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# Storm Surge and Street-Level Inundation Modeling in New York City During Hurricane Sandy

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**Authors**

Harry V. Wang, Derek Loftis, Zhou Liu, Jay Titlow, David Forrest, and Joseph Zhang

# Storm Surge and Street-level Inundation Modeling in New York City during Hurricane Sandy

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David Forrest, and Joseph Zhang

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757-868-5362

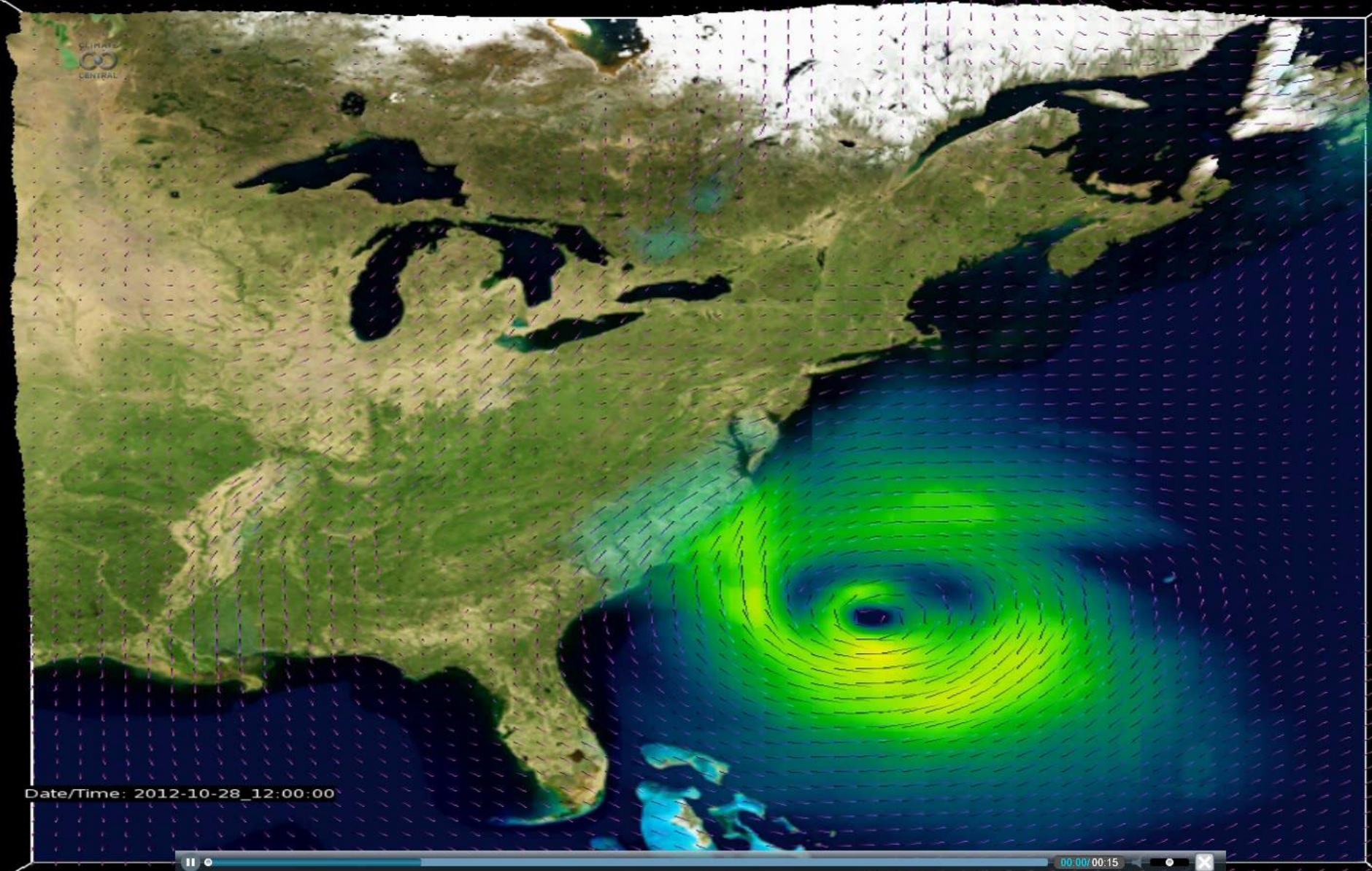
Hampton Roads Adaption Forum , February 23, 2015



Date/Time: 2012-10-28\_12:00:00



00:00/00:15





# Motivation



# Outline

- Large scale storm tide and wind wave modeling using unstructured grid model SCHISM
- Very high resolution, local inundation street-level modeling directly coupling with LIDAR data
- Comparing inundation modeling results with USGS Sandy observation - mapper in the New York City
- Operational benchmark, software supports, and adaptation issues including sea level rise

