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Quantifying Wave Breaking Shape and Suspended Sediment in the Surf Zone

Patrick J. Dickhudt, Nicholas J. Spore, Katherine L. Brodie,
and A. Spicer Bak

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Abstract

This technical report describes a field experiment conducted from 18 November 2016 to 26 October 2017 at the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Field Research Facility, as part of a 6.1 Military Engineering Basic Research Project titled *New Field Measurements and Parameterizations to Predict Wave Breaking Shape from Environmental Forcing*. This report provides an overview of the project, presents the motivation and goals of the project, describes the suite of instrumentation and experimental procedure, documents the field data collection effort, and catalogs the raw data products.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (ERDC-CHL), under the Military Engineering Basic Research Program, Program Element No. 611102T2200, Project No. 471930, Task No. 6.1 T22. The technical monitor was Mr. Nicholas Boone.

The work was performed by the Coastal Observations and Analysis Branch of the Flood and Storm Protection Division, ERDC-CHL. At the time of publication of this report, Dr. Jeffrey P. Waters was Branch Chief; Dr. Cary A. Talbot was Division Chief; and Ms. Pam Kinnebrew was Lead Technical Director, Military Engineering Programs.

The Deputy Director of ERDC-CHL was Mr. Jeffrey R. Eckstein, and the Director was Dr. Ty V. Wamsley.

COL Teresa A. Schlosser was the Commander of ERDC, and the Director was Dr. David W. Pittman.

1 Project Description

1.1 Background

Laboratory experiments have identified relationships between environmental forcing conditions, wave breaking type, and wave breaking depth parameters (Camenen and Larson 2007). However, these relationships have not been thoroughly evaluated in the field due to difficulties in quantifying observed wave shape and seabed elevation in the surf zone (Weishar and Byrne 1978). As a result, the relationships remain poorly constrained, and spatial and temporal variations in wave breaking type are not incorporated in wave models (e.g., STWAVE) used by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the Army to predict wave heights in the surf zone and at the shoreline during surf-zone trafficability assessments. Additionally, laboratory experiments suggest breaking type (spilling or plunging, Figure 1) can change alongshore sediment transport rates by 300% by influencing sediment suspensions (Smith et al. 2009). However, morphological evolution models, which predict how the coastline changes in response to waves, do not parameterize variations in sediment transport due to wave breaking type in their transport formulations.

Suspended sediment concentrations are important, not only for alongshore transport rates but also because they impact water column visibility. The optical properties of coastal waters affect the performance of lidar and other optical sensors. For example, in turbid or aerated water, bathymetric lidar cannot penetrate to the seabed preventing measurements of bathymetry and/or detection of mines and other obstacles in the water column.

Improved model predictions of wave transformation, breaking, and the resultant sediment transport across the surf zone could therefore improve USACE's and the Army's ability to (1) forecast morphologic change in the dynamic surf zone, (2) predict favorable conditions for collecting important remotely sensed wave and bathymetry parameters, and (3) characterize the physical navigability, for both swimmers and vehicular traffic, of the surf zone. These capabilities will provide enhanced littoral geospatial intelligence that can improve USACE's management of flood risks and navigation channels, prediction and prevention of storm

damages, as well as the Army's battlespace awareness in denied coastal ports of debarkation.

1.2 Objective

The field experiment described in this report supported a military engineering basic research project titled *New Field Measurements and Parameterizations to Predict Wave Breaking Shape from Environmental Forcing*. The objective of this project was to identify the environmental forcing factors that determine wave shape and breaking type in the surf zone of a natural beach. The data were collected to relate wave shape and breaking type to wave energy dissipation and sediment transport processes with the goal of improving predictive models of seabed morphological evolution, wave transformation, and surf-zone trafficability. The goal of this project was to evaluate (1) if high-resolution three-dimensional (3D) observations of the water surface elevation could be used to automatically quantify wave shape and breaking type in the field; (2) if wave breaking type could be well predicted by comparing local observations of seabed slope to offshore wave steepness; and (3) how wave breaking type affected the concentration and vertical distribution of suspended sediment in the water column. Successful completion of this project required development of measurement techniques to collect field observations of wave breaking type and suspended sediment. These techniques were developed in the first year of the project and then used to execute a field experiment in fall of 2018 at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Field Research Facility (FRF) in Duck, NC (Figure 1). The experiment setup and data collected in this field effort are described in detail in this report. Data analysis and results will be presented in follow-on journal articles and/or technical reports.

Figure 1. Picture from the north side of FRF pier illustrating spatial variability in wave breaking type in Duck, NC. (Photo by Jon Carter.)

1.3 Approach

To accomplish this project's research objectives, a field experiment was conducted that focused on coupling remotely sensed observations of wave shape and breaking type with in situ observations of bed level changes, slopes, and suspended sediment concentrations. This experiment was conducted at the FRF between 18 November 2016 and 26 October 2017 utilizing the Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy (CRAB, Figure 2) as a sampling platform. A total of 88 stations were occupied resulting in over 45 hours of on-station data collection from a suite of subaerial and subaqueous sensors (Table 1).

Data were collected over a range of environmental conditions spanning 18 days and include the following:

1. Cross-shore transects of seabed elevation measured with the CRAB Global Positioning System (GPS) (Figure 2A) at least once and often multiple times during each day's collection.
2. 3-D lidar observations of the water surface elevation designed to quantify wave shape and breaking type (Figure 2B).
3. Pumped water samples (Figure 2C) during lidar wave observations, which provide direct measurements of suspended sediment concentrations.
4. Acoustic and optical backscatter measurements from a suite of sensors (Figure 2C) designed to quantify suspended sediment concentration

and distribution simultaneous to the lidar wave observations and pumped water samples.

