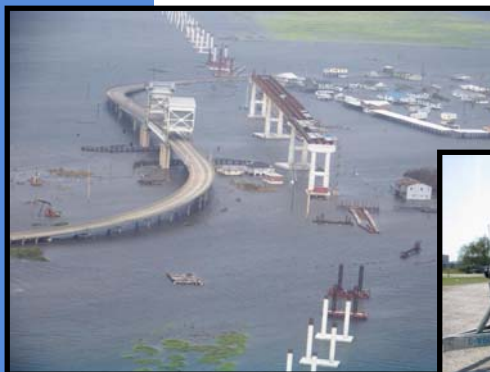


OCS NEWS

Volume 26

October 6, 2008



OCS Response Continues in Wake of Gulf Hurricanes

Although Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have dissipated, OCS Navigation Response Teams and Navigation Managers are still hard at work in the Gulf's hardest-hit areas. As Ike approached Galveston, TX, in early September, it took down the oil rig ENSCO, posing a potential hazard to navigation.

While continuing to survey for the missing oil rig, OCS is also investigating reports of vessels striking objects. In Port Fourchon, LA, OCS assisted a port diver team in investing side scan contacts from surveys following Gustav. A large piece of twisted metal was found at one of the side scan contacts. Tim Osborn, Navigation Manager for the Central Gulf Coast, used a GPS unit to accurately place the divers on the contacts. The Port Iberia channel was also surveyed after vessels reported striking objects.

In Galveston, Alan Bunn, the West Gulf Navigation Manager is working with CO-OPS technicians to restore tide and current meters critical to navigation. He has been assisting technicians by gaining access to station locations and locating boats for them to use to reach meters on buoys.

OCS recognizes and thanks Alan, Tim, and all staff that are helping to bring NOS operations back online while also dealing with personal losses from the storm.

Bay Hydrographer Takes Part in Calvert County Events

In September, the crew of the survey vessel *Bay Hydrographer* sailed to the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD, to showcase the boat's hydrographic equipment and talk with the public about surveying and the science and history of navigation. The tour attracted approximately 150 visitors from two nearby events—TrawlerFest and the Calvert County Waterman's Association Annual Fundraiser—celebrating the heritage of the commercial waterman.



Sant Ocean Hall Now Open

The Sant Ocean Hall opened late September at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

Colin Ware of the University of New Hampshire's Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping designed and generated the visualization of global ocean flow patterns that appears on the "Science on a Sphere" display.

The visualization was constructed by numerically seeding tens of thousands of colored particles into NOAA's Global Ocean Data Assimilation System (GODAS) ocean flow model with the purpose of bringing out different features of the global ocean currents. Different colors and styles are used to emphasize different aspects of the flow. To learn more about Ocean Hall and the Science on a Sphere display, visit: http://ocean.si.edu/ocean_hall/.