# I. Large-scale storm tide modeling

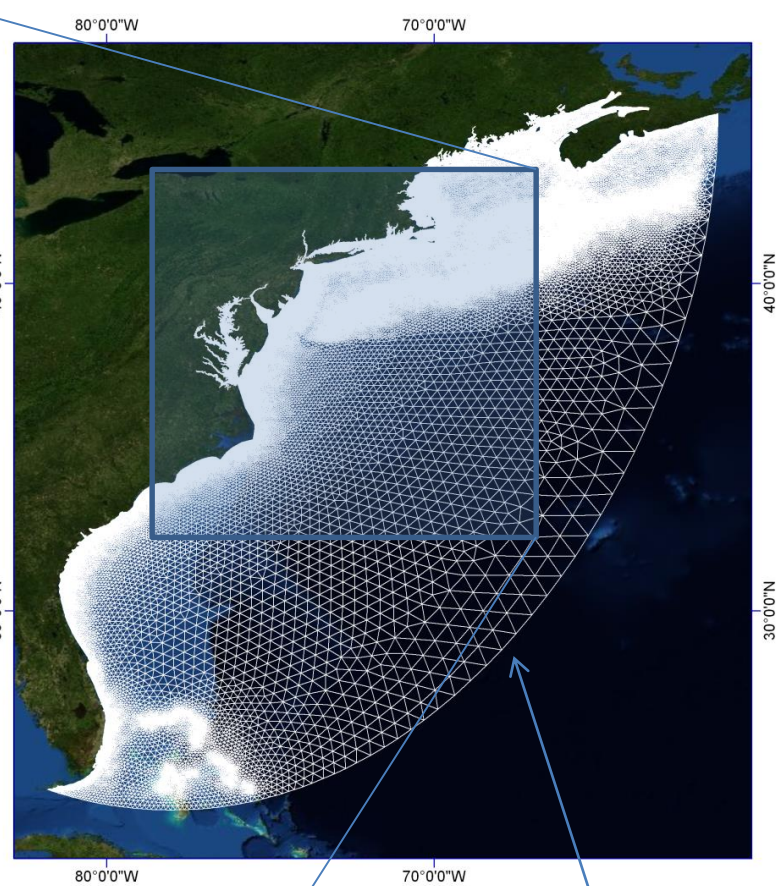
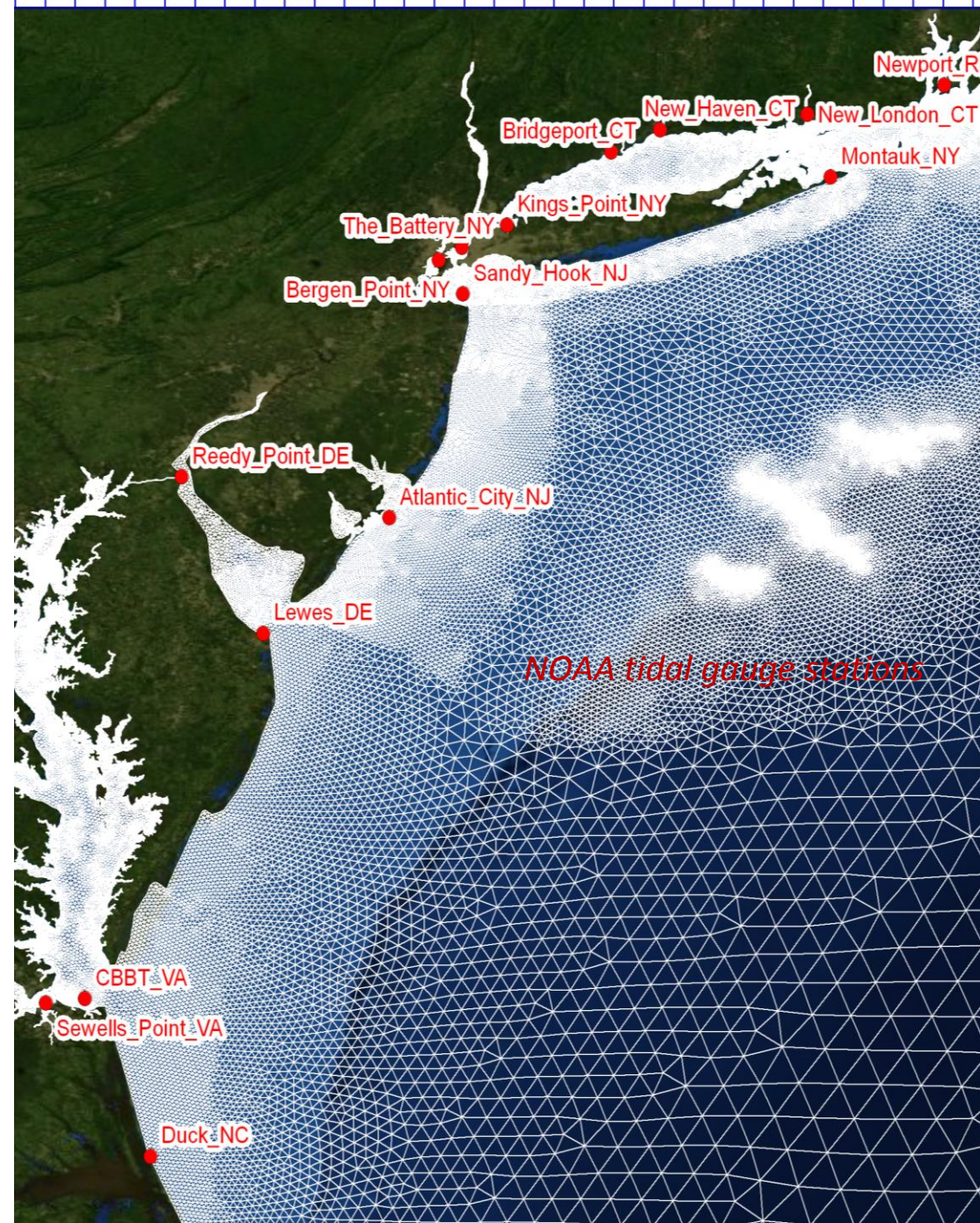
The model used is SCHISM (Semi-implicit, Cross-scale, Hydro-science Integrated System Model) <http://ccrm.vims.edu/schism/>



## Key Features:

- **Unstructured triangular and quadrilateral grid in the horizontal and hybrid SZ coordinates in the vertical dimensions, allowing cross-scale 1-D, 2-D, 3-D connection from ocean to the rivers**
- **Semi-implicit finite-element Eulerian-Lagrangian algorithm to solve the Navier-Stokes equations **not constrained by CFL stability** -> numerical efficiency.**
- **It is naturally incorporate simulation of wetting-and-drying process.**
- **The model was fully parallelized with domain decomposition method and MPI protocol.**





*Tidal open boundary  
condition about 1500 km  
offshore*



# SELFE model (an old version of SCHISM) setup for Hurricane Sandy

- Open boundary condition  
The model is forced by 8 tidal constituents: M2, S2, N2, O1, K1, Q1, P1, and K2, at the offshore open boundary.
- Time step: 6 minutes (using semi-implicit, Eulerian-Lagrangian scheme)
- Winds: Have trying NOAA NCEP NARR (24km), NAM (5km), for 3 hourly winds, and eventually the RAMS (2km) hourly wind, pressure fields provided by Weather Flows (free) was used. (The wind speed was adjusted upwards by 6%)
- Model Setup for 5 days spin-up from 10/20/2012 00 Z to 12/25/2012 00Z; hurricane simulation from 10/25/2012, 00Z to 10/30/2012, 00Z.
- **CPU time: 180 time of real time on a infiniband Dell cluster with 128 processors. The 5 days simulation finished within 40 minutes.**

\*\*Main assumptions: no precipitation, no infiltration, and no storm water drainage