Section 2 details the instrumentation, Section 3 provides details on the field experiment, and Section 4 describes the data and example data plots. The appendix contains detailed descriptions of each day's sampling effort, environmental conditions, and available data.

Table 1. Table of experiment dates including number of stations sampled and instrumentation used on each day.

Date	Number of Stations	SSC ¹	Opt Turb ²	LISST-ABS ³	Aquascats	ADV ⁴	Lidar
Nov 18, 2016	5	x	x		x	x	x
Jan 12, 2017	4	x			x	x	x
Apr 04, 2017	4	x	x		x	x	x
Sep 06, 2017	2	x	x		x		x
Sep 07, 2017	5	x	x		x		x
Sep 08, 2017	3	x	x		x		x
Sep 13, 2017	7	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sep 21, 2017	6	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sep 29, 2017	5	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 03, 2017	6	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 04, 2017	8	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 05, 2017	5		x	x	x	x	x
Oct 16, 2017	3						x
Oct 18, 2017	6	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 19, 2017	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 20, 2017	3						x
Oct 25, 2017	6	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oct 26, 2017	6	x	x	x	x	x	x

¹ SSC = Suspended Sediment Concentration

² Opt Turb = optical turbidity

³ LISST-ABS = product name of acoustic backscatter sensor

⁴ ADV = acoustic Doppler velocimeter

Figure 2. (A) Development of robust, customizable, instrument mounting system for the CRAB. (B) The Velodyne lidar mount extended off the CRAB and could be located fore or aft. (C) Suspended sediment instruments were mounted to a beam and could be adjusted to modify instrument height above the seabed.

2 Instrumentation

This experiment utilized remotely sensed and in situ field observation techniques to quantify wave shape, bed evolution, and suspended sediment concentrations in the surf zone. These measurements relied on a diverse suite of instruments including high-frame rate lidar (Section 2.2), profiling acoustic backscatter sensors (ABS) (Section 2.3.2), acoustic Doppler velocimeters (Section 2.3.3), and optical and acoustic backscatter single point sensors (Section 2.3.4 and 2.3.5). In addition, suspended sediment samples were collected in close proximity to the subaqueous sensors (Section 2.4).

2.1 Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy (CRAB) as a sampling platform

The CRAB is a 10.7 meter (m)-tall, three-wheeled amphibious research vehicle capable of driving or parking in the surf zone providing a mobile but stable platform for data collection. Instruments can be mounted to numerous locations on the CRAB, facilitating subaerial and subaqueous measurements. The ability of the CRAB to move throughout the surf zone provided the potential to measure numerous types of waves (shoaling, spilling, and plunging) in a single field collection effort by moving to different locations.

Instrument mounts were designed, fabricated, and tested to attach a suite of instruments to the CRAB, above and below water. The mounts were designed to provide stable, rugged attachment points for instruments while providing high-quality measurements. In the case of the lidar, this required an unobstructed path from the laser to the water surface and minimal disturbance of incoming waves by the footprint of the CRAB. In the case of suspended sediment measurements, this required safely mounting the instruments within tens of centimeters of the seabed while minimizing flow disturbance and scour associated with the wheels or frame of the CRAB.

When parked in breaking waves, the CRAB slowly sinks into the seabed, changing the elevation of sensors relative to the sea surface or seabed. The CRAB tended to sink faster in stronger waves but was not allowed to sink more than approximately 0.3 m to prevent damage to the subaqueous instruments. In general, the CRAB would sink approximately 0.1 to 0.3 m

over a period of 10 to 30 minutes (min). As a result, the height of subaqueous sensors and water sample intake relative to the seafloor changed over time. This allowed samples to be collected very close to the seabed (~ 0.1 m).

2.2 Wave shape observations

2.2.1 Background

While lidar has traditionally been used to measure terrain elevation data (topographic or bathymetric), recent field experiments with terrestrial lidar scanners (Blenkinsopp et al. 2010; Brodie et al. 2012; Almeida et al. 2013; Vousedoukas et al. 2014; Brodie et al. 2015) have documented the ability to use lidar to simultaneously measure the elevation of the beach topography and the free surface of seawater, particularly of aerated breaking waves. Specifically, lidar can measure sea-surface elevations on the centimeter scale, quantifying the shape of waves as they propagate and providing new insight into spatial variations in wave characteristics across the surf zone (Brodie et al. 2015; Carini 2019).

In this experiment, a new, high-frame rate 3D lidar developed for the robotics and self-driving car industries to map the 3D structure of breaking waves at centimeter-scale resolution was used, providing a new ability to quantify wave shape and breaking type in the surf zone. The ability to capture data in three-dimensions could improve identification and quantification of wave shapes. These new scanners are significantly less expensive, smaller, and lighter weight than traditional mapping scanners, permitting more flexible mounting configurations.

2.2.2 Velodyne lidar

The Velodyne HDL-32E lidar scanner (Figure 3) is a relatively lightweight (1 kilogram) and compact unit (8.5 centimeters [cm] $\times$ 14 cm) that houses a multi-channel array of 903 nanometer (nm) lasers. The scanner utilizes 32 laser channels, each scanning a single line in space as the head of the unit rotates. The combination of these channels, which are aligned at 1.33° increments with a vertical field of view (FOV) of 41.34° that illuminates a 360° horizontal FOV at $0.1^\circ - 0.4^\circ$ angular resolution depending on rotation rate. It has an effective measurement range up to 100 m and a manufacturer reported accuracy of ± 2 cm. Data were collected at a

frame rate of 10 hertz (Hz) in this experiment and were time-stamped with GPS time.

Figure 3. Velodyne lidar drawing with dimensions.

