



DAVID EVANS  
AND ASSOCIATES INC.  
MARINE SERVICES

Oregon GNSS User Group  
2023 Winter Meeting  
January 20, 2023

# Improving Maritime Safety using Real-Time GNSS Networks

**Presented by Jon Dasler, PE, PLS, CH**  
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Senior Vice President, Director of Marine Services



DAVID EVANS  
AND ASSOCIATES INC.  
MARINE SERVICES

- Current navigation charts are not of sufficient resolution for inland and harbor piloting



**Maritime Commerce is Pressing the Limits of our Inland Waterways**

- Current navigation charts are not of sufficient resolution for inland and harbor piloting
- Container and Cruise Ships are pushing the limits of our inland waterways in draft (under keel clearance) and vertical clearance (air draft).

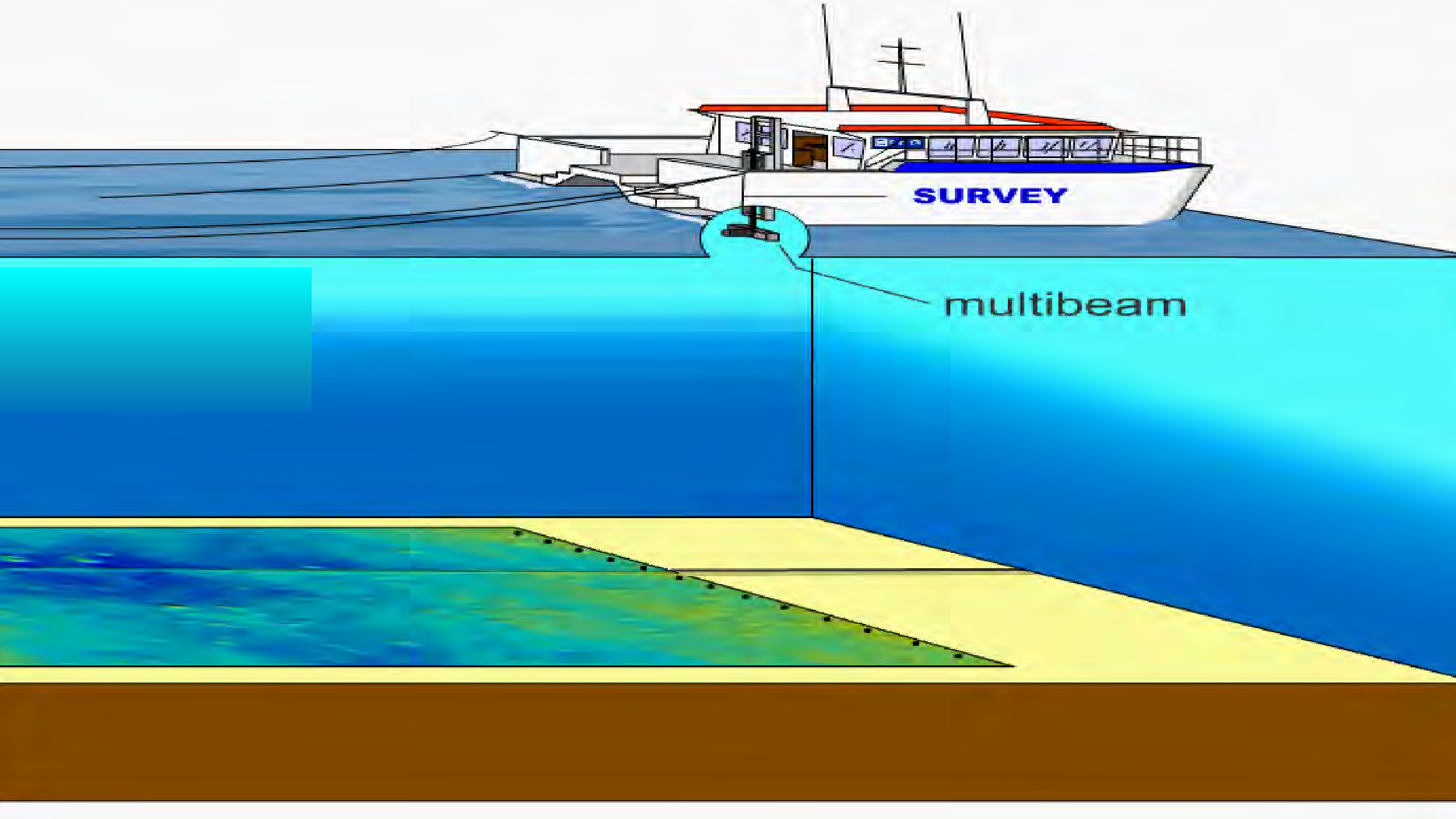


**Maritime Commerce is Pressing the Limits of our Inland Waterways**

- Current navigation charts are not of sufficient resolution for inland and harbor piloting
- Container and Cruise Ships are pushing the limits of our inland waterways in draft (under keel clearance) and vertical clearance (air draft).
- Efforts are underway for precision charting of key infrastructure on inland waterways and marine terminals to improve maritime safety with GNSS playing a key role. (Columbia Resurvey in 2025).



**Maritime Commerce is Pressing the Limits of our Inland Waterways**



**SURVEY**

multibeam

Mobile Mapping System (MMS) RIEGL VMQ-1HA  
coupled with Ladybug5 360-degree camera and  
integrated Applanix POS/LV



# Road and Highway Asset Management using an MMS



# MMS aboard DEA Survey Vessel *Blake*



Lidar scanner

360-degree camera

Secondary antenna for heading reference





# Lower Mississippi River

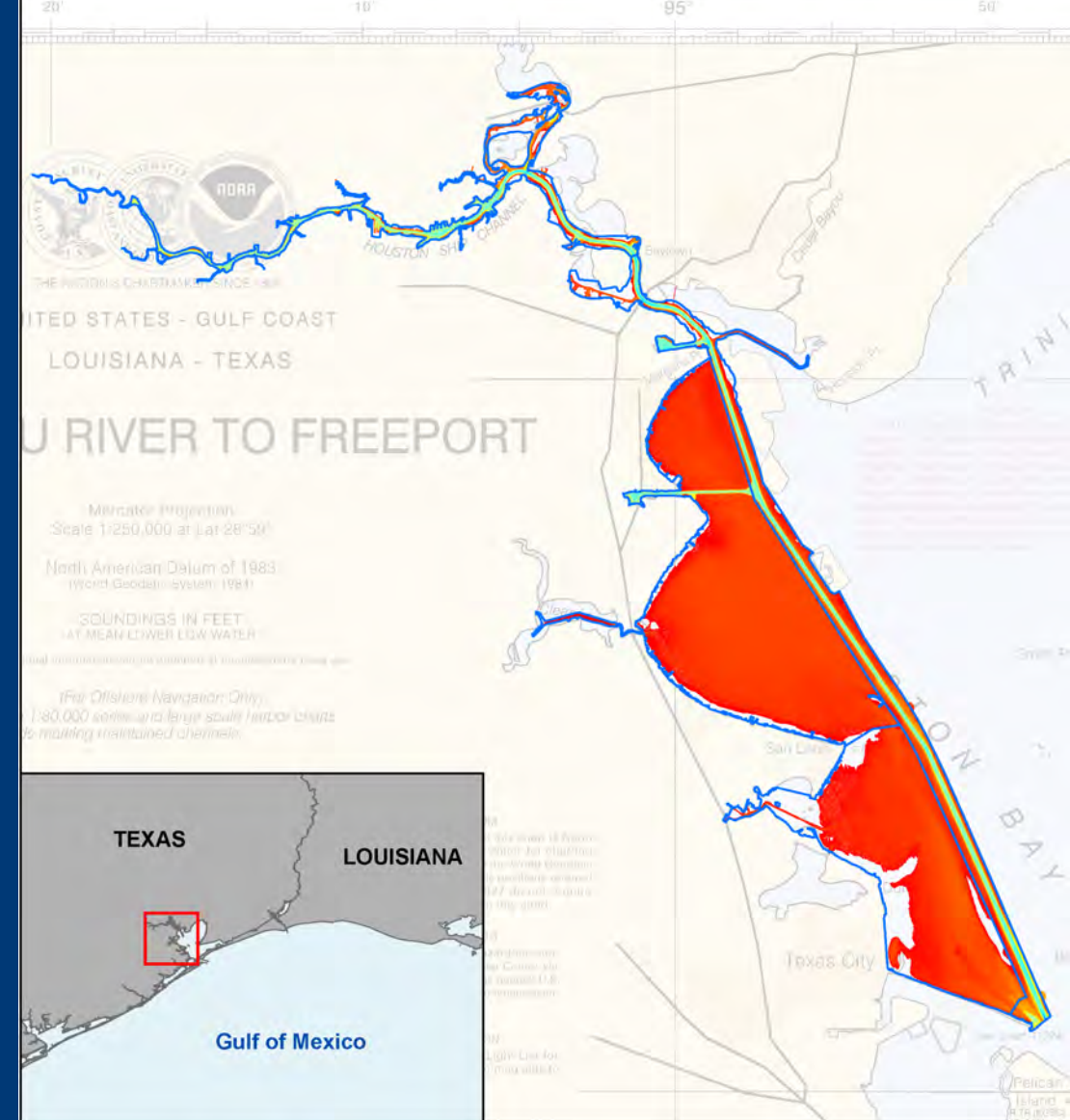
- 250 miles of the Lower Mississippi River
- Vertically controlled by Louisiana State University Center for Geoinformatics (C4G) real-time network
- NOAA Object Detection multibeam
- Laser scan terminals, bridges, overhead cables
- Low Water Reference Plane Gradient Vertical Datum using custom separation model



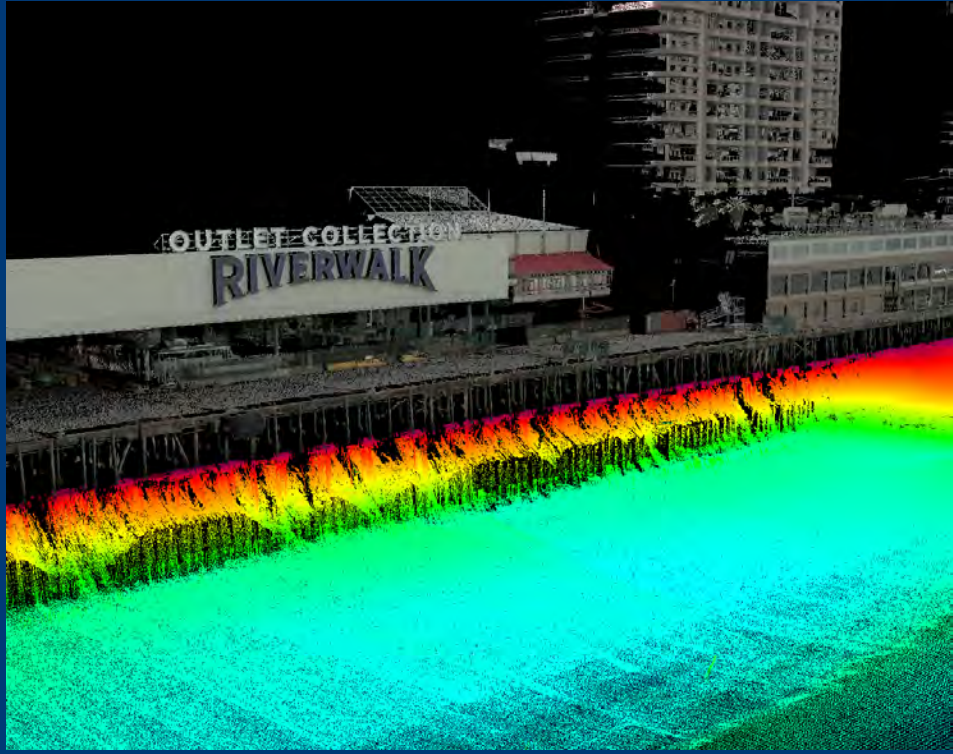
## Overview of hydrographic surveys to support precision navigation

