

DISCUSSION

This colored shaded-relief bathymetry map of the Offshore of Scott Creek map area in central California was generated from bathymetry data collected by California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), by Fugro Pelagos, and by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (fig. 1). Mapping was completed between 2006 and 2009, using a combination of 400-kHz Reson 7125 and 244-kHz Reson 8101 multibeam echosounders, as well as a 234-kHz SWATHplus bathymetric sidescan-sonar system. These mapping missions combined to collect bathymetry data from about the 10-m isobath to beyond the 3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters.

During the CSUMB and Fugro Pelagos multibeam mapping missions, an Applanix POS MV (Position and Orientation System for Marine Vessels) was used to accurately position the vessels during data collection, and it also accounted for vessel motion such as heave, pitch, and roll (position accuracy, 42 m; pitch, roll, and heading accuracy, $\pm 0.07^\circ$; heave accuracy, $\pm 5\%$, or 5 cm). To account for tidal-cycle fluctuations, Fugro Pelagos used StarFix HP and XP real-time kinematic (RTK) GPS receivers, and CSUMB used a NavCom 2050 receiver; in addition, sound-velocity profiles were collected with an Applied Microsystems (AM) SVPlus sound velocimeter. Soundings were corrected for vessel motion using the Applanix POS MV data, for variations in water-column sound velocity using the AM SVPlus data, and for variations in water height (tides) using vertical-position data from the RTK receivers.

During the USGS mapping mission, GPS data with real-time-kinematic corrections were combined with measurements of vessel motion (heave, pitch, and roll) in a CodaOctopus F180 attitude-and-position system to produce a high-precision vessel-attitude packet. This packet was transmitted to the acquisition software in real time and combined with instantaneous sound-velocity measurements at the transducer head before each ping. The returned samples were projected to the seafloor using a ray-tracing algorithm that works with previously measured sound-velocity profiles. Statistical filters were applied to discriminate seafloor returns (soundings) from unintended targets in the water column (Richie and others, 2010).

Processed soundings from the different mapping missions were exported from the acquisition or processing software as XYZ files and bathymetric surfaces. All the surfaces were then merged into one overall 2-m-resolution bathymetric-surface model and clipped to the boundary of the map area. An illumination having an azimuth of 300° and from 45° above the horizon was then applied to the bathymetric surface to create the shaded-relief imagery. In addition, a modified "rainbow" color ramp was applied to the bathymetry data, using reds to represent shallower depths, and yellows to represent greater depths (note that the Offshore of Scott Creek map area requires only the shallower part of the full-rainbow color ramp used on some of the other maps in the California State Waters Map Series; see, for example, Kvitck and others, 2012). This colored bathymetry surface was draped over the shaded-relief imagery at 60-percent transparency to create this colored shaded-relief map. Note that the ripple patterns and parallel lines that are apparent within the map area are data-collection and -processing artifacts. In addition, lines at the borders of some surveys are the result of slight differences in depth, as measured by different mapping systems in different years. These various artifacts are made obvious by the hillshading process.

Bathymetric contours were generated at 10-m intervals from the merged 2-m-resolution bathymetric surface. The merged surface was smoothed using the Focal Mean tool in ArcGIS and a circular neighborhood that has a radius of between 20 and 30 m (depending on the location). The contours were generated from this smoothed surface using the Spatial Analyst Contour tool in ArcGIS. The most continuous contour segments were preserved; smaller segments and isolated island polygons were excluded from the final output. The contours were then clipped to the boundary of the map area.

The onshore-area image was generated by applying the same illumination (azimuth of 300° and from 45° above the horizon) to 2-m-resolution topographic-lidar data from California Coastal Conservancy (available from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] Coastal Service Center's Digital Coast at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastallidar/>) and to 10-m-resolution topographic-lidar data from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Elevation Dataset (available at <http://ned.usgs.gov/>).

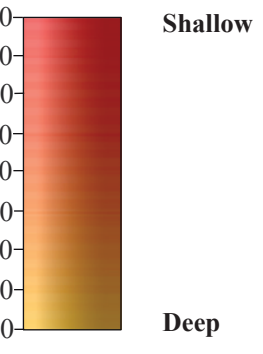
REFERENCES CITED

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Ritchie, A.C., Finlayson, D.P., and Logan, J.B., 2010, Swath bathymetry surveys of the Monterey Bay area from Point Año Nuevo to Moss Landing, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties, California: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 514, available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/514/>.

EXPLANATION

Depth (in meters) and illumination (bright areas are illuminated, facing false sun; dark areas are in shadow, facing away from false sun)



Direction of illumination from false sun—Position of false sun is at 300° azimuth, 45° above horizon [arrow included in explanation for illustration purposes only; not shown on map]

Area of "no data"—Areas near shoreline not mapped owing to insufficient high-resolution seafloor mapping data; areas beyond 3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters were not mapped as part of California Seafloor Mapping Program

3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters

Bathymetric contour (in meters)—Derived from modified 2-m-resolution bathymetry grid. Contour interval: 10 m