2.3 Suspended sediment instrumentation

2.3.1 Background

Accurately measuring suspended sediment concentration in the surf zone is notoriously challenging due to large gradients in sediment concentration (in space and time) and high concentrations of entrained air bubbles associated with breaking waves. Multiple instruments measuring acoustic and optical backscatter over a range of frequencies (Sections 2.3.2 – 2.3.5) were deployed simultaneously to evaluate suitability for measuring suspended sediment concentration under breaking waves. By analyzing the response of a suite of instruments, the aggregated data may provide a clearer picture for data analysis and interpretation. Additionally, techniques were developed and refined for collecting in situ suspended sediment samples to be used as ground truth as well as developing calibrations for individual sensors.

2.3.2 Aquatec AQUAscatter

The Aquatec AQUAscatter ABS (Figure 2C) used 1 megahertz (MHz), 2 MHz, and 4 MHz sound to measure profiles of acoustic backscatter in the water column. Acoustic backscatter intensity is a proxy for suspended sediment concentration. The ABS measures acoustic backscatter in bins as small as

1 cm and as a profiling instrument, can be pointed towards the seafloor with potential to measure suspended sediment concentration very close to the seabed. Additionally, because the seabed was easily identified in ABS data, the elevation of the concentration measurements could be precisely determined. ABS profile measurements aided in data interpretation by providing a two-dimensional picture of backscatter in the water column allowing visualization what the ABS and other instruments were *seeing* (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Five-minute time series of acoustic backscatter amplitude from Aquascat 1 MHz transducer illustrating intuitive visual nature of Aquatec ABS data aiding in data interpretation including identification of seabed, suspended sediment, and entrained bubbles. Color scale is backscatter intensity with yellow representing strong backscattering (sediment or bubbles) and blue representing weak backscattering (relatively clear water).

2.3.3 Nortek Vector and Sontek Triton acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV)

ADVs have been widely used in the oceanographic community to collect high-quality flow and wave data in the surf zone, continental shelf, and elsewhere. The Nortek Vector and Sontek Triton ADVs use sound to precisely and accurately measure 3D water flow velocities in a small sample volume ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^3$). Additionally, these instruments measure pressure and acoustic backscatter intensity. The pressure data combined with the directional flow velocity data can provide directional wave statistics. The acoustic backscatter data may be a good proxy for suspended sediment concentration (Fugate and Friedrichs 2002; Ha et al. 2009). The distance from the ADV transducer to the sample volume is

relatively small and thus may minimize signal losses due to attenuation along the path length preserving accuracy in suspended sediment concentration estimates. The Nortek Vector emits a 6 MHz acoustic pulse with a sample volume 15 cm from the transducer while the Sontek Triton emits a 10 MHz acoustic pulse with a sample volume 10 cm from the transducer.

2.3.4 Sequoia Scientific LISST-ABS

The Sequoia Scientific LISST-ABS is a compact 8 MHz acoustic backscatter sensor. The 8 MHz acoustic frequency was chosen by the manufacturer to minimize instrument response dependence on sediment grain size. The LISST-ABS has a short acoustic path length with the measurement volume located approximately 0.05 to 0.1 m from the sensor. Similar to the ADVs, the short path length of the LISST-ABS may minimize signal losses due to attenuation along the path length preserving accuracy in suspended sediment concentrations estimates. The LISST-ABS performs some internal pre-processing and reports data in uncalibrated concentration grams per liter (g/L^{-1}). Specifically, it sampled at 1000 Hz and reported a 1 Hz average value. The 1 Hz average backscatter value was first corrected for attenuation along its path using a 30-second (sec) averaged attenuation derived from the backscatter at two distances along the acoustic path with the assumption that concentration does not vary along the path. A laboratory calibration derived from 75 – 90 micron glass beads was then applied to the attenuation corrected backscatter to derive the uncalibrated concentration. Note that the 30 sec averaged attenuation correction was not likely to be suitable in the surf zone where suspended sediment concentration could vary by orders of magnitude over time scales of seconds.

2.3.5 Wetlabs ECONTU and ECOBB3

WetLabs ECO sensors are small optical sensors that use light of discrete wavelengths scattered at 124° as a proxy for suspended sediment concentration. The ECONTU uses light at 700 nm while the ECOBB3 has three individual sensors that measure scattered light at three wavelengths (470, 532, and 700 nm).

The backscatter response of optical sensors can be quite sensitive to the size of suspended particles (Downing 2006). In practice, this can result in optical sensors preferentially measuring small particles (clay and silt)

while being significantly less responsive to similar concentrations of coarser sediment (sand). These sensors offer the advantage of measuring concentration in a small volume very close to the sensor, so attenuation of the signal is not a concern unless concentrations are very high (Kineke and Sternberg 1992).

2.4 Suspended sediment sampling

The backscattered signal for the optical and acoustic sensors described above may provide a reliable proxy for sediment concentration in the surf zone. To evaluate this and ultimately to convert these backscatter data to actual concentrations, calibration samples were collected.

In situ suspended sediment samples were collected with a 12-volt direct current pump mounted on the CRAB *crow's nest*. An intake hose was run from the pump down a pipe where the end was secured at a nominal height of 40 cm above the bed. The pipe was generally in a fixed position, but on a few occasions, the height above the bed varied. The SSC sample height above the bed is included as a data variable with the data file.

After collection, suspended sediment samples were analyzed in the lab to determine the concentrations of suspended sand (>63 microns [μm]), suspended fines (<63 μm), and total SSC (sand + fines). Suspended sand concentration was determined as the mass of sediment retained on a 63 μm sieve per volume of sample. Total fines concentration was determined via filtration as the amount of sample collected on 934 AH filter after the sand has been removed with the 63 μm sieve. Total suspended sediment concentration was the sum of the sand and fines concentrations. For the sand and fine fractions, contribution of organic and inorganic matter to the total SSC was estimated by loss on ignition, determined by muffling the samples at 550°C for 4 hours.