## Houston Ship Channel

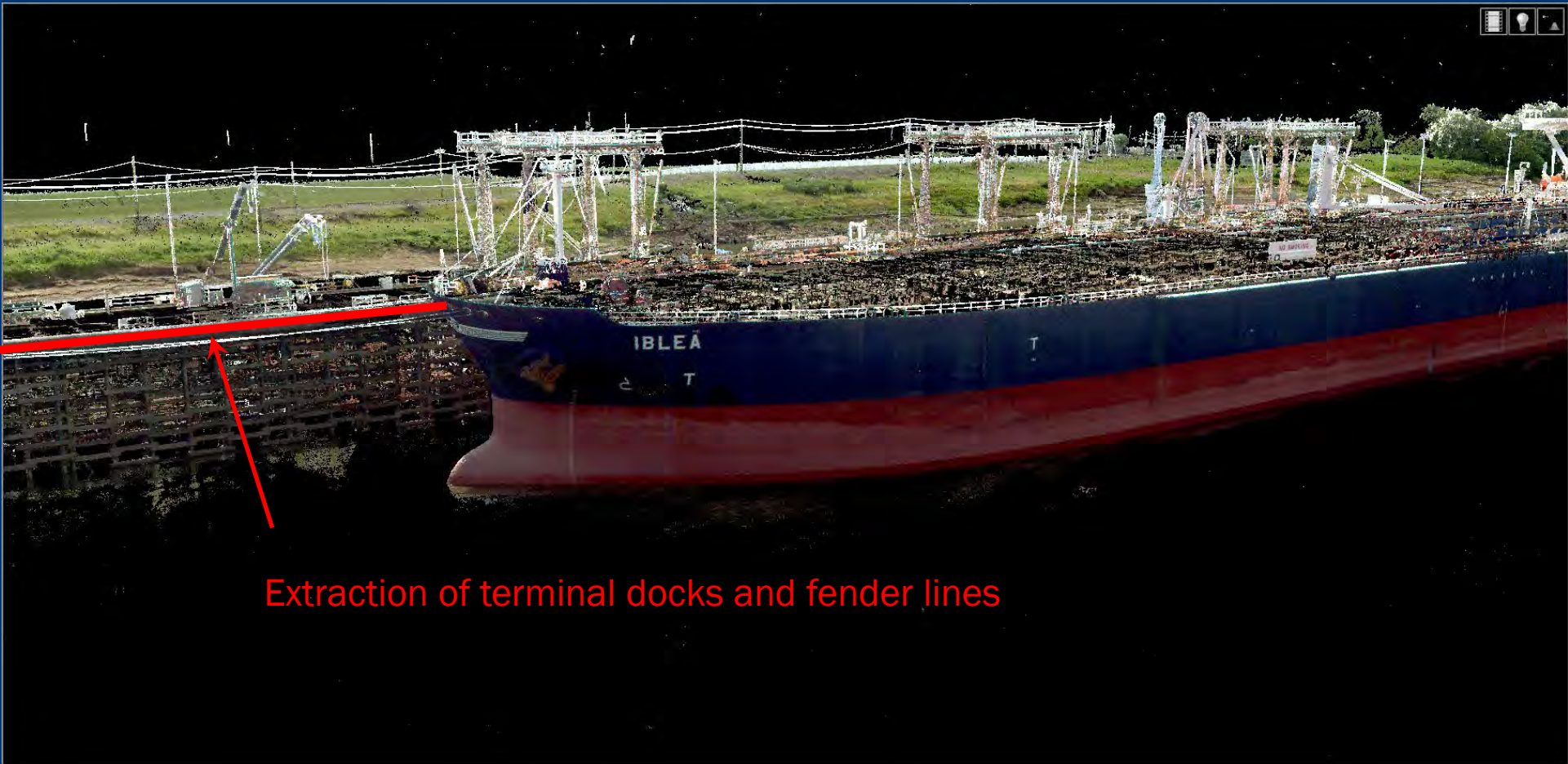
- Houston Ship Channel and Western Galveston Bay
- Vertically controlled and positioning using Texas DOT (TxDOT) real-time network
- NOAA Object Detection multibeam
- Laser scan terminals, bridges, overhead cables
- Mean Lower Low Water Vertical Datum using custom separation model



**Overview of hydrographic surveys to support precision navigation**



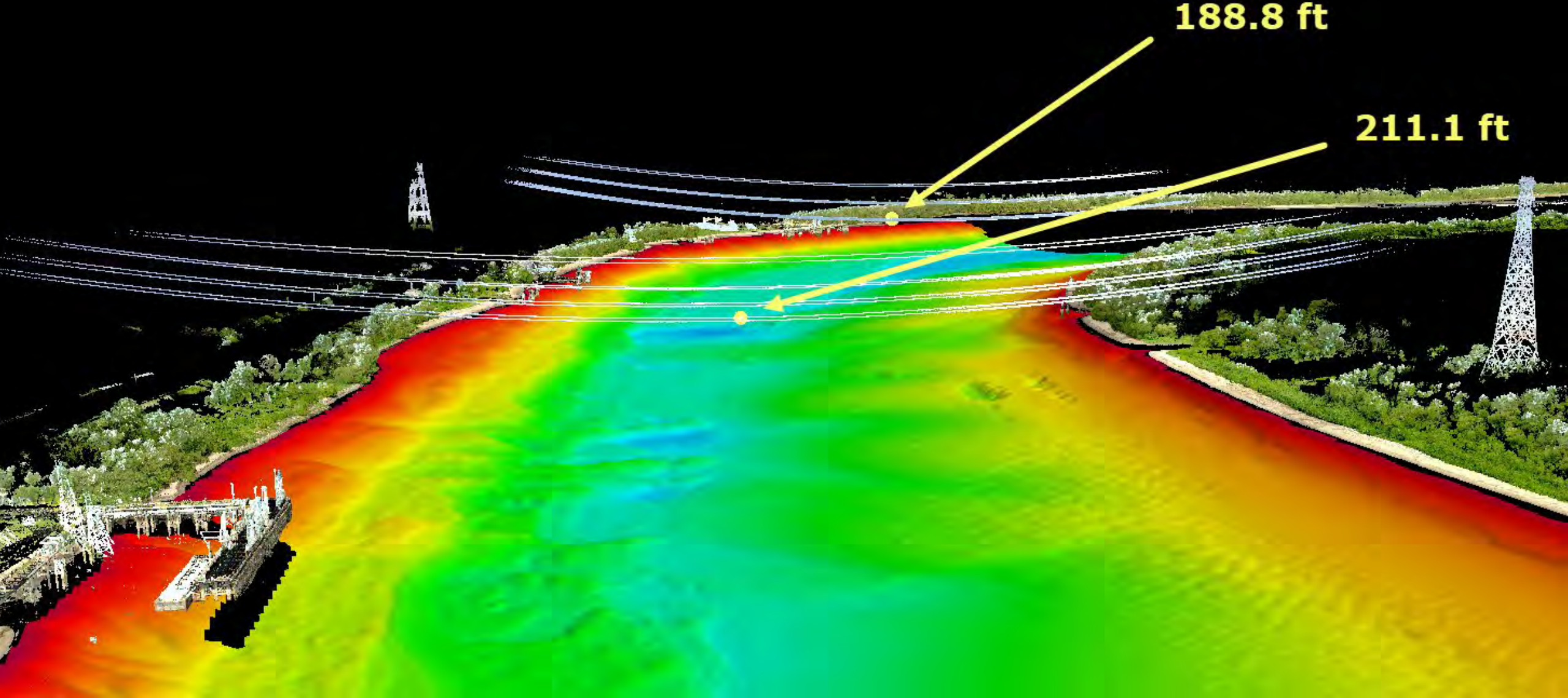
## Overview of hydrographic surveys to support precision navigation



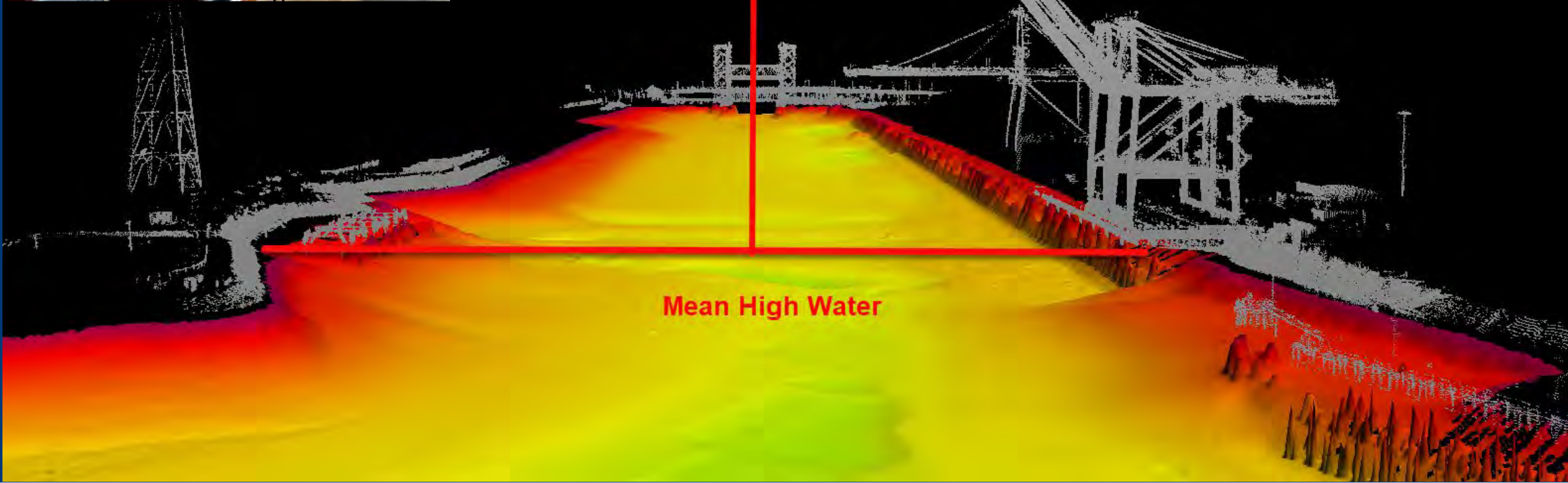
Extraction of terminal docks and fender lines

Products include terminal outlines, overhead wire clearances, bridge clearances, detailed outline of bridge piers, aids to navigation, mooring and fleeting buoys, piling, and any other in-water features for development of 1:12,000 charts of the Mississippi from Baton Rouge to Head of Passes.

