Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System
PORTS®

LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH

Internet: http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov (select PORTS)

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

The Jacobson and Los Angeles Pilots Associations have installed a current measurement system and several meteorological systems around the Los Angeles (LA) and Long Beach (LB) harbors. These organizations came to NOAA to request that the measurement systems be incorporated into a NOAA PORTS®. As a result, NOAA entered into an agreement with the Marine Exchange of Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor, Inc. Funds were provided to NOAA for the installation of a data acquisition system (DAS) that collects the information from the various measurement systems.

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

Los Angeles - Long Beach
PORTS®
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Instrument Key:
WL - Water Levels (Tide Gauge)
CU - Current Meter
Met - Meteorological Sensors
CT - Conductivity (salinity) &
       (water) Temperature Sensor

NOAA completed the installation of the LA/LB PORTS® DAS in April 2001 and the system will be declared operational in June 2001. The system includes an NOS water level station, a current profiler, and seven meteorological measurement systems. Information is collected from each sensor every six minutes by the DAS which is locate at the Marine Exchange office in San Pedro, California. NOAA's Continuous Operational Real-Time Monitoring System (CORMS), located in Silver Spring, MD, provides 24 hours/day, 7 days/week quality control of the data to ensure that only accurate, reliable information is disseminated. The real-time information is provided to users via local graphics displays, and internet.