3 Field Experiment

3.1 Mounts

3.1.1 Lidar mounts

A horizontal arm and stabilizer were developed to mount the Velodyne scanner on the CRAB. Mounting locations were chosen to allow the scanner to measure the free surface in an area primarily outside of the CRAB footprint, ensuring that wave shapes were not affected by the physical structure of the CRAB. Multiple mounts were fabricated for the Velodyne lidar so it could be mounted fore and aft on the CRAB working platform (Figure 2B).

3.1.2 Suspended sediment instrument mounts

A subaqueous instrument mounting system for the CRAB was developed using a horizontal aluminum I-beam bolted below the rear crossbeam (Figure 2A and 2C). Multiple mounts projected below this I-beam allowing instruments to be mounted very close to the bed. These mounts were made to be easily modified and adjustable, allowing the height of the instruments above the bed to be altered as desired. Additionally, a mount was developed that allows an intake port for a suspended sediment sampling pump to be mounted very near the instruments.

3.2 Sampling effort overview

The CRAB provided a mobile platform that allowed data collections to be targeted in locations with ideal environmental conditions such as directly on a shallow sandbar where waves were most actively breaking (Figure 5). Additionally, the CRAB's mobility allowed for sampling of a range of wave conditions (i.e., shoaling, breaking, bores) with minimal effort by driving to a different part of the surf zone. A typical data collection from the CRAB began by first driving along a transect from the beach to well offshore of the wave breaking zone. As the CRAB is also a survey vessel, this provided an accurate bathymetric cross section at the sampling location to relate to the characteristics of the breaking waves. The suspended sediment and lidar data collections then proceeded by occupying multiple (two to eight) stations in the cross shore (see the Appendix). Each station was occupied for 20 to 40 min with instruments sampling continuously and suspended sediment samples collected periodically to collect a range of

concentrations. The CRAB moved to new stations as necessary, following the zone of maximum wave breaking, to ensure optimal data returns from the Velodyne lidar. After completion of on-station sampling, a final survey transect was typically collected with the CRAB. On some days, stations were occupied on multiple cross-shore transects to adapt as conditions evolved over time (e.g., change in wind or water level resulting in no wave breaking).

Figure 5. CRAB sampling at or just inshore of the breakpoint during plunging breakers on 04 April 2017.

4 Data Description

4.1 Lidar data

The Velodyne HDL-32E measured 3D elevations at 10 Hz for 30 min at each sampling location, with all the data collected at that location contained within a single packet capture (.pcap) file (Velodyne native format). Within the .pcap file, two UDP¹ data streams were recorded: laser firing data and position data. The laser firing data contains GPS timing information, rotation information, the returns from the 32 individual lasers (report distance to the nearest 0.2 cm), and return intensity information from 0 to 255 counts. The positioning data contains the onboard gyrometer and accelerometer information as well as the GPS timestamp and National Marine Electronics Association sentence corresponding to the sensor's orientation and position.

The raw .pcap files can be viewed in the open-source VeloView software. This provides the data user the ability to visualize the laser returns through time and offers some simple mensuration tools and data attribute filtering. In addition to being viewed in VeloView, the .pcap files can be decoded and data extracted for further processing, including rectification, filtering, and wave processing. Due to the long-duration near-stationary collects, neither the scanner's internal gyroscope and accelerometer nor a secondary external INS/GNSS² system could be used to orient the scanner in space during data rectification (these systems drift when stationary for long periods of time). Instead, the sea-surface returns were leveled in the cross and along-shore directions to determine the pitch and roll of the scanner, and the surveyed GPS coordinates of the corners of the CRAB platform (which were visible in the scans) were used to define the heading. Offsets between the lidar center and the nearest GPS receiver were applied to the GPS coordinates and used to position the scan in space. This rectification procedure assumes a flat sea surface in the cross- and alongshore directions (neglecting any cross-shore setup or setdown and alongshore sea-surface gradients). In addition, as of this technical report, only a single rectification matrix for each scan was determined, and any motions of the CRAB during the collection were not accounted for. Due to

¹ User Datagram Protocol)

² Inertial Navigation System/Global Navigation Satellite System

the immense size and spatial complexity, the laser data are not stored on a THREDDS¹ server. Individuals interested in obtaining a copy of the data should contact the authors of this report.

4.1.1 Data extents

Initial results indicated that the scanner provided more surface returns over a larger area, particularly in the cross-shore direction, when foam or aerated water was present on the surface (Figure 6, compare A and B). As a result, locations in the scanners FOV that were at or onshore of the initiation of breaking provided a more continuous time series of sea-surface elevations than locations offshore of wave breaking that had less foam.

Figure 6. Map-view of spatial extent of 3D point clouds of the water surface (y-axis is in the alongshore direction; x-axis is in the cross-shore direction) from the Velodyne lidar on the CRAB. Colors correspond to reflectance of the sea-surface, with warmer colors representing higher reflectivity. (A) Lidar 3D point cloud illustrating wider coverage after a breaking wave when relict foam is present on the sea-surface. (B) Lidar 3D point cloud illustrating narrower coverage before a breaking wave when there is less foam.

¹ Thematic Realtime Environmental Distributed Data Services

In addition to foam, the scanner also recorded larger data extents when the sea surface was roughened (by wind) and when water clarity was reduced, though these effects were not quantified. Temporally variable data extents will require careful processing techniques to ensure that any wave parameters extracted are robust when less than one wavelength is visible (e.g., Carini 2019).