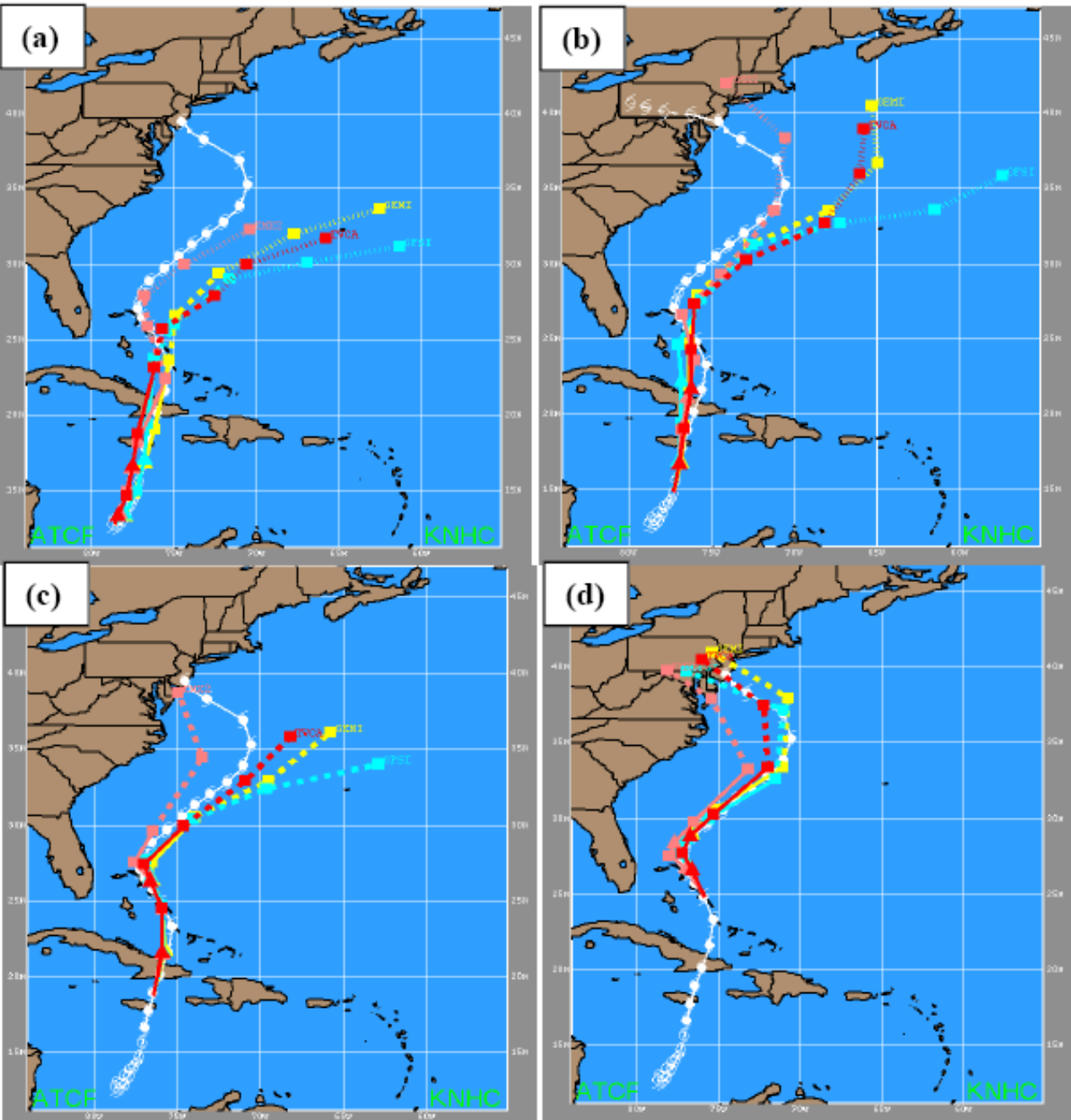


Figure 31: Model forecast tracks for Sandy at 0000 UTC 23 October (a), 0000 UTC 24 October (b), 0000 UTC 25 October (c), and 0000 UTC 26 October, (d).

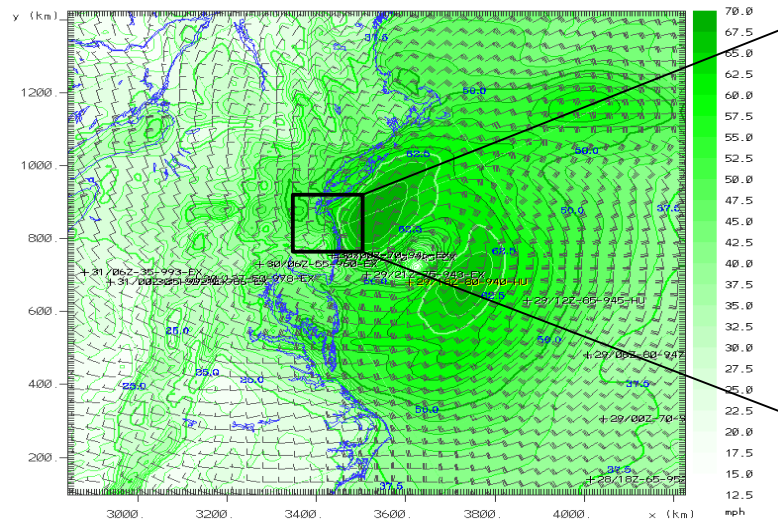
The ECMWF is in coral, the GFS ensemble in yellow, the GFS in cyan, and the TVCA model consensus is in red

From: Blake, Eric, et al. (2013): Tropical Cyclone Report: Hurricane Sandy, National Hurricane Center,

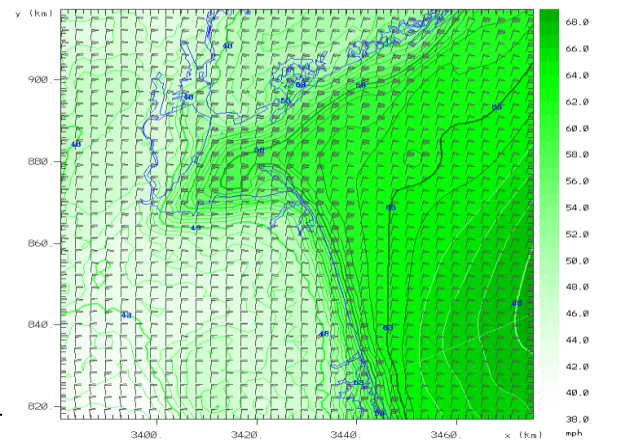


# The Impact of Winds on Storm Surge and Inundation

- Standardization allows assimilation of a larger number of high quality observations
- Gridded model reanalysis ( RAMS/4DDA (past) --> GSI/WRF (future) )
- Nested grids
  - Basin: 6-12 km depending on initializing analysis
  - Storm: 3km
  - Coastal zone: 1km or less
- Currently done operationally for tropical cyclone events (WeatherFlow StormPrint)
  - Could be done on a continuous basis
  - Forecast and hindcast modes
  - Climatological analyses and case studies



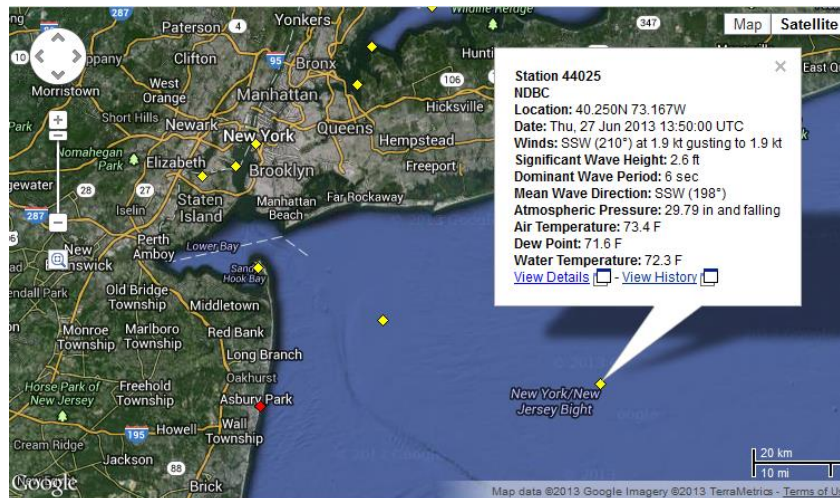
		grid 1			
z =	9.7 m	2012-10-29-1900.00 UTC			
contours	open field wind speed (mph)	min	max	inc	lab*
barbs	staff 4 m/s flag 20 m/s	2.670	27.07		1e 0



		grid 2			
z =	9.7 m	2012-10-29-1900.00 UTC			
contours	open field wind speed (mph)	min	max	inc	lab*
barbs	staff 4 m/s flag 20 m/s	7.695	26.47		1e 0

