

DISCUSSION

This colored shaded-relief bathymetry map of the Offshore of Fort Ross map area in northern California was generated from bathymetry data collected by Fugro Pelagos and by California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) (Fig. 1). Mapping was completed between 2007 and 2010, using a combination of 200-kHz and 400-kHz Reson 7125 and 244-kHz Reson 8101 multibeam echosounders, as well as a 468-kHz SEA SWATH-plus 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 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, ±2 m; pitch, roll, and heading accuracy, ±0.02°; heave accuracy, ±5%, or 5 cm). To account for tidal-cycle fluctuations, CSUMB used Nov Com 2050 GPS receiver (CNAV) data, and Fugro Pelagos used KGPS data (GPS data with real-time kinematic corrections); in addition, sound-velocity profiles were collected with an Applied Microsystems (AM) SV Plus sound velocimeter. Soundings were corrected for vessel motions using the Applanix POS MV data, for variations in water-column sound velocity using the AM SV Plus data, and for variations in water height (tides) using vertical-position data from the KGPS receivers.

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 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 and oranges to represent shallower depths, and purples to represent greater depths. 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 straight lines that are apparent within the map area are data-collection 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 most continuous contour segments were preserved; smaller segments and isolated island polygons were excluded from the final output. Contours were smoothed using a polynomial approximation with exponential kernel algorithm and a tolerance value of 60 m.

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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Digital Coast (available at <http://oceans.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastalidar/>) and from Open Topography (available at <http://www.opentopography.org/>), as well as to 10-m-resolution topographic-lidar data from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Elevation Dataset (available at <http://ned.usgs.gov/>).

EXPLANATION

- Depth (in meters) and illumination (bright areas are illuminated, facing false sun; dark areas are in shadow, facing away from false sun)
- Shallow
 - 10
 - 20
 - 30
 - 40
 - 50
 - 60
 - 70
 - 80
 - Deep
- Direction of illumination from false sun—Position of false sun is at 300° azimuth, 45° above horizon [arrows 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

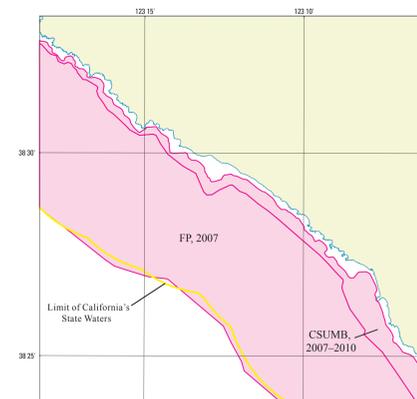
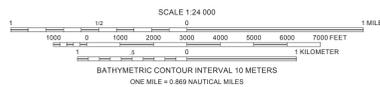


Figure 1. Map showing areas of multibeam-echosounder and bathymetric-sidescan surveys (pink shading) and onshore topographic-lidar surveys (yellow shading). Also shown are data-collecting agencies (CSUMB, California State University, Monterey Bay, Seafloor Mapping Lab; FP, Fugro Pelagos) and dates of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

Onshore elevation data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Digital Coast (available at <http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastalidar/>), from Open Topography (available at <http://www.opentopography.org/>), 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, 2013 (data collected by Fugro Pelagos in 2007 and by California State University, Monterey Bay, Seafloor Mapping Lab in 2007-2010). Bathymetric contours by Peter Dartnell, 2013.

GIS database and digital cartography by Nadine E. Golden

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Colored Shaded-Relief Bathymetry, Offshore of Fort Ross Map Area, California

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