4.1.2 Example data

During the data collection efforts on 04 April 2017, a wide range of breaking and non-breaking wave shapes were observed (Figure 7). The authors determined that wave breaking type was best identifiable when the data were viewed as if looking along the wave crest. Using time series of data from this vantage point, a conceptual model of wave breaking type definitions was developed and is briefly described here and illustrated in Figure 7. Non-breaking waves were characterized by low-surface roughness on the front face, peak, and back slope of the wave (top row, Figure 7). Plunging breakers were characterized by steep front faces, with elliptical-shaped voids between the overturning wave face and not-yet-broken front slope of the wave (second row, Figure 7). Significant spray was visible streaming off the front face of the wave. Spilling breakers were characterized by a high surface roughness on the front face of the wave, sometimes with spray streaming off of the top (third row, Figure 7). Already broken bores were visually similar to spilling breakers; however, the patch of surface roughness on the front face of the wave extended all the way down to flat, still water in front of the wave from the initial moment the wave was visible by the scanner (bottom row, Figure 7). In addition, the rear face of the bores had a lower slope than the rear face of spilling breakers. This qualitative conceptual model will be used to develop automated wave classification code for quantitative analysis of wave characteristics.

Figure 7. Elevation cross sections through 3D lidar point clouds from the CRAB of four different types of waves: non-breaking waves (top row), plunging breaking (second row), spilling breaking (third row), and an already broken bore (bottom row). Notice the lidar returns off of the CRAB above the water surface.

In addition to classifying the type of wave, the shape evolution of each wave can be quantified at high temporal evolution (10 Hz) from each scan and used to evaluate the detailed cross-shore evolution of wave shape changes during wave breaking. For example, Figure 8 shows the temporal evolution (vertical axes, colors) of an individual plunging breaker moving through the lidar's field of view on 25 October 2017.

Figure 8. Lidar-observed sea-surface elevation vs. cross-shore position through time (colors, vertical axis) while a plunging breaker breaks. Each subsequent time-step (0.1 sec) is shown in a separate color and offset 2 m in the vertical.

4.2 Suspended sediment samples

A total of 266 suspended sediment samples were collected, processed, and analyzed. Total suspended sediment concentration ranged from 0.023 grams per liter (g/L) to 2.20 g/L. Suspended sand concentration ranged from 0.007 g/L to 2.18 g/L. This large range in sand concentration (~3 orders of magnitude) demonstrates that these techniques can be used to collect samples suitable for instrument calibration. Suspended fines concentration ranged from 0.004 g/L to 0.471 g/L.

Suspended sediment data and supporting metadata were converted to netCDF format (<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/index.html>) and are available at

<https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/SuspendedSediment/catalog.html> in a single netCDF file. Data provided in the netCDF file include sample time, sample location, nominal sample height above bottom, total sample volume, total SSC, organic SSC from LOI¹, inorganic SSC, and organic fraction for both the sand and fine fractions.

4.3 Aquatec Aquascats

The Aquatec Aquascats ABS sampled from the top of the hour to 58 min after the hour resulting in up to 2 min data gaps on some stations. The Aquascats measured acoustic backscatter amplitude in 1 cm bins with four acoustic transducers ranging in frequency from 1 MHz to 4 MHz (Figure 9). The combination of frequencies as well as profile length, transducer location, and transducer orientation were modified over time to produce a diversity of configurations for evaluating instrument performance as well as processing techniques (e.g., developing algorithms to account for attenuation due to suspended sediment or bubbles). The total recorded profile distance ranged from 1.2 to 2.5 m with some portion of the profile always extending below the seabed to ensure a complete profile to the seafloor. Transducer orientation included vertical, horizontal, and skew (meaning a 45° angle between vertical and horizontal), and the frequency combinations included (1) 1 MHz, 1 MHz, 2 MHz, 4 MHz and (2) 1 MHz, 1 MHz, 4 MHz, 4 MHz. In data from transducers in a vertical orientation, the surface of the seabed can be easily identified. The elevation, orientation, and frequency for each beam are specified within the netCDF

¹ loss on ignition

data files in the variable attributes for each beams acoustic backscatter amplitude variable (ABS1, ABS2, ABS3, ABS4).

The ABS acoustic backscatter amplitude was sampled at either 40 Hz or 80 Hz. Intervals of eight samples were averaged by the instrument during collection, returning data at 5 Hz or 10 Hz. The returned backscatter amplitude data had a near-field correction applied (Downing et al. 1995) and was corrected for attenuation by water (Fisher and Simmons 1977). The amplitude was further corrected for beam spreading and with a manufacturer-supplied system constant following common methods (e.g., Thorne and Hurther 2014).

In addition to multi-frequency profiles of acoustic backscatter amplitude, the ABS also reported pressure. The ABS housing and pressure sensor were mounted on the cross beam of the CRAB, 1.76 m above the ground when parked on a level surface. Due to its higher elevation, the pressure sensor may have been out of the water either continuously or intermittently when parked on shallow stations. The pressure record was corrected for local barometric pressure variations.

The ABS returned a profile of acoustic backscatter from the transducer to the end of the path length (1.2 to 2.5 meters) including the water column and seabed and providing an easy-to-interpret, qualitative picture of what all instruments are seeing. For example, from a short burst of ABS data (Figure 4), it is easily discernable how high suspended sediments are being suspended into the water column and when and how deep bubbles are being mixed down. This was an invaluable resource for data interpretation and complemented the time series of point measurements provided by the other acoustic and optical sensors. Additionally, by recording profiles of acoustic backscatter extending beyond the seabed, the seabed could be identified, and the height of the sensors relative to the seabed to be accurately determined at all times. This was critical as it demonstrated that the CRAB sank into the seabed when on station, effectively changing the height above the bed of instruments over time.