# Wind field comparisons at 18 stations: NOAA observations (Blue) vs NAM/WF\*\* (Red)

New York area



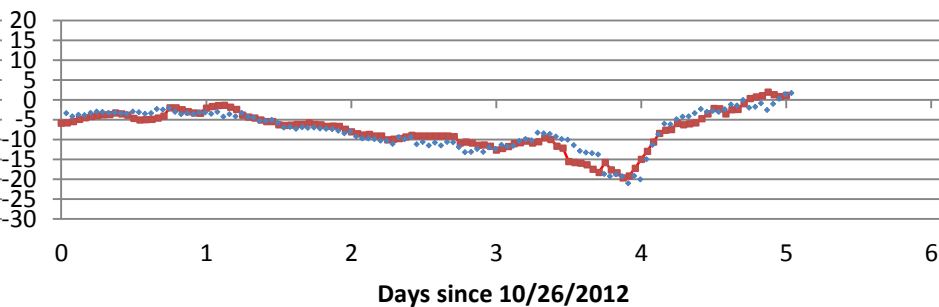
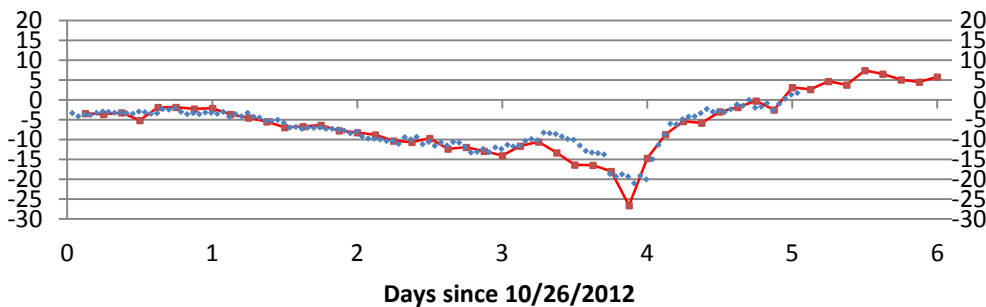
\*\*WF: RMAS  
(Regional  
Atmospheric  
modeling System)  
carried out by  
Weather Flows Inc.

NAM

WF

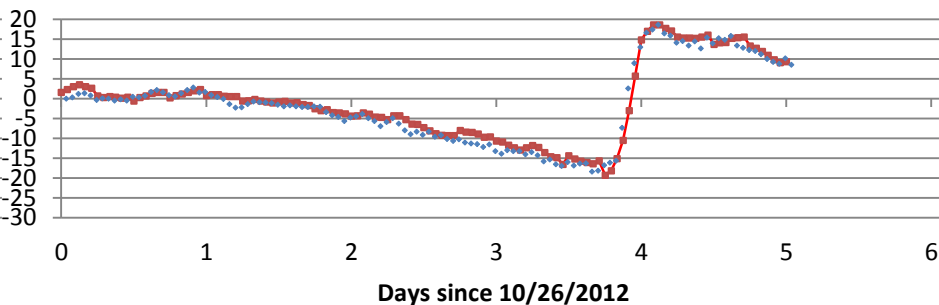
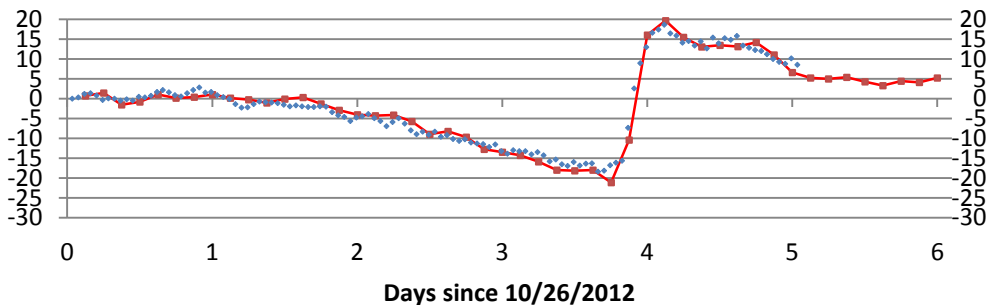
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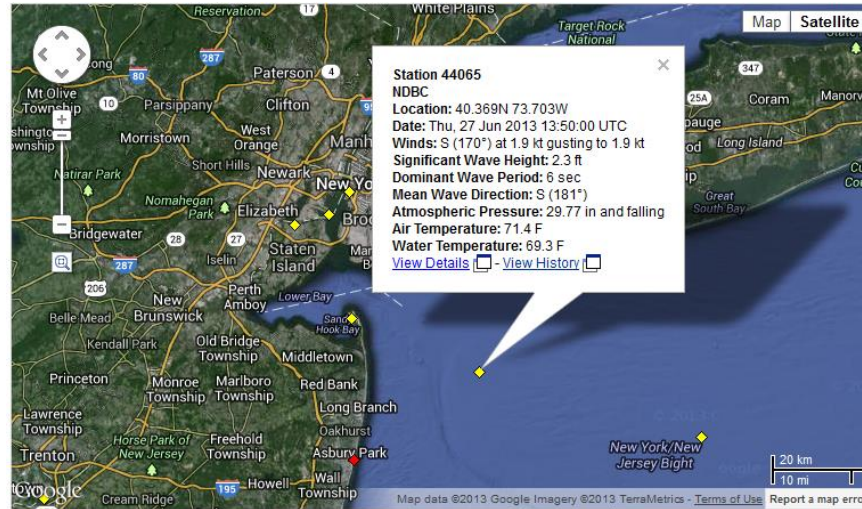
v