## Mobile Mapping for NOAA Mississippi Precision Navigation Project

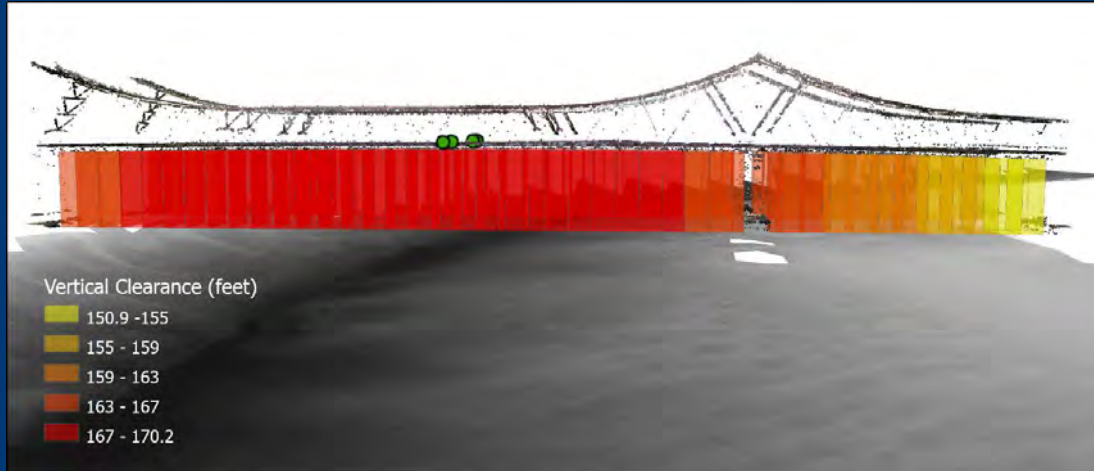


## Transmission Line Clearance from Vessel Laser Scanning

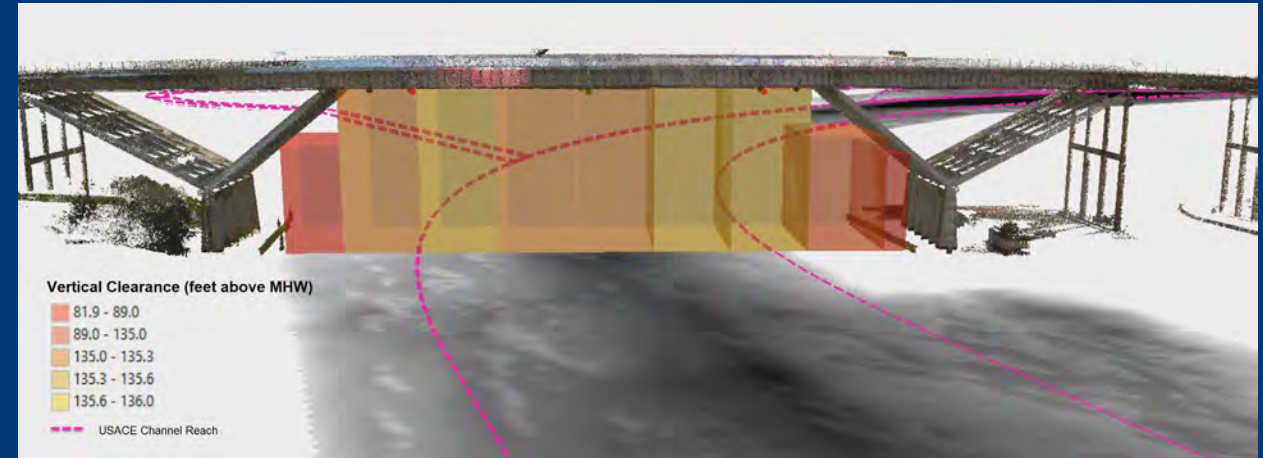


# Transmission Lines at Port of Long Beach

# Crescent City Connection/ GNO Twin Span Bridges Clearance



# Sidney Sherman Bridge Clearance



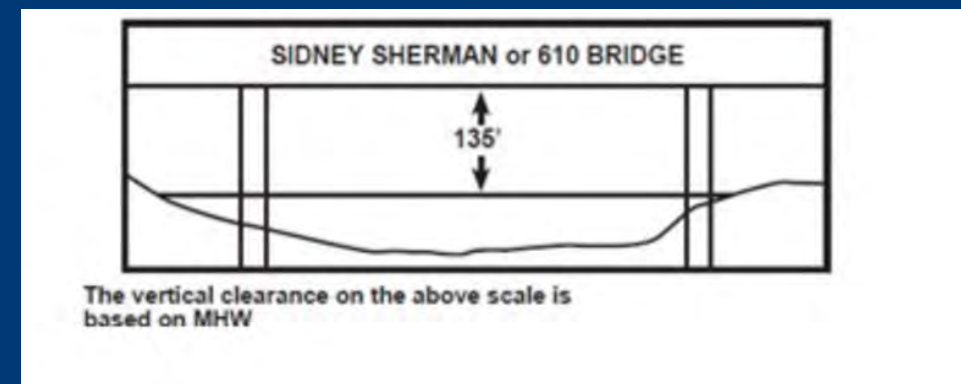
**Crescent City Connection/GNO Twin Spans:**  
(Lower span 95.7 AHP Upper Span 95.8 AHP)

**Channel Span:**

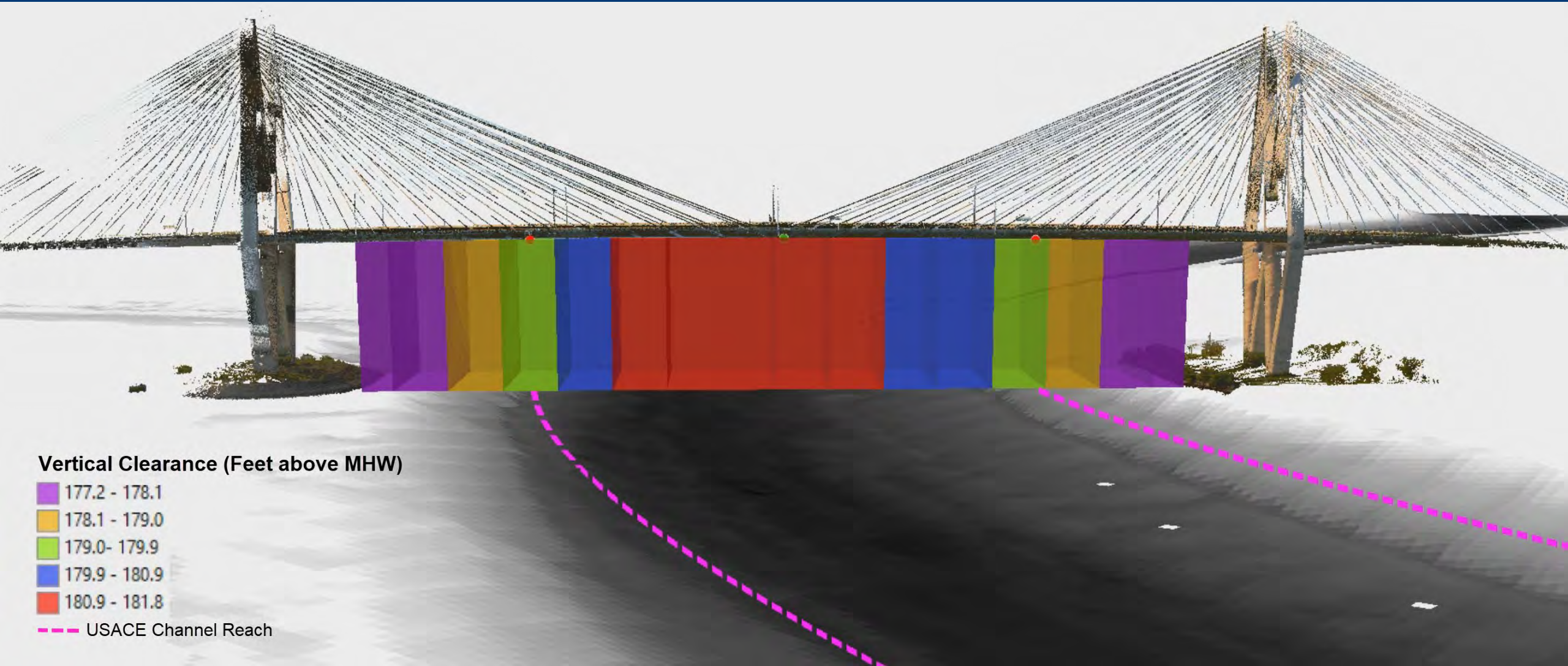
- Vertical Channel Clearance 170 ft. minus the Carrollton gage
- Horizontal Channel Clearance 750 ft.
- There is a total of 1564 ft. of horizontal clearance in the channel span. The center 750 ft. has the 170 ft. of vertical clearance minus the Carrollton gage. On either side of the channel the vertical clearance is reduced to 166.2 ft. minus the Carrollton gage.

**East Span:**

- Vertical Clearance 155 ft. minus the Carrollton gage
- Horizontal Clearance 505 ft.



