

USF/COMPS Inshore Stations

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Objective and Approach

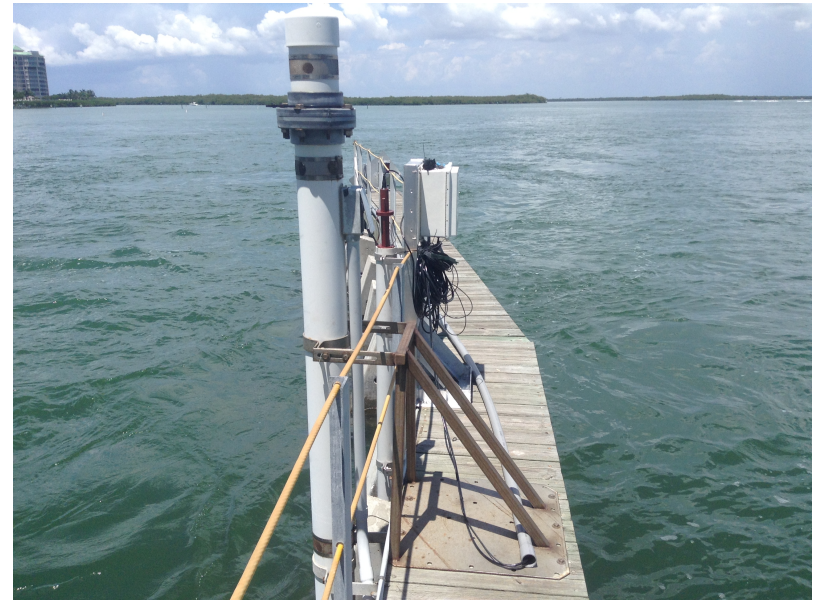
Objective

- Increase the density of Water Level and meteorological observations along the West coast of Florida for Storm Surge and Coastwise Maritime Navigation



Approach

- Operate and Maintain Water Level and other Oceanographic and Meteorological observing sensor systems on fixed coastal platforms



Accomplishments

- Sites collecting water level and surface meteorological parameters at Big Carlos Pass, Clam Bayou, Fred Howard Park, Aripeka, and Shell Point have remained operational with minimal down time
- Clam Bayou site has collected a suite of water quality parameters in collaboration with YSI/Xylem for over 3 years
- Big Carlos Pass site collects water temperature/salinity and fish acoustic data in collaboration with Jim Locascio at Mote Marine Lab
- Data from the inshore coastal sites and from the Tampa Bay PORTS sites during the passage of Hurricane Irma showed maximum wind gusts of over 100 knots at the Big Carlos Pass site and a negative storm surge of 6.14 ft below predicted tide at the Port of Tampa (MacKay Bay) water level gauge

Impact

- Captured water level and wind evolution along most of the west Florida coast during passage of Hurricane Irma
- Inshore COMPS and, although not supported directly by SECOORA funds, TBPORTS data products greatly enhance safety, security, and efficiency of maritime transportation
- If not for COMPS Inshore observations, emergency managers would not have information needed during storms
- Users include local, state, and federal emergency managers, commercial and recreational boating/fishing interests