v



# Wind field comparisons at 18 stations: NOAA observations (Blue) vs NAM/WF (Red)

New York area

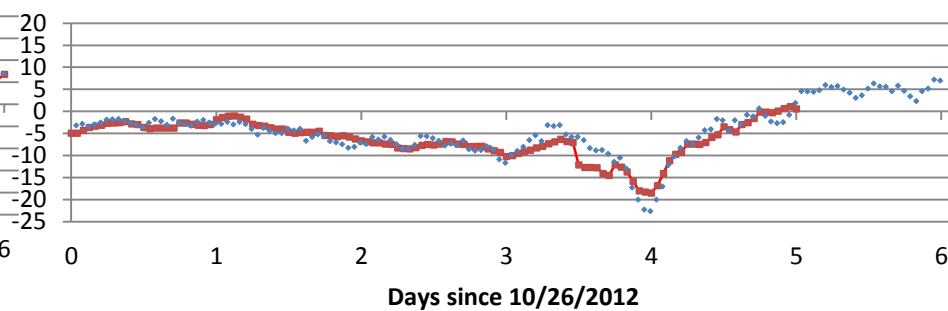
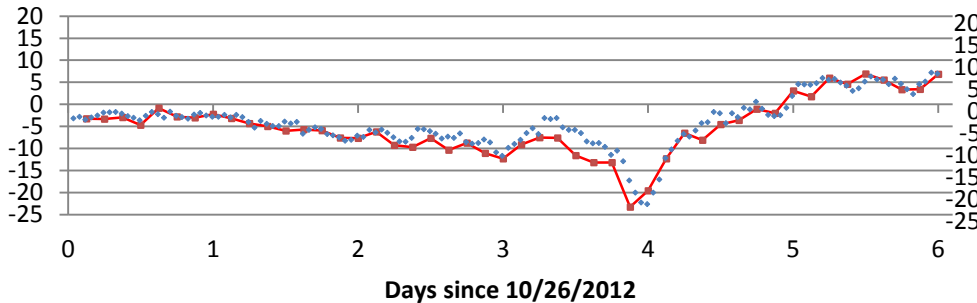


NAM

WF

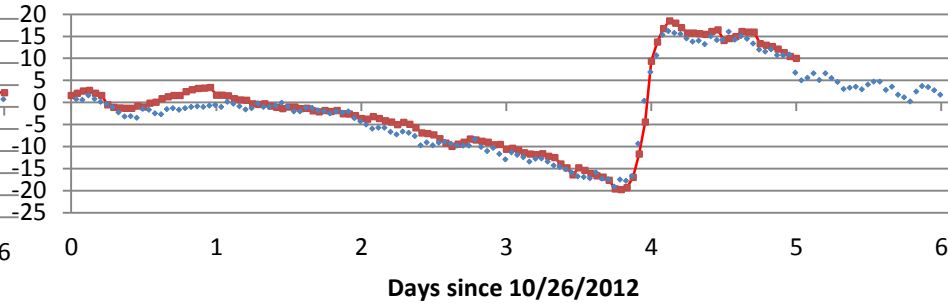
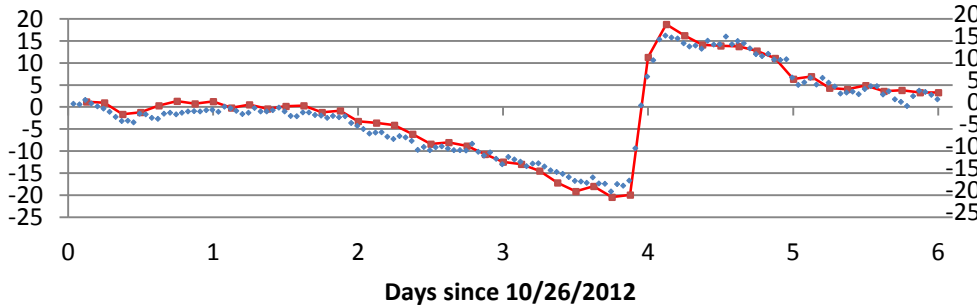
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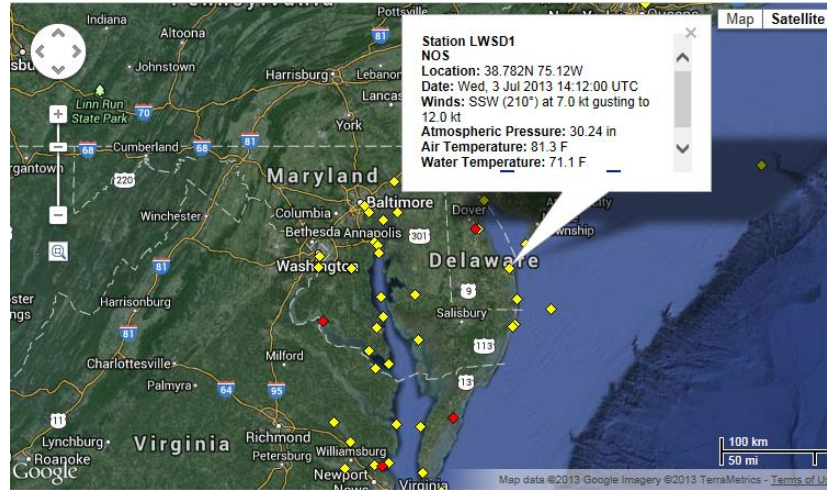
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# Wind field comparisons at 18 stations: NOAA observations (Blue) vs NAM/WF (Red)

Delaware coast

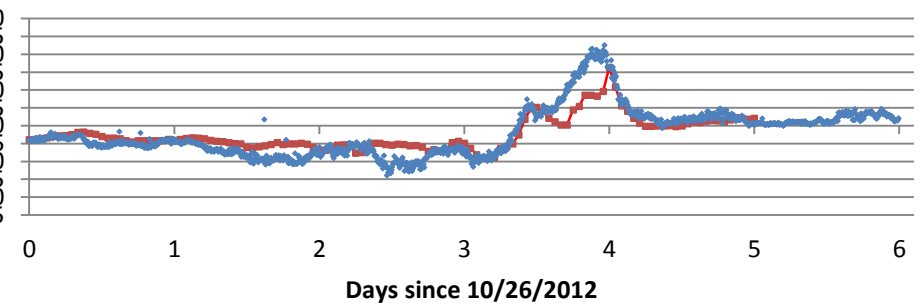
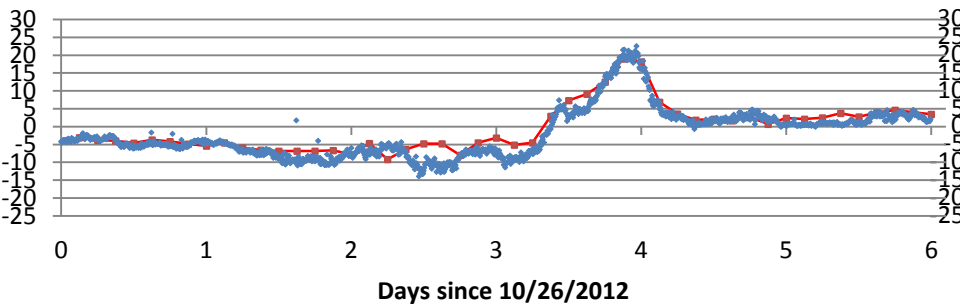