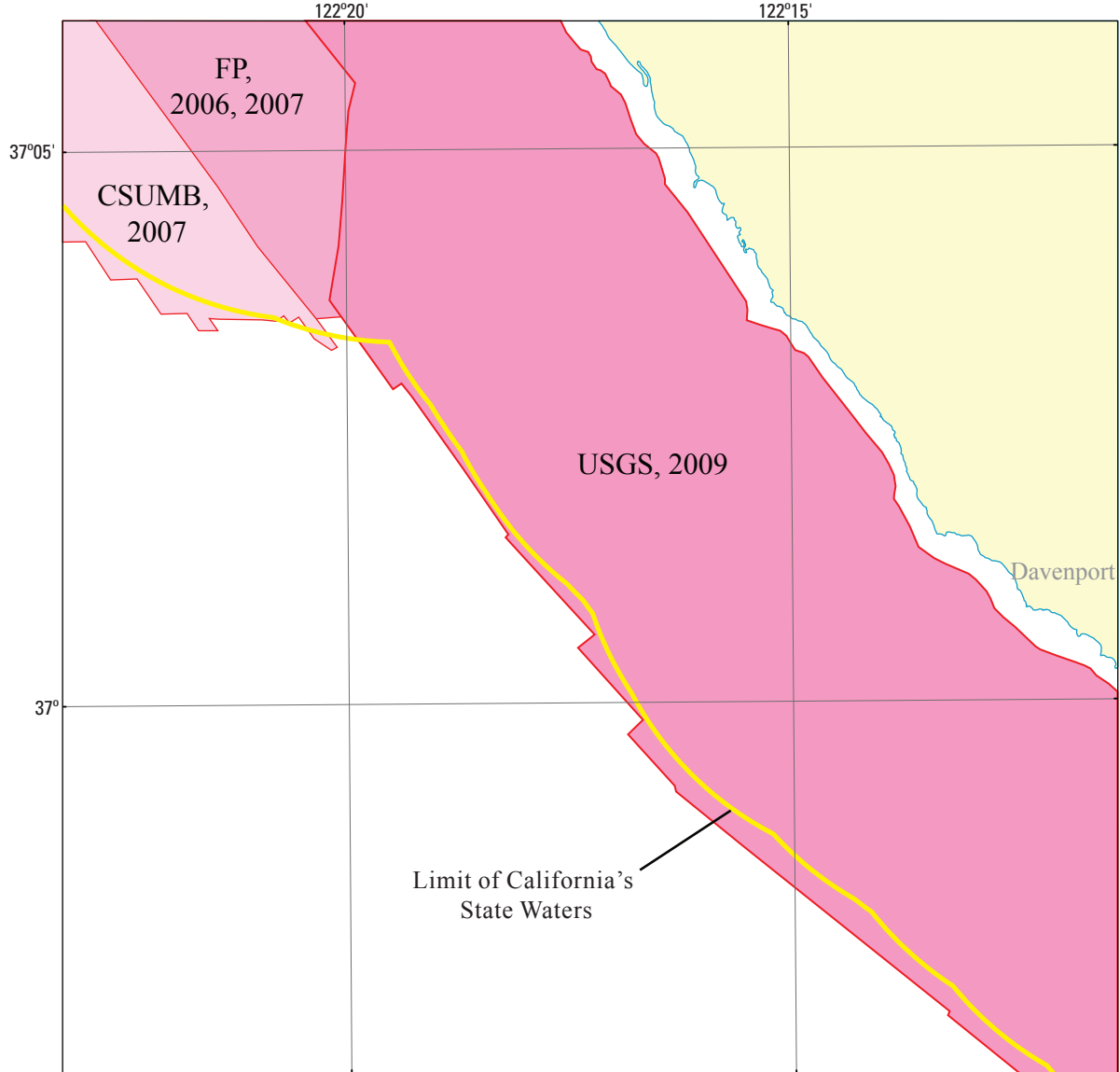


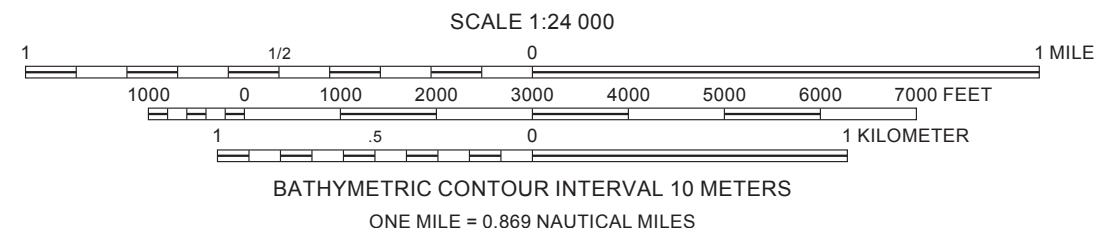
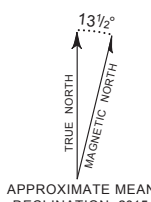
Figure 1. Map showing areas of multibeam-echosounder and bathymetric-sidescan surveys (pink shading) and onshore topographic-lidar surveys (yellow shading). Also shown are data-collecting agencies (CSUMB, California State University, Monterey Bay, Seafloor Mapping Lab; FP, Fugro Pelagos; USGS, U.S. Geological Survey) and dates of surveys if known. Yellow line shows limit of California's State Waters.



Onshore elevation data from California Coastal Conservancy (available from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] Coastal Service Center's Digital Coast at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastallidar/>) and from U.S. Geological Survey's National Elevation Dataset (available at <http://ned.usgs.gov/>). California's State Waters limit from NOAA Office of Coast Survey.

Universal Transverse Mercator projection; Zone 10N

NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL USE



Shaded-relief bathymetry by Peter Dartnell, 2014 (data collected by Fugro Pelagos in 2006–2007, by California State University, Monterey Bay, Seafloor Mapping Lab in 2007, and by U.S. Geological Survey in 2009). Bathymetric contours by Mercedes D. Enay, 2014.

GIS database and digital cartography by Nadine E. Gordon

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Colored Shaded-Relief Bathymetry, Offshore of Scott Creek Map Area, California

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