# Bridge Clearance



# Fred Hartman Bridge, Houston Ship Channel From DEA Vessel Laser Scanning for NOAA

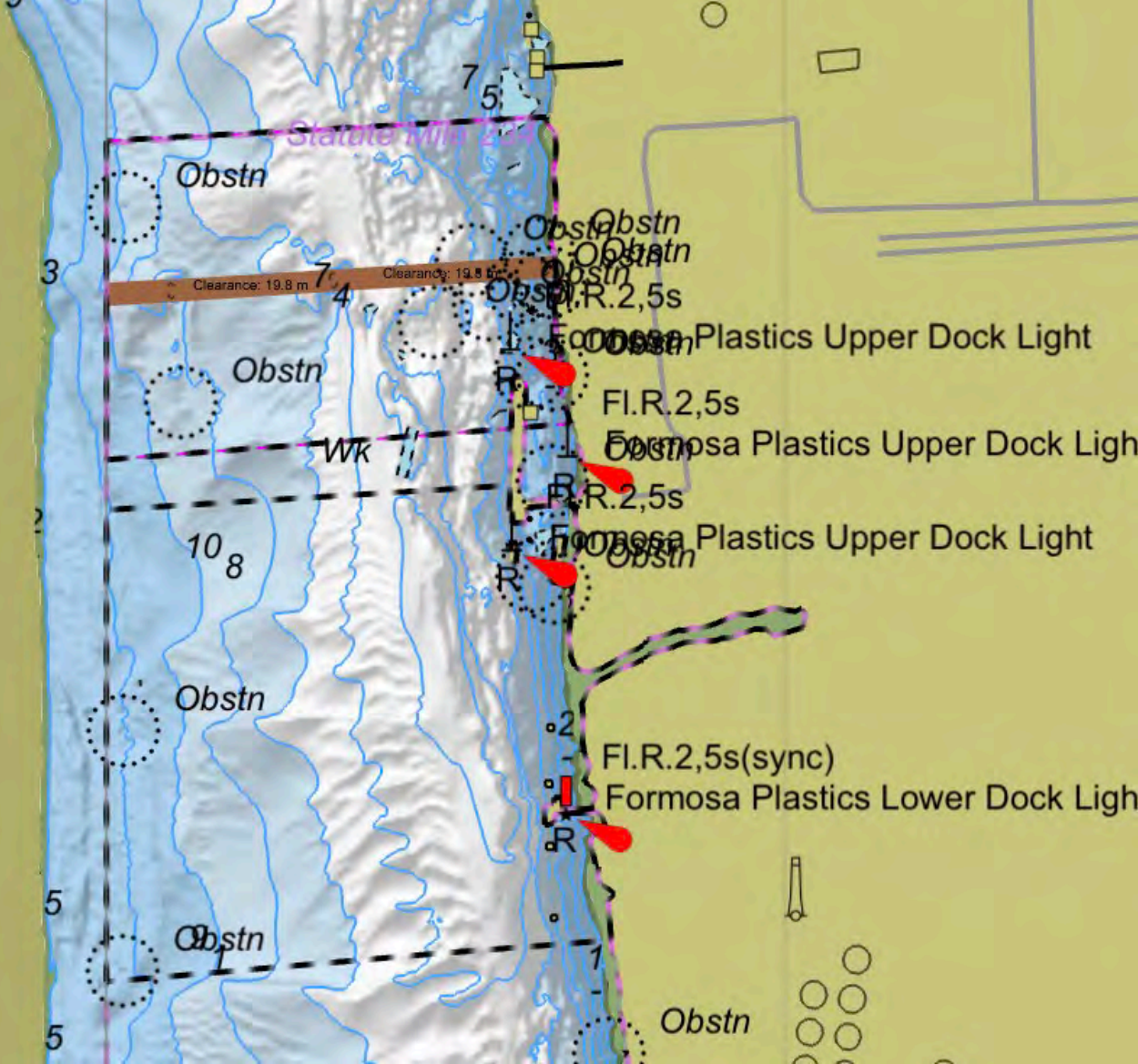


## High Resolution data supports many uses

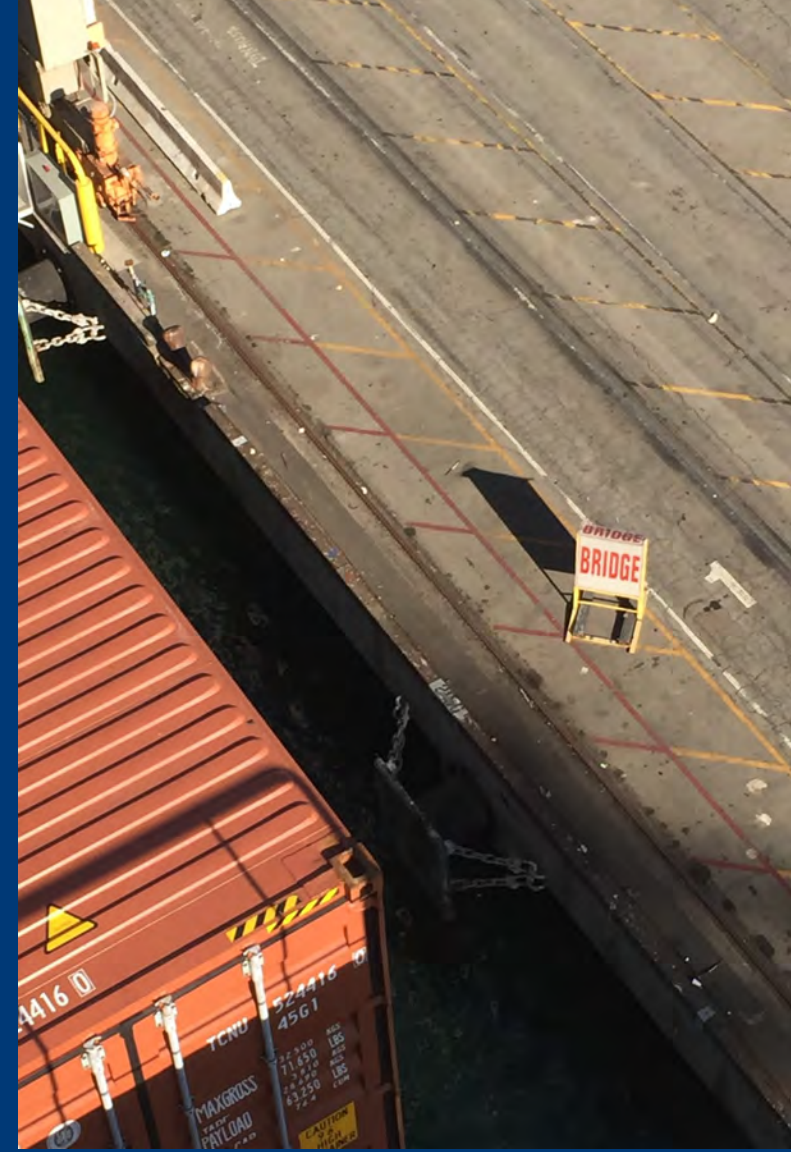
- Navigation
- Modelling
- Training and Simulation
- Research and Development



**Overview of hydrographic surveys to support precision navigation**



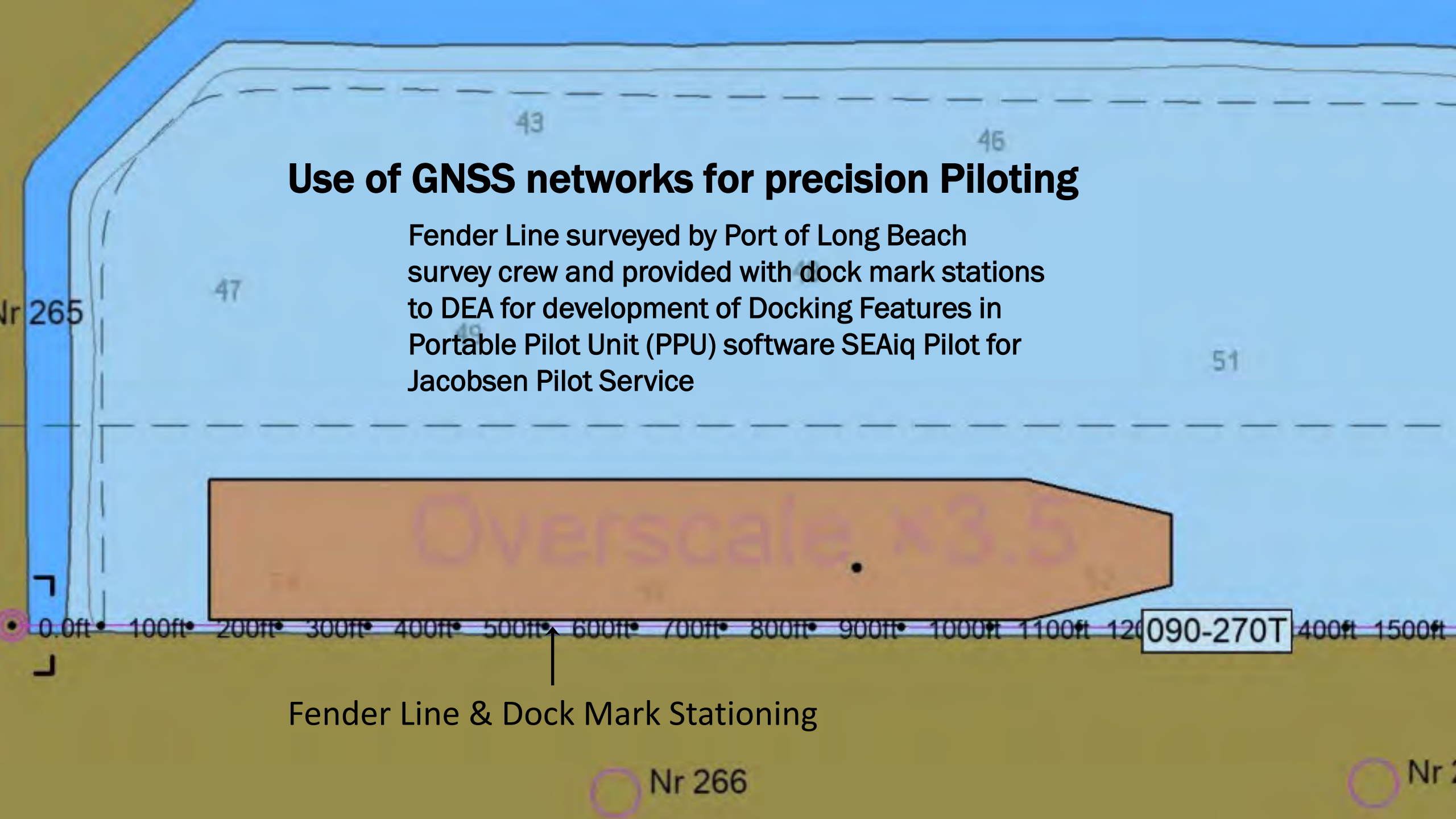
## High Resolution Multibeam in Trelleborg Safe Pilot Software



**Docking large container ship at Port of Long Beach**

## Use of GNSS networks for precision Piloting

Fender Line surveyed by Port of Long Beach survey crew and provided with dock mark stations to DEA for development of Docking Features in Portable Pilot Unit (PPU) software SEAIq Pilot for Jacobsen Pilot Service

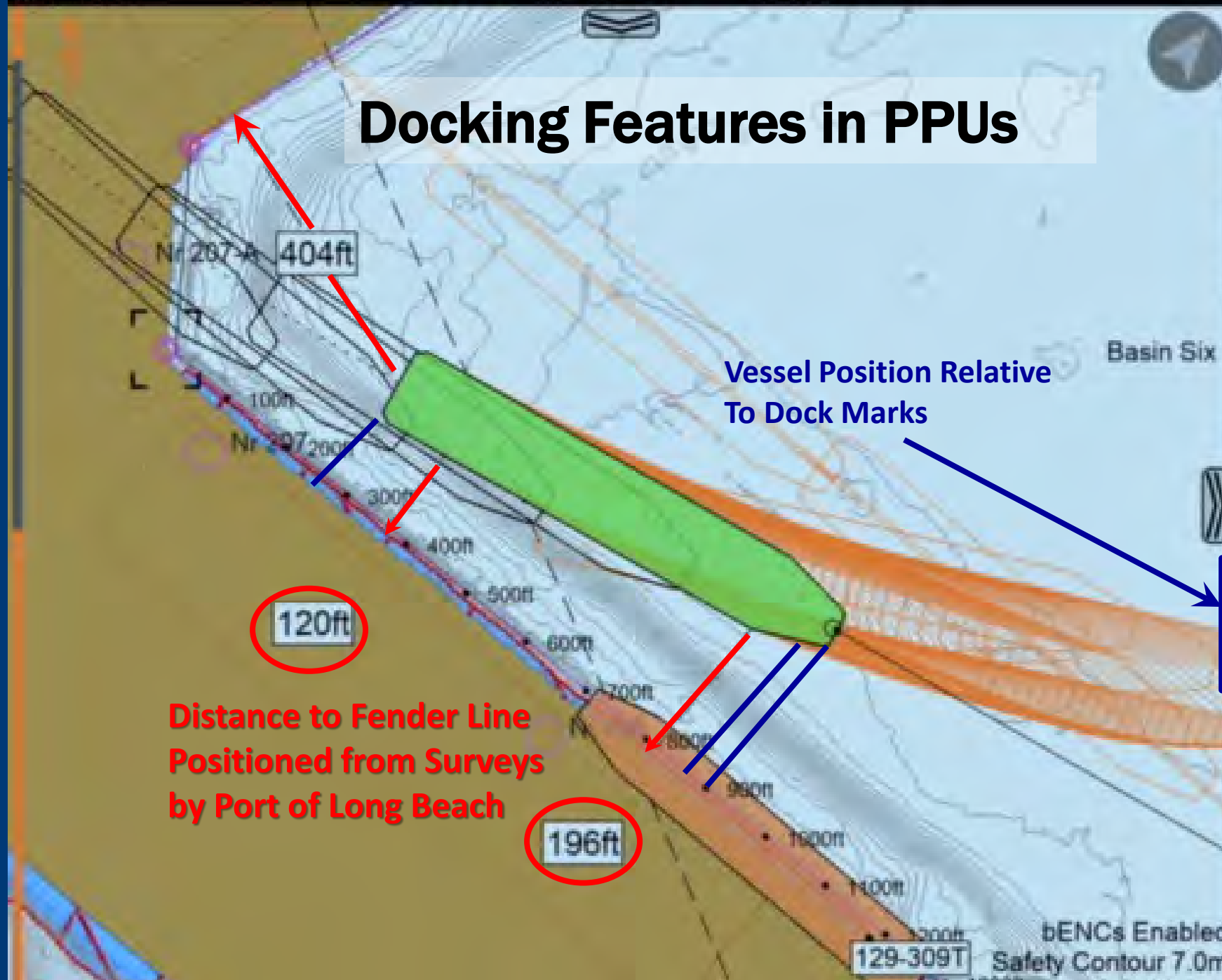


Fender Line & Dock Mark Stationing

Nr 266

Nr 2

# Docking Features in PPU's



Vessel Position Relative To Dock Marks

Distance to Fender Line Positioned from Surveys by Port of Long Beach

Local Time  
**16:29**

Source  
**Simulator**

Simulator: GPS, COG, SOG, HDG, ROT

GPS Diagnostics  
HPE:NA

HDG	ROT
<b>119.3°</b>	<b>3.2°</b>
True	Stbd °/m

COG	SOG
<b>289.2°</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
True	Knots

