



HSRP's comment to the National Coastal Mapping Strategy 1.0 Coastal LiDAR Elevation for a 3D Nation

August 22, 2016

Overview

In the attached one pager, please find the HSRP's comments on the National Coastal Mapping Strategy (NCMS). HSRP panel wishes to congratulate NOAA on its efforts to increase collaboration with other agencies involved in hydrographic services and note the NCMS is one mechanism.

By improving collaboration and reducing redundancy, we know that Federal hydro services investments will become more efficient and accomplish more with the limited Federal dollars currently available. We also believe that improving Federal efficiency in hydro services leads to investment from other sources including at the State and local government levels, as well as non-governmental funding. It is much easier to make the case for the relevance and need of these efforts when all parties are working together to achieve what most believe to be a common goal, that being data acquisition.

Specific initiatives like the Interagency Council on Ocean and Coastal Mapping reveal just how productive collaborative efforts among Federal agencies can be had even though it is early in its work. We expect to hear more great things about this effort and similar efforts in the future.

Comments: Comments received as of 8/22/2016

On Page 12, Table 1, An equation for IHO bathymetric data quality is discussed, but no definition for the terms a, b, and c is given and no explanation of the equation is given.

On Page 13. Why are object detection criteria not considered? Please explain the reasoning behind this.

On Page 14, Outstanding Issues and Prospects. " Agency A and B have plans to collect data in the same region, but one agency requires different quality levels...." The current report goes on "Through subsequent discussion, Agency B agrees to acquire the data to meet QL3B" (Agency A's requirement). There is real cost in collecting data to a higher standard and this should be explicitly noted in this current report. Given the difficulty of passing funds within and among different agencies, the assumption that this can be easily done is very naïve. A subsequent analysis of the cost of survey to a particular standard is recommended in the current document, and the proposed report should put a price tag on surveys to each of the different recommended standards, as was done for topographic lidar in the USGS document, National Enhanced Elevation Assessment. An understanding of the cost differentials would be very useful for agencies when looking at joint surveys in the future. One of IWG-OCM's tasks should be to look into and make recommendations on how joint funding of projects can be facilitated. Merely recommending a particular standard is only part of the job.

Pg. 14. Current State. Joint data management should also address common data formats.

Updated ~ G. Thompson, 22 August 2016