher Is., 0.2 mi. NW of	15d	25° 45.87'	80° 09.08'	+0 14	+0 38	+0 17	+0 39	0.6	0.7	—	—	1.0	280°	0.1	014°	1.1	090°	
8146	Lummus Is., 0.15 mi. off SW corner	15d	25° 45.89'	80° 09.69'	+0 20	-0 20	+0 10	+0 22	0.3	0.6	—	—	0.6	271°	—	—	0.9	095°	
8151	West end, SW of Dodge Island	11d	25° 46.36'	80° 10.74'	-0 05	-0 32	+0 15	-0 21	0.1	0.2	0.1	002°	0.2	277°	—	—	0.3	089°	
8156	Miami River entrance	10d	25° 46.21'	80° 11.23'	+0 15	-0 02	-0 01	+0 46	0.1	0.4	—	—	0.2	261°	—	—	0.6	071°	
8161	Fowey Rocks Light, 1.5 miles SW of		25° 35'	80° 07'	See table 5.														
	FLORIDA REEF TO MIDNIGHT PASS																		
8166	Caesar Creek, Biscayne Bay		25° 23.2'	80° 13.6'	+0 07	-0 08	-0 14	-0 05	1.2	1.0	0.0	—	1.2	316°	0.0	—	1.8	123°	
8171	Long Key, drawbridge east of		24° 50.4'	80° 46.2'	+0 58	+1 27	+2 21	+1 33	1.1	0.7	0.0	—	1.1	000°	0.0	—	1.2	202°	
8176	Long Key Viaduct		24° 48.1'	80° 51.9'	+1 34	+1 28	+2 02	+1 57	0.9	0.7	0.0	—	0.9	349°	0.0	—	1.2	170°	
8181	Moser Channel, swingbridge		24° 42.0'	81° 10.2'	+1 07	+1 30	+1 50	+1 47	1.4	1.0	0.0	—	1.4	339°	0.0	—	1.8	166°	
8186	Bahia Honda Harbor, bridge		24° 39.4'	81° 17.3'	+1 01	+0 39	+1 53	+1 05	1.4	1.2	0.0	—	1.4	004°	0.0	—	2.1	182°	
8191	No Name Key, northeast of		24° 42.3'	81° 18.8'	+0 55	+1 24	+1 20	+0 53	0.7	0.5	0.0	—	0.7	312°	0.0	—	0.9	142°	

Endnotes can be found at the end of table 2.

APPENDIX C. Notice-to-Mariners issued on December 15, 1998

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Issued By:

CENTER FOR OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS & SERVICES

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

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Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281
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ST. JOHNS RIVER, FLORIDA

During the summer of 1998, the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) conducted a Tidal Current Survey in the St. Johns River, Florida. Significant changes have occurred in the river channels since the original 1934, and 1958 Circulation Surveys. The reference station – St. Johns River Entrance – was re-occupied and data was collected at five additional secondary locations in the St. Johns River. These new secondary locations were selected in cooperation with local authorities. Previously published average correction factors for 16 secondary stations were re-evaluated based on their separate depths and referred to the new reference station data. Five additional tide locations were also occupied during the survey.

This data was not available in time for inclusion in the 1999 editions of the official National Ocean Service (NOS) Tidal Current Tables 1999 – Atlantic Coast of North America and Tide Tables 1999 – East Coast of North and South America Including Greenland. Copies of the new 1999 daily Predictions for St. Johns River entrance and the new Table2 correction factors for both the currents and tides will be available on the CO-OPS web page – <http://www.OPSD.nos.noaa.gov>.

A complete technical report on the St. Johns River Tidal Current Survey is scheduled for release by NOS during the first quarter of 1999.

Copies of the 1999 Daily Current Predictions for St. Johns River Entrance based on the new constituents and the revised Table 2 corrections for secondary stations for both currents and tides are attached.

(Issued December 15, 1998)