The ABS data were converted to netCDF format and are available at <https://chltredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/AquatecABS/catalog.html>

An ABS netCDF file was created for each station occupied during the experiment. Data provided in the netCDF file includes station location,

sample time, time series of backscatter profiles from the four acoustic transducers, and pressure time series. The netCDF files are stored in daily folders with a netCDF Markup Language (.ncml) file in each that aggregates the data for a given day and allows all ABS data from that day to be accessible at a single endpoint.

Figure 9. Example 1 min time series of acoustic backscatter amplitude from (A) 1MHz, (B) 2 MHz, and (C) 4 MHz transducers of the Aquatec Aquascats ABS. Color scale is backscatter intensity with yellow representing strong backscattering (sediment or bubbles) and blue weak backscattering (relatively clear water).

4.4 Nortek Vector and Sontek Triton acoustic Doppler velocimeter (ADV)

The Nortek Vector and Sontek Triton ADVs were oriented with transducers facing the seabed and collected 2 Hz samples of 3D velocity and acoustic backscatter 0.50 m above the seabed on 18 November 18 2016 and 12 January 12 2017 and 0.40 m above the bed for the remaining experiment dates. The pressure sensor was 0.37 m above the acoustic sample volume on the Vector and 0.30 m on the Triton. Both ADVs collected data in 6144 sample bursts (51.2 min long) starting at the top of the hour, resulting in data gaps of up to approximately 8 min on some stations.

The Nortek and Triton ADV data were converted to netCDF format and are available at

<https://chlthredds.erd.c.dren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/VectorADV/catalog.html>

and

<https://chlthredds.erd.c.dren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/TritonADV/catalog.html>

A netCDF file was created for the ADV data for each station occupied during the experiment. Data provided in the netCDF file includes station location, sample time, and time series of current speed, direction, east, north, and vertical velocity, intensity (signal strength), correlation, and pressure. One-minute example ADV time series are presented in Figures 10, 11, 12, and 13. Velocity direction was rotated using a local magnetic correction of -11.2° . The pressure record was corrected for local barometric pressure variations. The NetCDF files are stored in daily folders with a .ncml in each that aggregates the data for a given day and allows all ADV data from that day to be accessible at a single endpoint.

Figure 10. Example 1 min time series of (A) eastward current velocity, (B) northward current velocity, and (C) upward current velocity from the Sontek Triton ADV.

Figure 11. Example 1 min time series of (A) pressure, (B) current speed, and (C) current direction from the Sontek Triton ADV.

Figure 12. Example 1 mintime series of beam intensity (counts) from (A) beam 1, (B) beam 2, and (C) beam 3 from the Sontek Triton ADV.

Figure 13. Example 1 min time series of beam correlation (a quality-control parameter) from the Sontek Triton ADV.

4.5 WetLabs ECONTU and ECOBB3

A WetLabs ECONTU was mounted vertically looking down from the sample intake pipe approximately 0.5 m above bottom on 18 November 18 2016 and a WetLabs ECOBB3 was mounted in the same location on 12 January 12 2017, and at 0.40 m for the remainder of the experiment. The ECONTU measured optical backscatter at 700 nm while the ECOBB3 measured optical backscatter at 470 nm, 532 nm, and 700 nm. The response of both units was factory calibrated and reported in nephelometric turbidity units.

An example time series of Wetlabs ECOBB3 data is presented in Figure 14. Preliminary analysis of data from these optical backscatter sensors indicated that they were much more sensitive to the fine sediment

in suspension than to sand. The surprisingly high concentrations of fine sediment (approximately 0.03 to 0.5 g/L) overwhelmed the sensor response, generally resulting in a relative insensitivity to suspended sand concentrations. However, it has been demonstrated at this site (Battisto 2000) that the fines concentration varies slowly (time scale of hours) while the sand concentration varies on much shorter time scales (seconds), and a low percentile backscatter return can be subtracted from the time series record to isolate the instrument response to suspended sand.

The WetLabs ECO optical backscatter data were converted to netCDF format and are available at

https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/ECONTU_opticalTurbidity/catalog.html

and

https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/BB3_opticalTurbidity/catalog.html.

A netCDF file was created for the ECO data for each station occupied during the experiment. Data provided in the netCDF file include station location, sample time, and time series of the optical backscatter for each wavelength available. The netCDF files are stored in daily folders with a .ncml in each that aggregates the data for a given day and allows all ECO optical turbidity data from that day to be accessible at a single endpoint.

Figure 14. Example 1 min time series of optical backscatter at (A) 470 nm, (B) 532 nm, and (C) 700 nm from the WetLabs ECOBB3.

4.6 Sequoia LISST-ABS

The Sequoia Scientific LISST-ABS was mounted horizontally on the sample intake pipe at the same elevation as and directly adjacent to the WetLabs ECO (Figure 2C). The LISST-ABS sampled continuously at 1 Hz and reported acoustic backscatter uncalibrated concentration. An example 1 min time series of LISST-ABS data is presented in Figure 15.

The Sequoia LISST-ABS acoustic backscatter data were converted to netCDF format and are available at

https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/LISST_ABS/catalog.html

A netCDF file was created for the LISST-ABS data for each station occupied during the experiment. Data provided in the netCDF file include station location, sample time, and time series of the acoustic backscatter. The netCDF files are stored in daily folders with a .ncml in each that

aggregates the data for a given day and allows all LISST-ABS data from that day to be accessible at a single endpoint.

Figure 15. Example 1-min time series of acoustic backscatter in units of uncalibrated concentration from the Sequoia LISST-ABS.