Docking Marks		
Bow	Conning	Stern
<b>905</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>261</b>
Feet	Feet	Feet

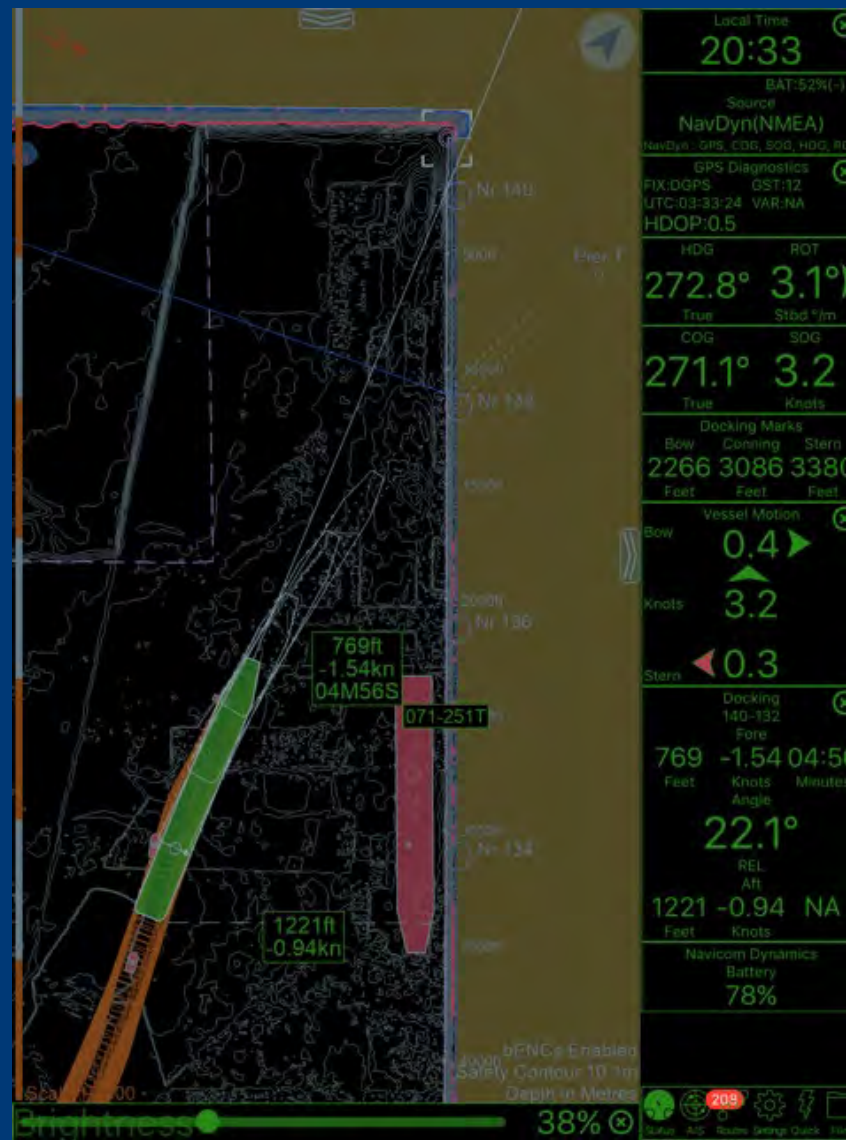
Vessel Motion	
Bow	<b>0.36</b>
Knots	<b>2.00</b>
Stern	<b>0.00</b>

129-309T

bENCs Enabled Safety Contour 7.0m

Ships' agents provide Pilot bridge (Conning) marks or Stern marks, which are painted on the berths but difficult to see at a distance, particularly at night.

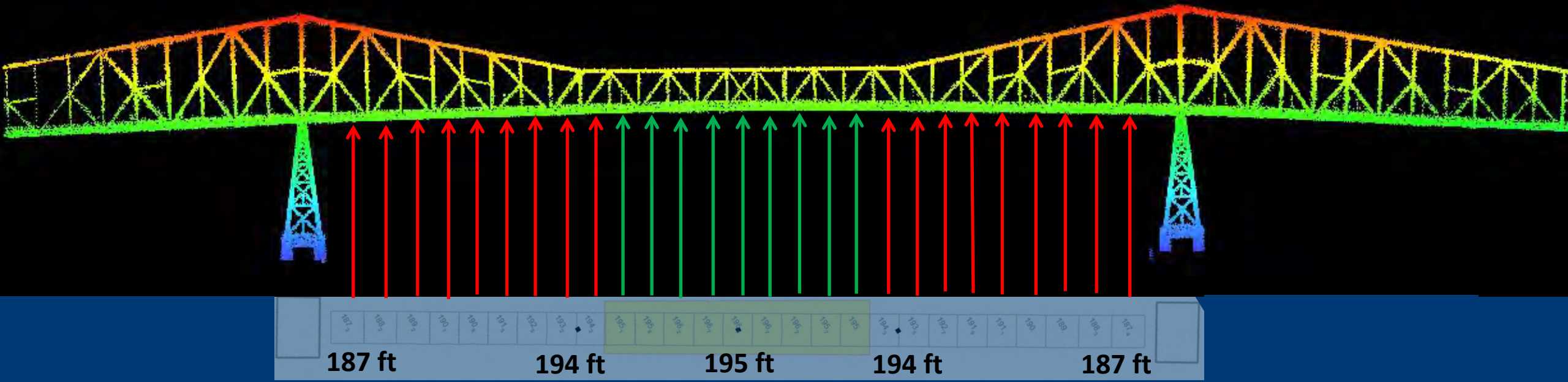
Image courtesy of Jacobsen Pilot Service.



Dock Station

Distance from Fender Line & Speed of Approach

## Night Application of Fender Line and Dock Marks in SEAIq Pilot



DEA performed a vessel-based laser scan of the Lewis and Clark Bridge to chart clearances relative to the water level reported at the NOAA water level gauge in Longview.

The objective is to provide real-time clearance at intervals across the span relative to actual water level observations at the time of passing.

## Air Gap Survey of Lewis and Clark Bridge over Columbia River Longview, WA

SOG 8.1 kt  
 HDG 122.0°T  
 ROT R 0°/m  
 ROTI R 82 ft

From:  center line  sailline 0 ft

Next WPT 53 - Longview Bridge  
 Course 118.8°T

Status Rng/Brig ETA's Tides

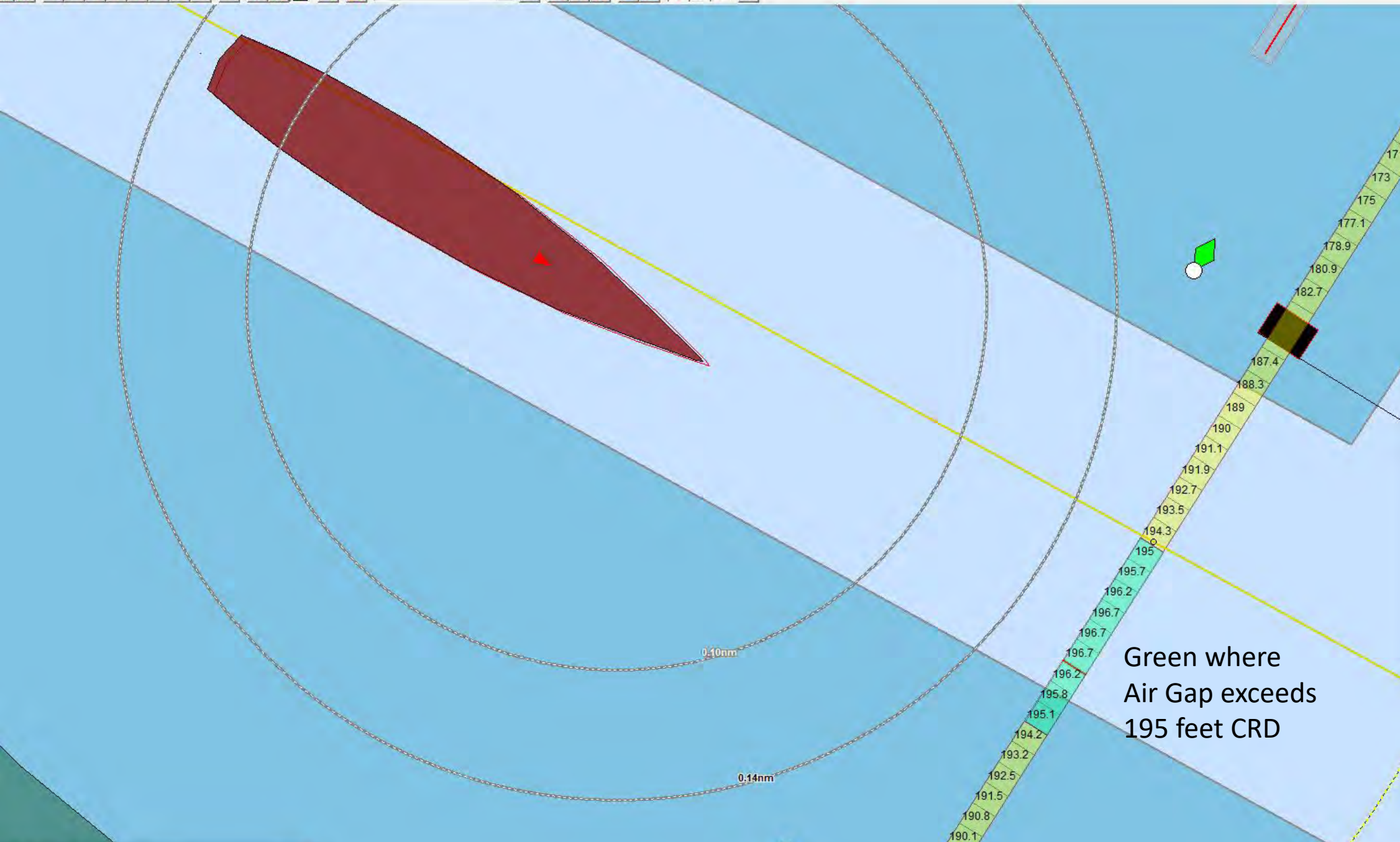
Station	Tide	Wind
003160...	9.1' unk [21:...	12...
Cape Di...	6.4' ^ [22:12]	
Astoria...	6.3' ^ [22:12]	4[...
Skamok...	4.5' ^ [22:12]	
Wauna...	4.2' ^ [22:18]	
Westwa...	2.6' ^ [22:10]	
Longview	1.9' ^ [22:18]	
Saint H...	0.9' v [22:18]	
Vancou...	1.0' v [22:18]	
Morrison...	1.2' v [21:35]	

Options... 22:31:54

Standard Times  Cur SOG

Waypoint...	Dist	ETA
-------------	------	-----

Pillar Rock		
Three Tre...		
Skamokawa		
Bugby Hole		
Waterford ...		
Eruka Lt...		
Abernathy...		
Stella		
Millenium		
Longview ...	1115 ft	22:33
Coffin Rock	6.2 nm	23:18
Kalama Elev	9.7 nm	23:44
Columbia ...	15.8 nm	00:30
Warrior R...	18.8 nm	00:52
Morgan T...	29.0 nm	02:08
Kelley Pt	30.7 nm	02:21
Vanc Bert...	33.1 nm	02:39



Green where  
 Air Gap exceeds  
 195 feet CRD



## Factors impacting Air Draft:

- Ballast
- Salinity
- Vessel speed through the water
- Bottom topography



Photo courtesy of Columbia River Pilots

## Real-Time Air Draft Monitoring of *Ruby Princess*



# RTK GNSS Static Air Draft Survey of *Caribbean Princess*

GNSS base station provided corrections for precise height measurements.

Measurements to the water line were observed every 6-minutes to compute water level heights.