NAM

WF

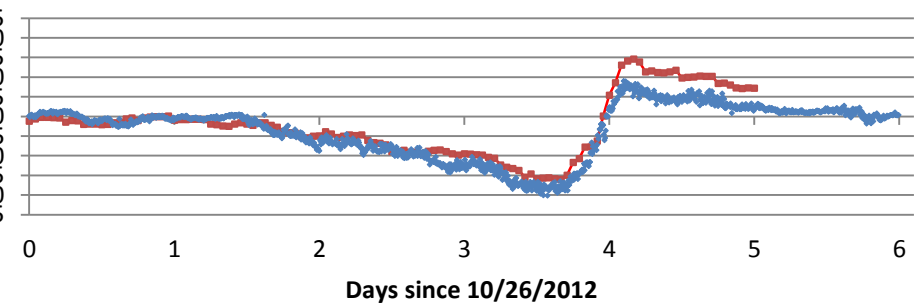
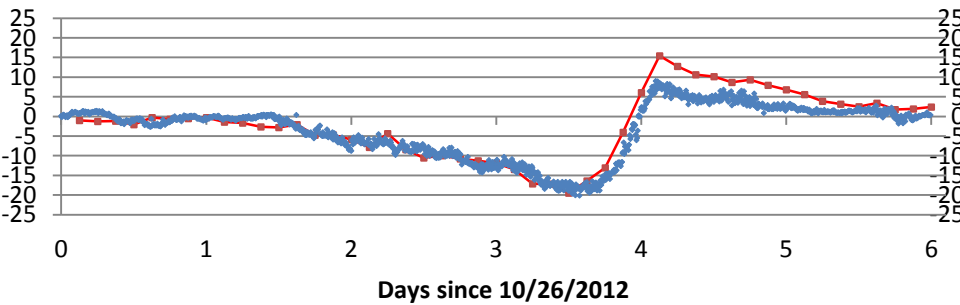
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**u**



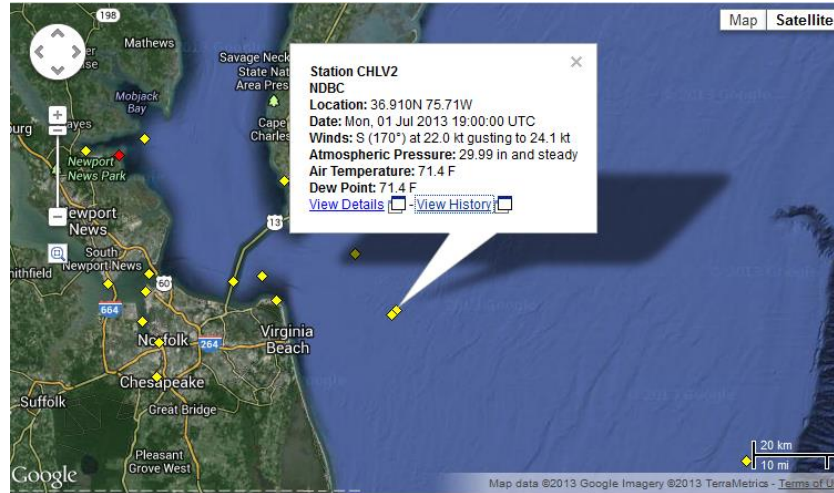
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**v**



# Wind field comparisons at 18 stations: NOAA observations (Blue) vs NAM/WF (Red)

## Chesapeake Bay

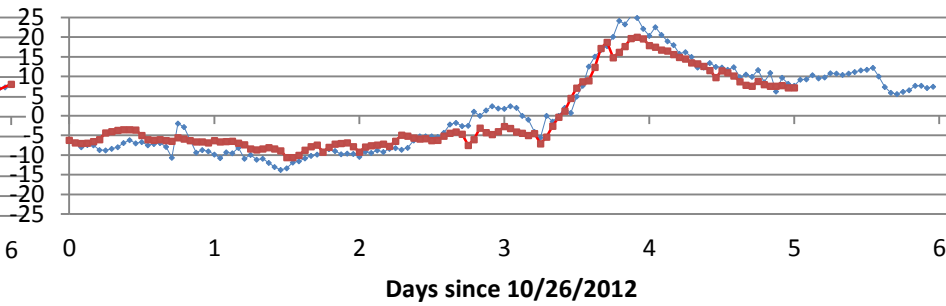
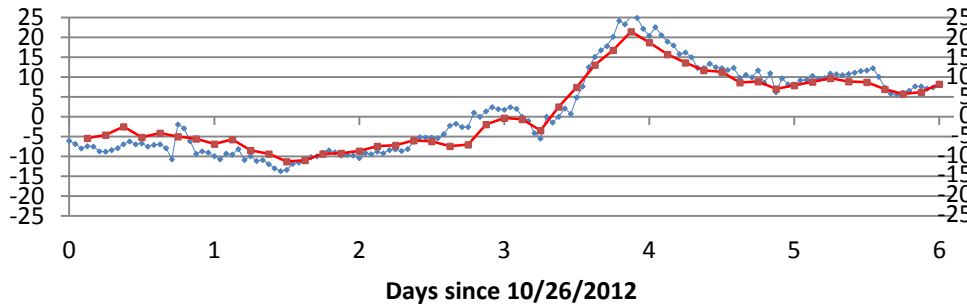


### NAM

### WF

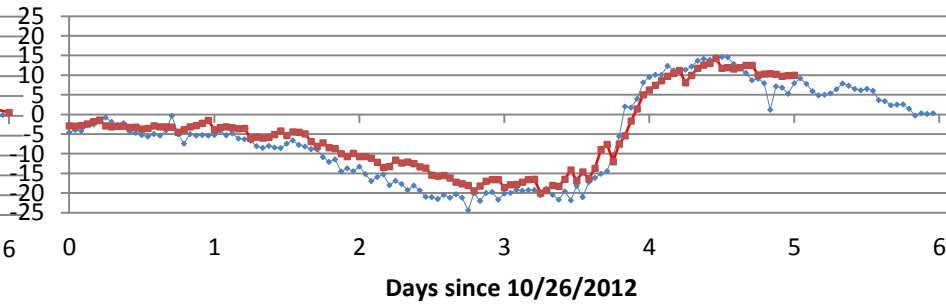
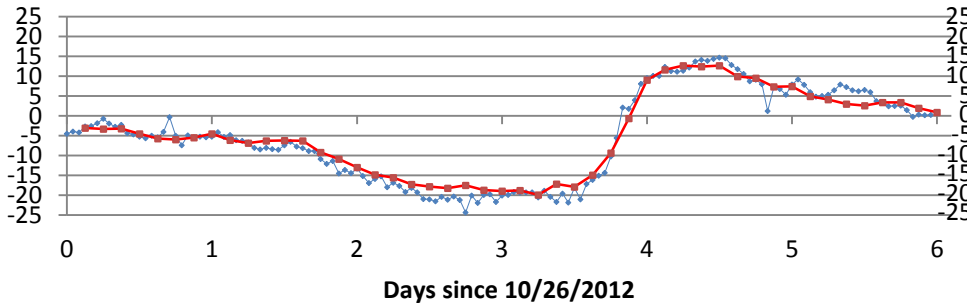
#### u