4.7 Survey data

Cross-shore bathymetric transects were collected with the CRAB to complement the lidar and suspended sediment measurements. Survey transects were collected from the dune to approximately 5 m depth at least once per day and often two or more times to constrain any changes that may occur during the days sampling effort. Similar to the suspended sediment instrumentation time-series data, the survey data were converted into netCDF format and are available at

<https://chlthredds.erdrc.dren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/SurveyTransect/catalog.html>

A netCDF file was created for each individual survey transect and includes elevation, latitude, longitude, and along and across shore coordinates in the FRF coordinate system. Similar to other measurements, survey transect netCDF files are stored in daily folder. However, a single .ncml was created allowing all survey data from this project to be accessible at a single endpoint. The naming convention of individual files includes the date, time, and along-shore FRF coordinate of the transect. For example, the transect in file

FRF-ocean_WaveShape_SurveyTransect_20170921-1831-y0716.nc

was collected on 21 September 2017 at 18:31 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) along FRF along-shore coordinate 716 m. Examples of surveys plotted as bathymetric profiles can be found in the Appendix.

5 Conclusions

This technical report documents field activities and data collected during an intensive field effort executed in 2016 and 2017 at the ERDC FRF in Duck, NC, in support of an ERDC Basic Research Program project, entitled *New Field Measurements and Parameterizations to Predict Wave Breaking Shape from Environmental Forcing*. These experiments were conducted to provide an extensive data set to be used in evaluating how environmental forcing factors influence wave shape and wave breaker type. This may contribute to the understanding and predictive ability relating to wave energy dissipation, sediment transport, and seabed morphological evolution in the surf zone.

A total of 88 stations was occupied between November 2016 and October 2017, producing an extensive data set from a suite of sub-aerial and sub-aqueous instruments over a wide range of environmental conditions. The FRF's amphibious CRAB was used as a survey and mobile in situ data collection platform providing logistical flexibility and allowing optimum locations to be targeted on each sampling day.

All survey and sub-aqueous instrument data were converted to netCDF format complete with metadata and archived on the Coastal and Hydraulics Thredds server at

<https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/frf/projects/WaveShape/catalog.html>

The point cloud data from the Velodyne lidar were too large to be efficiently archived and shared via netCDF and THREDDS and will be disseminated by the authors upon request.

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Appendix: Experiment Station Log and Field Conditions

This appendix describes the oceanographic conditions, stations sampled, and instrumentation for each day of the experiment. A description of the layout of each page is as follows:

Figure A. ARGUS time exposure image of the shoreline and surf zone at the FRF in Duck, NC. The pier is just south of center at approximately along-shore coordinate 515. White bands in the water indicate the region of active wave breaking. Yellow triangles mark the station locations where data were collected from the CRAB on that day.

Figure B. Oceanographic and meteorological conditions for that day of the experiment. On each panel, the vertical gray bars indicate *on station* times when instruments were recording. The top panel is wind speed (black) and wind direction (gray). The middle panel is wave height from the 26 m Waverider (blue), 17 m Waverider (green), or 8 m array (black) and peak wave period from the 8 m array (gray). The 26 m Waverider was out of commission on October 25 and 26, so the 17 m Waverider was substituted. The 8 m array was included to provide a consistent data record for the duration of the study.

Figure C. GoPro image taken from the CRAB during sampling. Not available on all days but included when possible to provide a visual representation of that days conditions.

Figure D. Elevation transects recorded by the CRAB. All transects for a given day are included, and station locations are indicated by dots. The legend provides the along-shore coordinate and the time for each transect.

Table. The table provides time, coordinates, and data types collected for each station on a given day.

Description/Field notes. Summary of observations recorded by science team on the CRAB.

18-Nov-2016

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	16:28	16:56	236	136	x	x		x	x	
2	17:13	17:33	207	135	x	x		x	x	
3	17:39	17:59	170	135	x	x		x	x	
4	19:06	19:36	191	138	x	x		x	x	x
5	19:50	20:20	191	137		x		x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

First sampling of pilot experiment. Waves, < 1 meter. Station 1 - waves shoaling but not breaking. Station 2 - just seaward of breakers. Station 3 - at break point. Station 4 - side to waves, just inside breakpoint. Station 5 - in shore break.

12-Jan-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	17:44	18:09	322	764	x			x	x	x
2	18:11	18:47	316	765	x			x	x	x
3	18:56	19:25	301	745	x			x	x	x
4	19:28	19:54	287	746	x			x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Shallow linear sandbars. Optical turbidity sensor failed. Station 1 - outer sandbar, shoaling waves. Station 2 - just outside of breakpoint, shoaling waves. Station 3 - right at breakpoint. Station 4 - top of sandbar, in the breakers.

04-Apr-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:39	15:10	361	264	x	x		x	x	x
2	15:20	16:20	309	271	x	x		x	x	x
3	16:30	16:53	249	237	x	x		x	x	x
4	16:55	17:20	252	237	x	x		x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

2 meter plunging waves. Station 1 – outside of breakpoint. Station 2 just outside of breakpoint. Most breaking waves out of view of lidar. Station 3 – Moved lidar to aft, starboard corner of crab. Just inside breakpoint. Great data from plunging waves. Station 4 – Moved enough to get CRAB out of scour hole and repeat station.

06-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	18:17	18:48	215	899	x	x		x		x
2	19:48	20:18	202	743	x	x		x		x

Description/Field Notes

1st day of main experiment. Occupied stations on 2 transects. Mostly small (~ 0.8 m), steep angle, short period waves.

07-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	16:38	17:09	221	290	x	x		x		x
2	17:22	17:53	234	290	x	x		x		x
3	19:02	19:33	231	402	x	x		x		x
4	19:50	20:22	241	288	x	x		x		x
5	20:24	20:56	234	289	x	x		x		x

Description/Field Notes

Great waves! Swell from Major Hurricane Irma. Offshore wind. Steep, sometimes plunging waves with about 2 meter faces. Occupied 2 transects on south side of pier.