Time tagged water levels were compared to a NOAA tide station data.

## Static Air Draft Measurement of *Caribbean Princess*



## Air Draft Monitoring of *Caribbean Princess*



Display ▾

Navigation ▾

Analysis ▾

**ORGN Tools ▾**

Hide Stations

Hide Coverages

Station Id Tool

Show Stations List

Admin ▾

PLACE NAME







Switch Basemap



The ODOT ORGN provided real-time corrections to GNSS height data for precision measurement of the GNSS ARP from which CRD elevations of the vessel high point could be computed.

## NAVD88 heights using Oregon Realtime GNSS Network

LEGEND

-  Water Levels Only
-  Met Only
-  Water Levels and Met
-  Currents
-  Wave Buoys
-  Air Gap

FILTER PRODUCTS

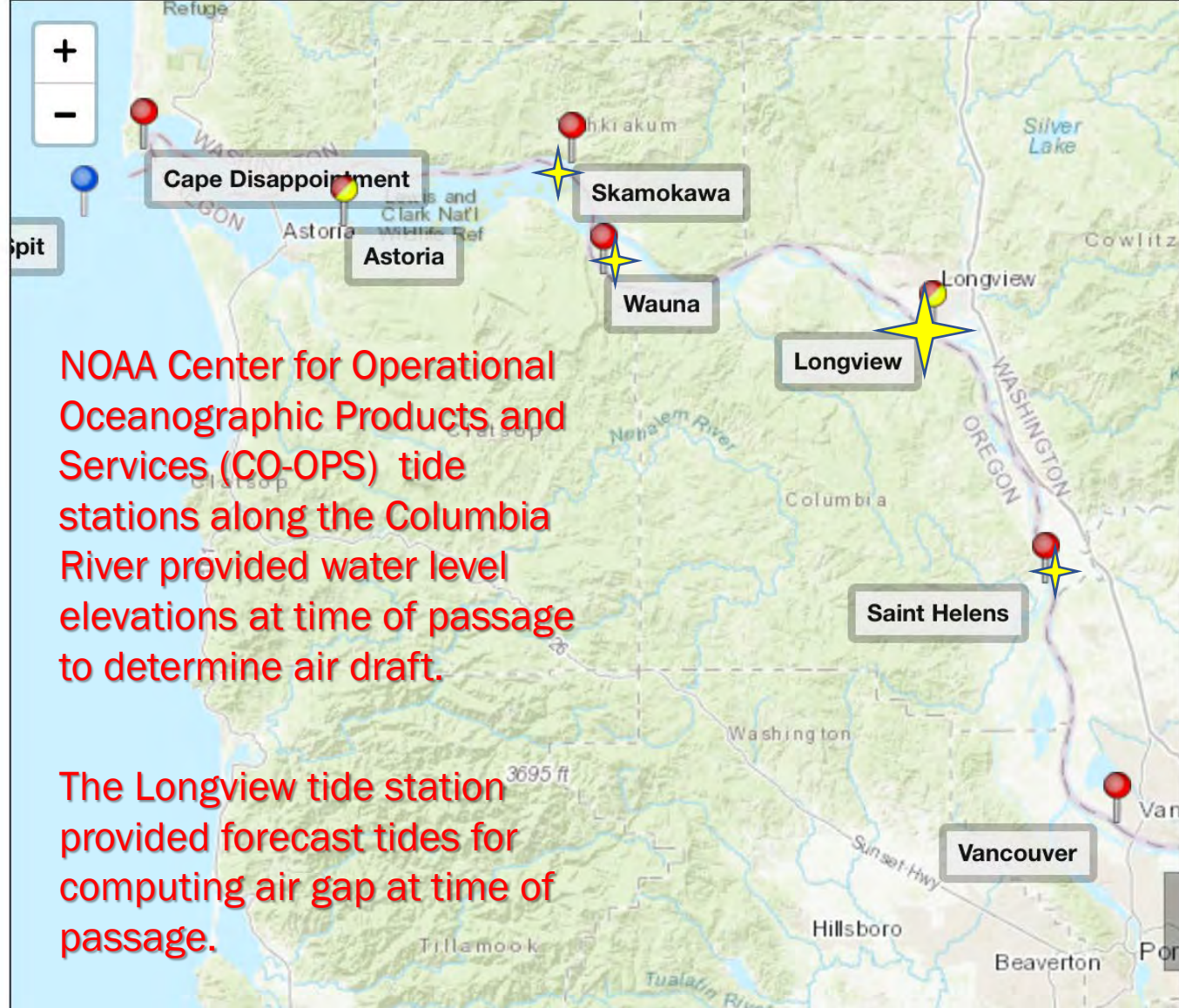
All Products

SHOW DATA

None

STATIONS

- Astoria
- Wauna
- Saint Helens
- Vancouver



# Measuring Dynamic Air Draft at NOAA Tide Stations

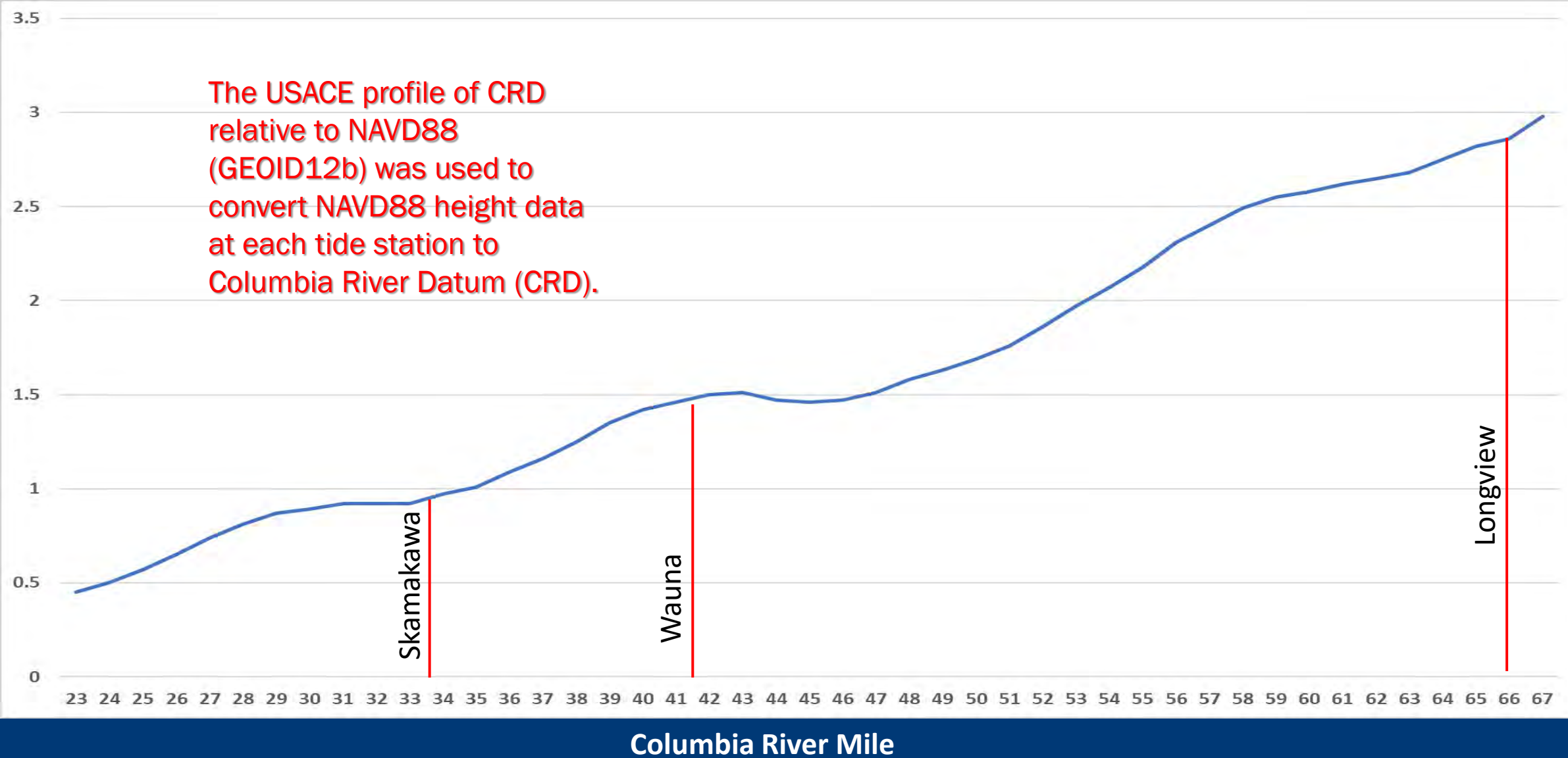
GNSS system with real-time kinematic corrections from Oregon Real-Time Network.

Air Draft computed by taking GNSS height relative to CRD using DEA model, adding height to top of mast, and subtracting tide from NOAA tide stations at Skamokawa, Wauna, and Longview.



## Real-Time Air Draft Monitoring of *Ruby Princess*

NAVD 88 Feet



# Columbia River Datum Profile Relative to NAVD88



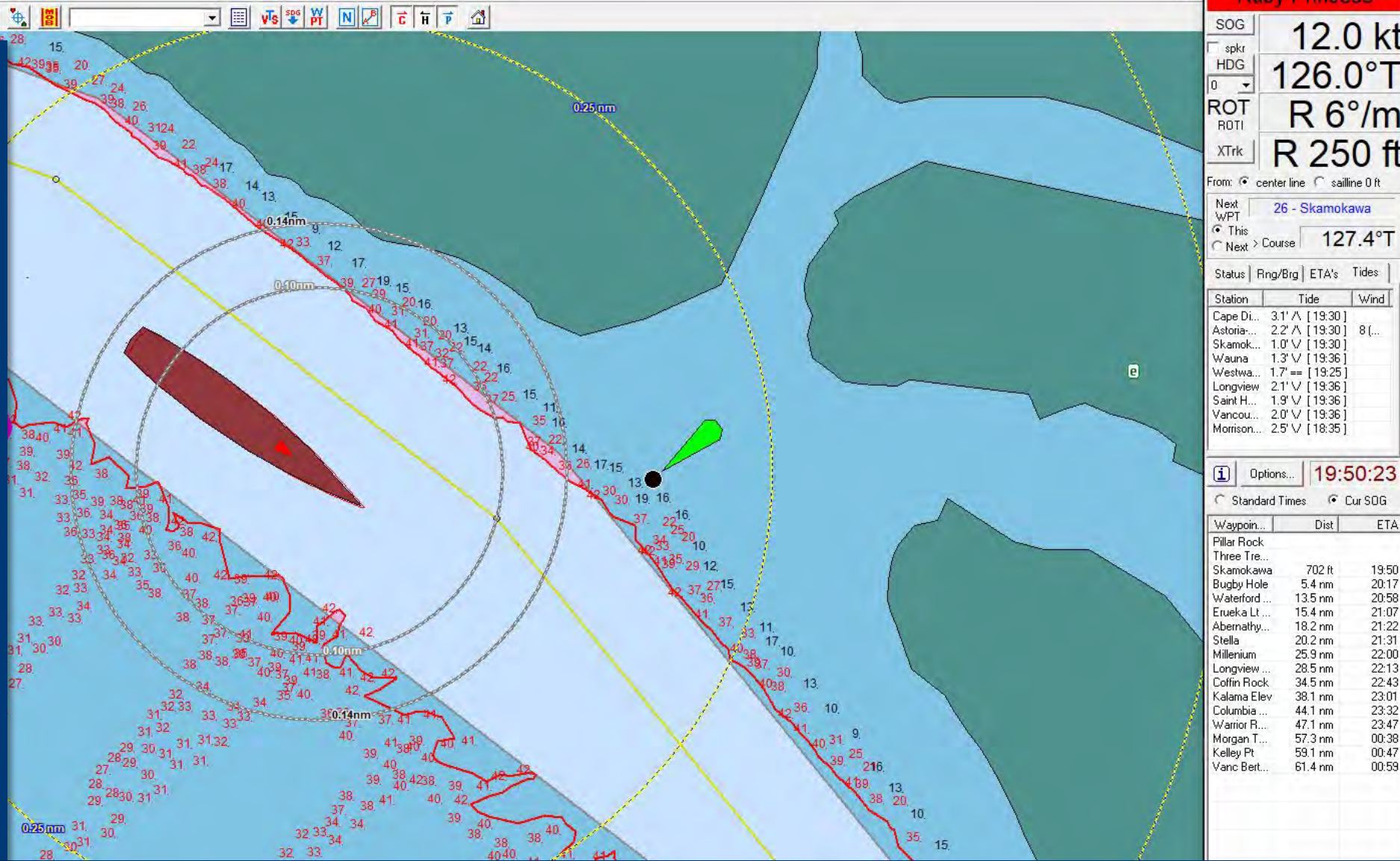
Skamokawa Air Draft  
182.6 feet at 12 kts SOG