#### u



#### v

#### v





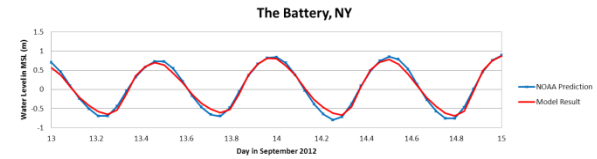
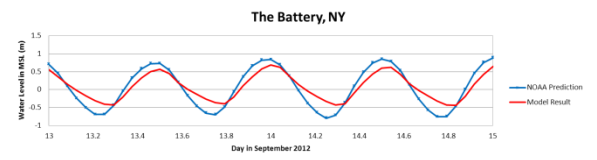
74°0'0"W

73°50'0"W

# Friction formulation using Manning coefficient

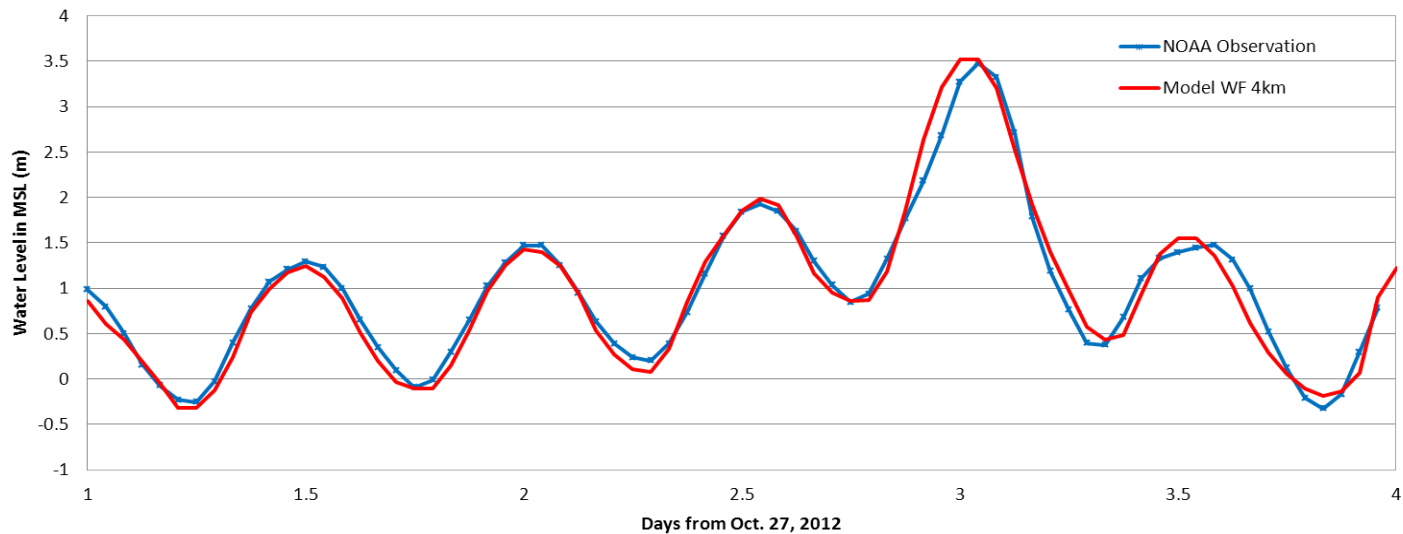
Manning  $n = 0.025$  everywhere except

- (1) New York Harbor  $n=0.010$
- (2) East and Harlem Rivers  $n= 0.045$

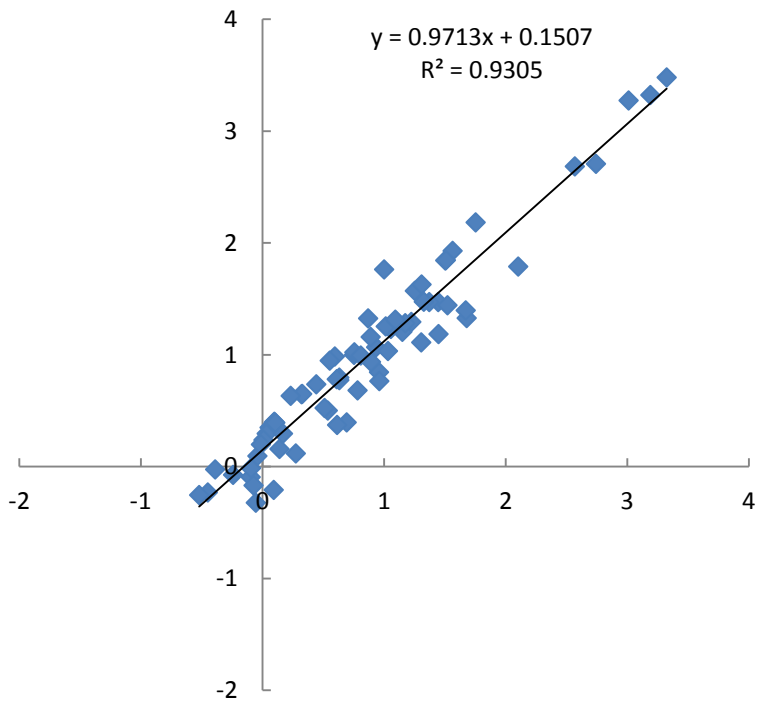




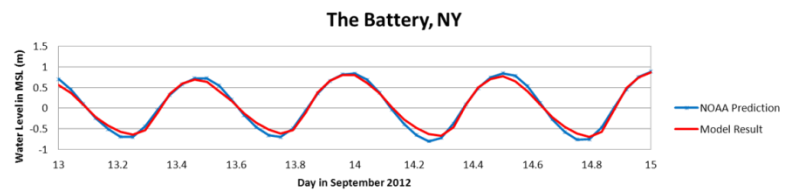
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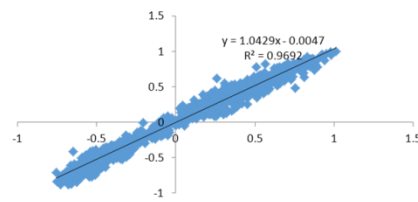
## The Battery, NY