08-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	16:38	17:09	211	894	x	x		x		x
2	17:53	18:23	280	712	x	x		x		x
3	18:36	19:06	258	712	x	x		x		x

Description/Field Notes

Swell from Major Hurricane Irma still building. Light to moderate side shore wind. Waves too big to safely operate on south side so sampling north side of pier. Waves 2+ meters. Station 1 setup just inside of 2 meter face, clean peeling fairly steep rights. Appears to be very little fine sediment in water. Stations 2 and 3, big spilling waves. Very large rip current in the area.

13-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:02	14:32	242	81	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	14:58	15:30	239	76	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	15:33	16:03	228	77	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:30	17:09	217	80	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	17:34	18:04	207	80	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	18:31	18:38	117	227	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	18:39	18:51	111	227	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Swell from Hurricane Jose. Offshore wind. Medium steep to modest plunging waves in the 1 to 1.7 meter range. Patchy muddy water. Lots of grass in water causing problems with pump.

21-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:02	14:35	240	716	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	14:38	15:13	247	716	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	15:20	15:52	257	716	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:10	16:43	262	718	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	16:58	17:29	271	718	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	17:57	18:28	286	719	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Swell from Hurricane Jose which just passed. 1.5 to 2+ meter wave faces and muddy water. Start near high tide with crumbly waves. Waves getting noticeably steeper during station 4.

29-Sep-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:34	15:07	320	875	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	15:09	15:39	311	875	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	15:46	16:16	310	875	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:24	16:55	310	875	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	17:20	17:50	144	874	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Dropping swell after passage of Hurricane Maria. First day safe for sampling. Water muddy. NNE winds and sloppy conditions. Mix of short (7 sec) and longer period swell.

03-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	15:00	15:37	320	723	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	15:39	16:13	327	723	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	16:15	16:48	330	723	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:51	17:23	330	724	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	17:27	17:57	334	723	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	18:09	18:44	325	723	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Small sloppy waves. Muddy water. Generally < 1 meter. Onshore wind, choppy mostly spilling waves.

04-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:24	14:56	331	723	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	15:01	15:35	327	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	15:37	16:11	330	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:25	16:58	347	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	16:59	17:12	347	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	17:14	17:44	345	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	17:47	18:17	334	722	x	x	x	x	x	x
8	18:20	18:50	334	722	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Same approximate location as previous day with slightly larger waves and less muddy water. Onshore winds.

05-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	16:29	16:59	321	686		x	x	x	x	x
2	17:04	17:34	324	686		x	x		x	x
3	17:39	18:09	326	686		x	x		x	x
4	18:15	18:45	336	686		x	x		x	x
5	18:50	19:20	330	687		x	x		x	x

Description/Field Notes

No SSC samples and Aquascat batteries died while sampling.

16-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	15:13	15:43	166	670						x
2	15:52	16:22	185	685						x
3	16:33	17:03	180	683						x

Description/Field Notes

Shore break sampling. No suspended sediment sensors or samples collected.

18-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	14:50	15:24	316	671	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	15:27	16:00	322	671	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	16:03	16:39	321	671	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	16:41	17:16	328	670	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	17:19	17:58	321	672	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	17:59	18:35	322	671	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

About 1 meter wave faces. Onshore winds. Gray-green, not very muddy water.

19-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	16:40	17:17	288	918	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	17:24	17:54	294	922	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	18:03	18:45	290	922	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	18:47	19:21	293	922	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

About 1 meter mostly spilling but some plunging waves. Clear green water.

20-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	17:25	17:55	161	427						x
2	18:22	18:52	292	430						x
3	19:05	19:35	152	378						x

Description/Field Notes

Small waves. Only lidar. 2 shore break and 1 offshore station.

25-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	13:11	13:43	286	920	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	13:44	14:17	285	920	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	14:19	14:52	281	921	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	15:00	15:30	285	920	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	15:33	16:08	278	921	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	16:10	16:42	278	921	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

About 1.5 meter waves. Muddy water. Offshore winds. Water starting to clear up on stations 5 and 6. Waves get mushy as tide fills in.

26-Oct-2017

Station #	Start Time (UTC)	End Time (UTC)	FRF X	FRF Y	SSC	Opt Turb	LISST ABS	Aqua-scat	ADV	Lidar
1	13:42	14:16	274	1090	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	14:18	14:51	265	1090	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	14:52	15:30	265	1090	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	15:31	16:09	263	1090	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	16:10	16:40	263	1090	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	17:56	18:26	152	661	x	x	x	x	x	x

Description/Field Notes

Waves a little over 1 meter. Pretty clean conditions. Grayish brown somewhat muddy water. Final day of sampling.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D	three-dimensional
.nc	netCDF file extension (file designation)
.ncml	netCDF Markup Language file extension (file designation)
.pcap	packet capture (file designation)
ABS	acoustic backscatter sensor
ADV	acoustic Doppler velocimeter
cm	centimeter
CRAB	Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy
ERDC	US Army Engineer Research and Development Center
FOV	field of view
FRF	Field Research Facility
g/L	grams per liter
GPS	Global Positioning System
Hz	hertz
INS/GNSS	Inertial Navigation System/Global Navigation Satellite System
L	liter
LOI	loss on ignition
m	meter
MHz	megahertz
min	minute
μm	micron, micrometer
nm	nanometer
Opt turb	Optical turbidity
sec	second
SSC	suspended sediment concentration
THREDDS	Thematic Realtime Environmental Distributed Data Services
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time

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