Wauna Air Draft  
183.5 feet at 9 kts SOG

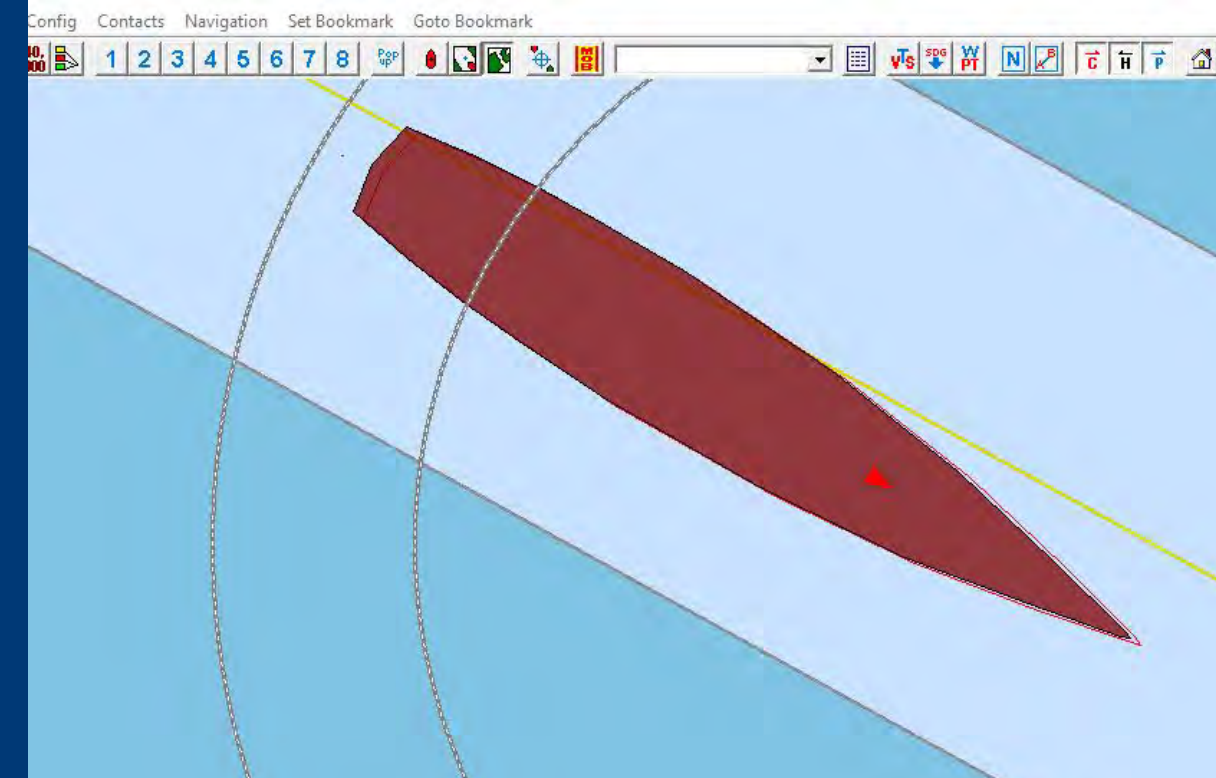
Forecast Longview tide at  
time of passage  
2.0 feet CRD

Air Gap  $195' - 2' = 193'$

Projected Clearance  
 $193' - 183.5' = 9.5'$



## Real-Time Air Draft Monitoring of *Ruby Princess*



Longview Tide = 2.1' CRD  
 Bridge Air Gap 195' - 2.1' = 192.9'  
 Ruby Air Draft 184.38' at 8 kts SOG  
 Clearance = 8.5'

Help

**Ruby Princess**

SOG 8.1 kt  
 HDG 122.0°T  
 ROT R 0°/m  
 XTrk R 82 ft

From: center line sailine 0 ft

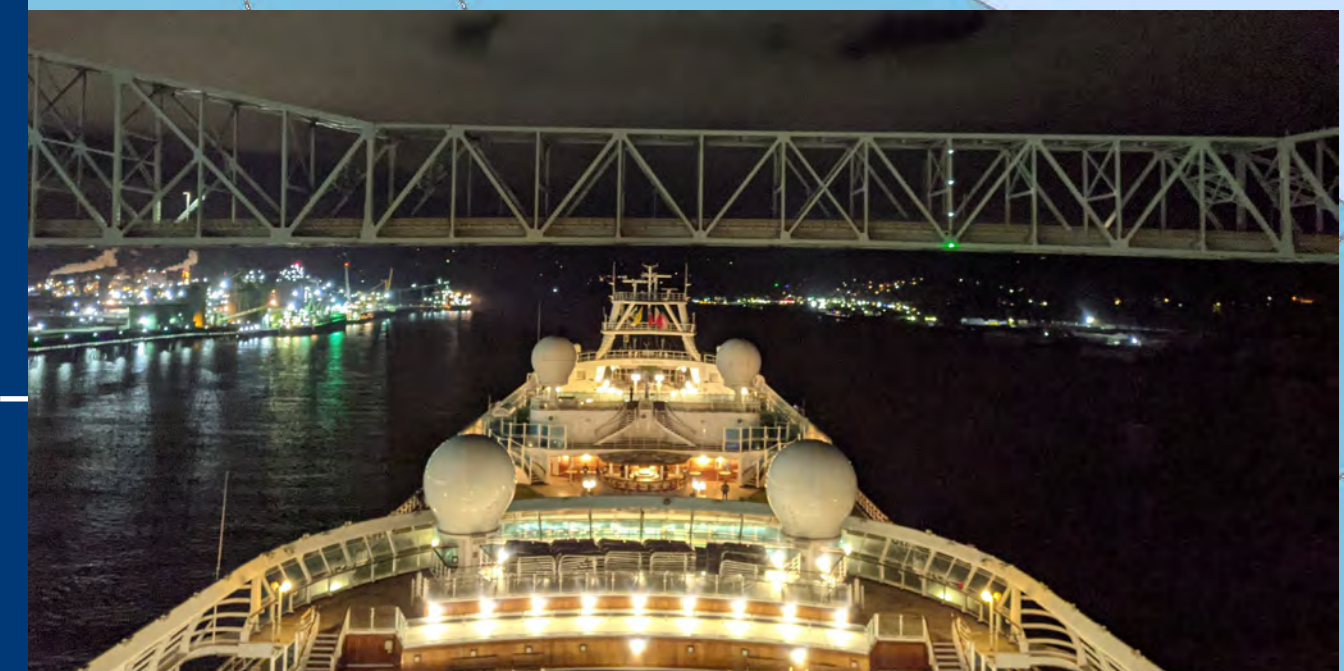
Next WPT 53 - Longview Bridge  
 This Course 118.8°T

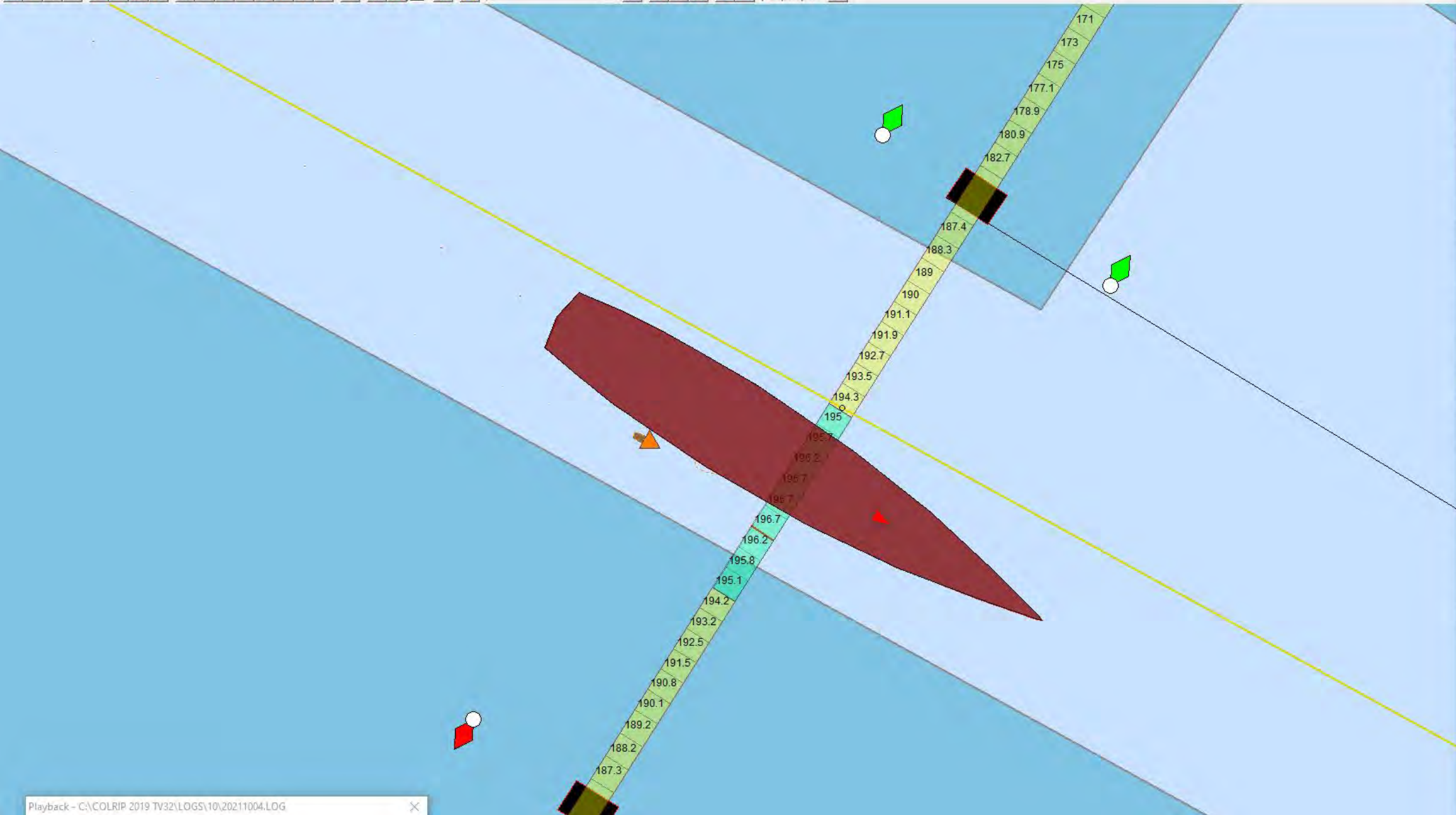
Station	Tide	Wind
003160...	9.1' unk [ 21:...	12...
Cape Di...	6.4' ^ [ 22:12]	
Astoria...	6.3' ^ [ 22:12]	4[...
Skamok...	4.5' ^ [ 22:12]	
Wauna	4.2' ^ [ 22:18]	
Westwa...	2.6' ^ [ 22:10]	
Longview	1.9' ^ [ 22:18]	
Saint H...	0.9' v [ 22:18]	
Vancou...	1.0' v [ 22:18]	
Morrison...	1.2' v [ 21:35]	

Options... 22:31:54

Standard Times Cur SOG

Waypoint...	Dist	ETA
Pillar Rock		
Three Tre...		
Skamokawa		
Bugby Hole		
Waterford ...		
Eruka Lt ...		
Abernathy...		
Stella		
Millenium		
Longview ...	1115 ft	22:33
Coffin Rock	6.2 nm	23:18
Kalama Elev	9.7 nm	23:44
Columbia ...	15.8 nm	00:30
Warrior R...	18.8 nm	00:52
Morgan T...	29.0 nm	02:08
Kelley Pt	30.7 nm	02:21
Vanc Bert...	33.1 nm	02:39





### Ruby Princess

SOG **8.4 kt**  
 HDG **122.0°T**  
 ROT **R 1°/m**  
 XTrk **R 131 ft**

From:  center line  sailline 0 ft

Next wPT **54 - Unnamed**  
 This  **118.8°T**  
 Next > Course

Status | Rng/Brg | ETA's | Tides

Station	Tide	Wind
003160...	9.1' unk [ 21:...	12...
Cape Di...	6.4' ^ [ 22:12]	
Astoria...	6.3' ^ [ 22:12]	4 (...)
Skamok...	4.5' ^ [ 22:12]	
Wauna	4.2' ^ [ 22:18]	
Westwa...	2.6' ^ [ 22:10]	
Longview	1.9' ^ [ 22:18]	
Saint H...	0.9' v [ 22:18]	
Vancou...	1.0' v [ 22:18]	
Morrison...	1.2' v [ 21:35]	

Options... **22:33:26**

Standard Times  Cur SOG

Waypoint... | Dist | ETA

Waypoint...	Dist	ETA
Pillar Rock		
Three Tre...		
Skamokawa		
Bugby Hole		
Waterford ...		
Eureka Lt ...		
Abernathy...		
Stella		
Millenium		
Longview ...		
Coffin Rock	6.0 nm	23:16
Kalama Elev	9.5 nm	23:42
Columbia ...	15.6 nm	00:25
Warrior R...	18.5 nm	00:47
Morgan T...	28.8 nm	02:01
Kelley Pt	30.5 nm	02:13
Vanc Bert...	32.9 nm	02:30



**Caribbean Princess Columbia River Transit April 6, 2022**

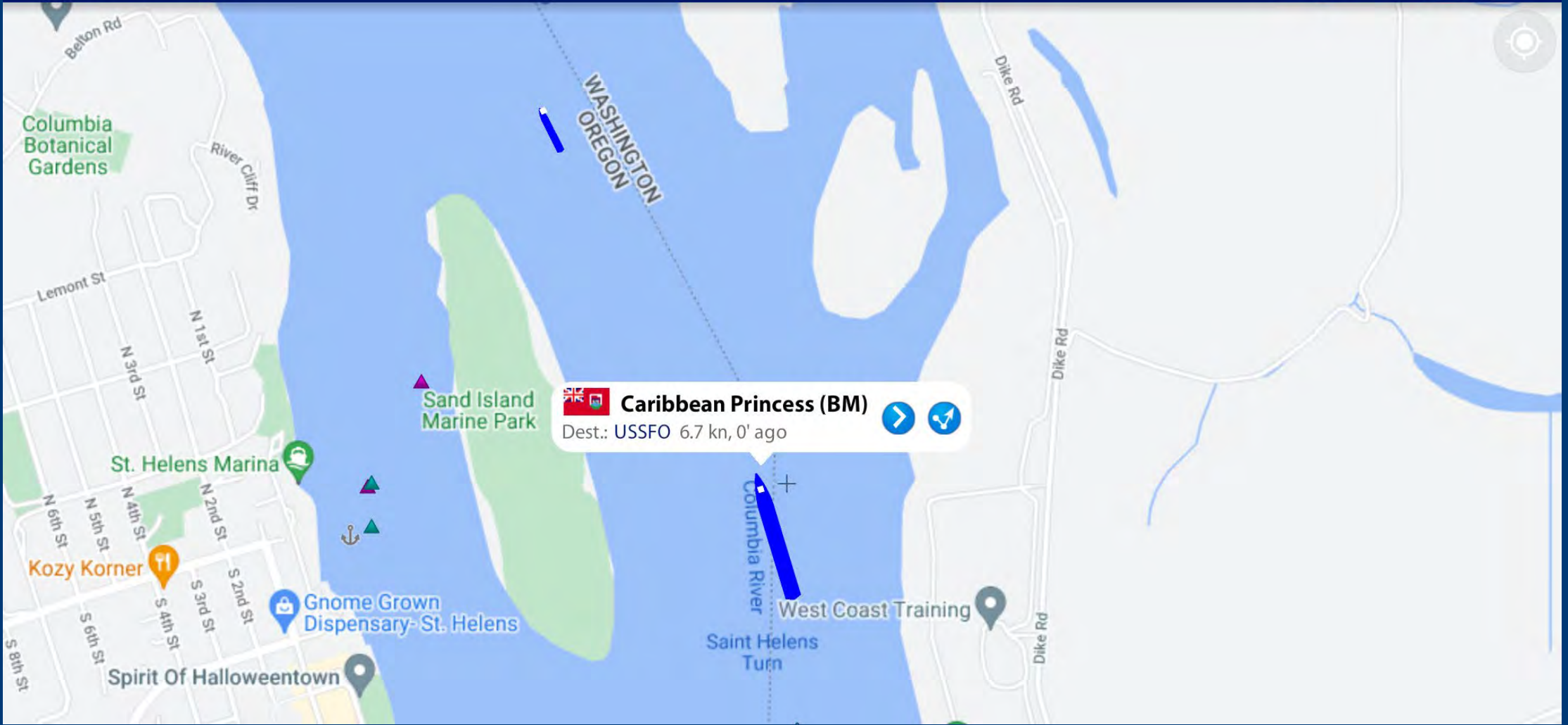
Time (PDT)	Location	Top of Mast (Feet CRD)	Tide (Feet CRD)	Air Draft (Feet)	SOG (Knts)	Predicted Current (Ebb Positive)	Speed thru Water	Speed Change (Knts)	Air Draft Change (Feet)	Longview Bridge (Feet CRD)	Tide (Feet CRD)	Bridge Air Gap (Feet)	Clearance (Feet)
1233	Skamokawa	182.56	0.62	181.94	11.7	1.00	12.7						
1311	Wauna	184.72	1.06	183.66	6.0	1.6	7.6	-5.1	1.72				
1508	Longview	186.32	2.80	183.52	6.5	2.00	8.5			195.00	2.80	192.20	8.68

**Ruby Princess Columbia River Transit October 3, 2021**

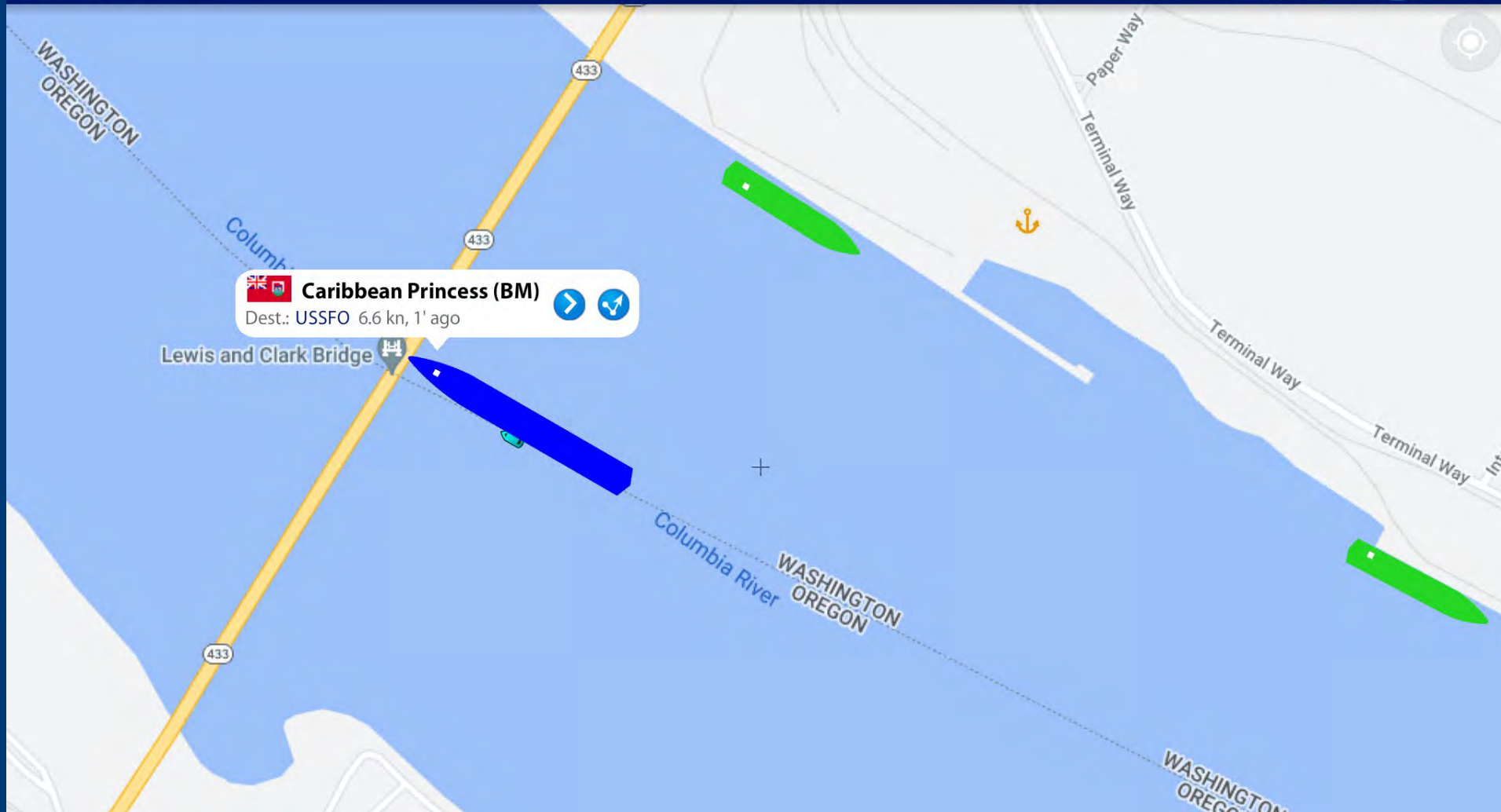
Time (PDT)	Location	Top of Mast (Feet CRD)	Tide (Feet CRD)	Air Draft (Feet)	SOG (Knts)	Predicted Current (Ebb Positive)	Speed thru Water	Speed Change (Knts)	Air Draft Change (Feet)	Longview Bridge (Feet CRD)	Tide (Feet CRD)	Bridge Air Gap (Feet)	Clearance (Feet)
1953	Skamokawa	183.70	1.07	182.63	12.0	1.00	13						
2028	Wauna	185.09	1.59	183.50	9.0	1.3	10.3	-2.7	0.87				
2233	Longview	186.18	2.09	184.09	8.4	0.50	8.9			195.00	2.09	192.91	8.82

*Air Draft Relative to Vessel Speed*





***St. Helens outbound air draft measurement with 2 knot ebb current  
(4.7 knots through the water)***



*Longview outbound clearance 6.5 feet with 2 knot ebb current  
(4.6 knots through the water)*









Celebrity ECLIPSE



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Thank You

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