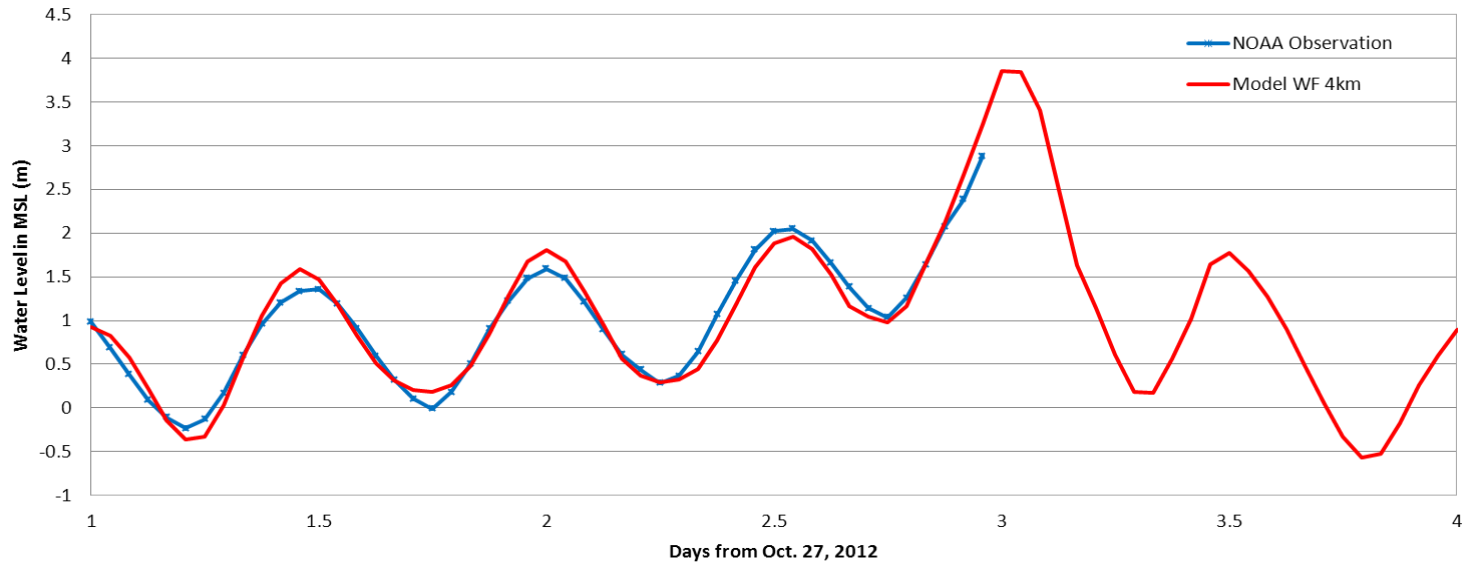
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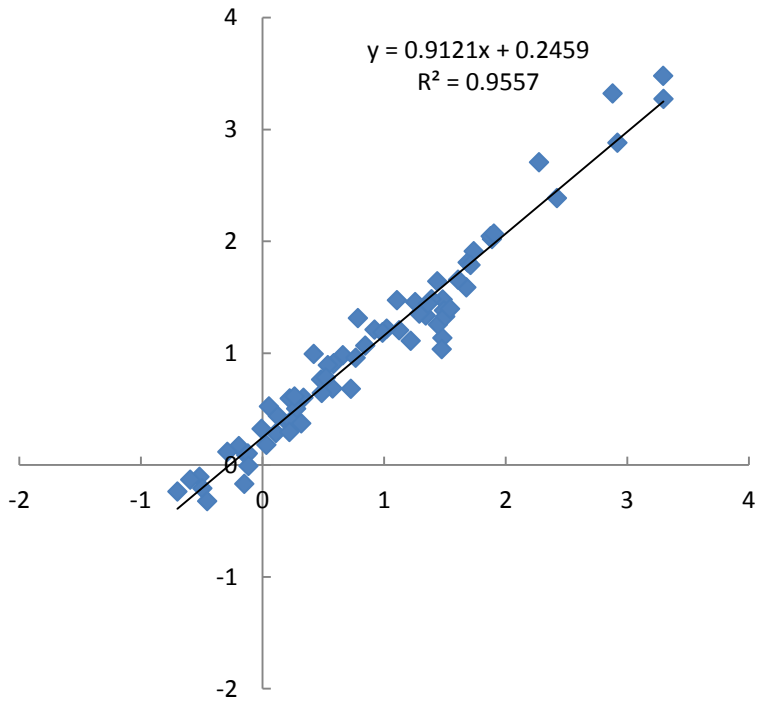
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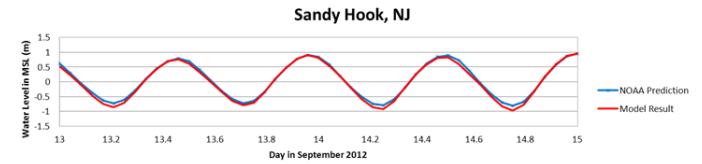
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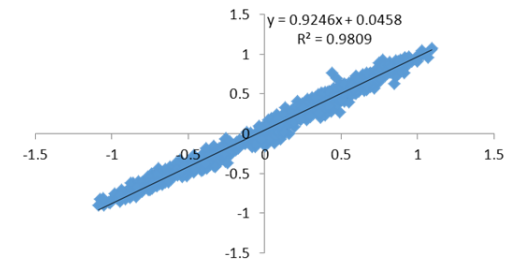
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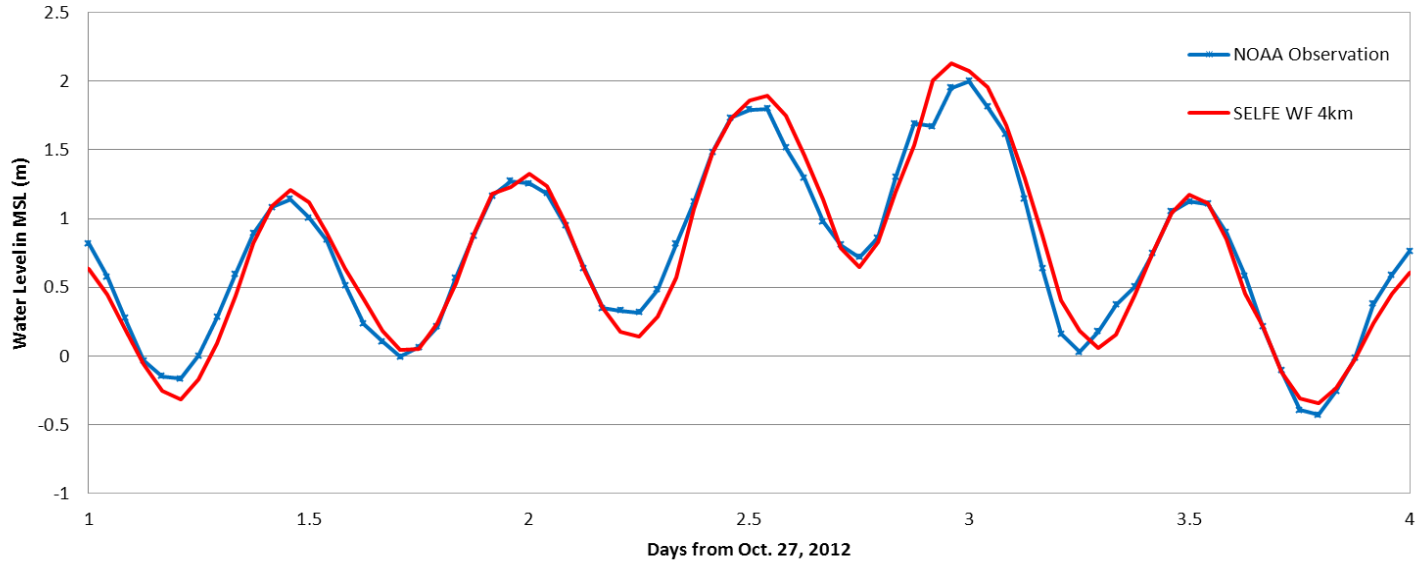
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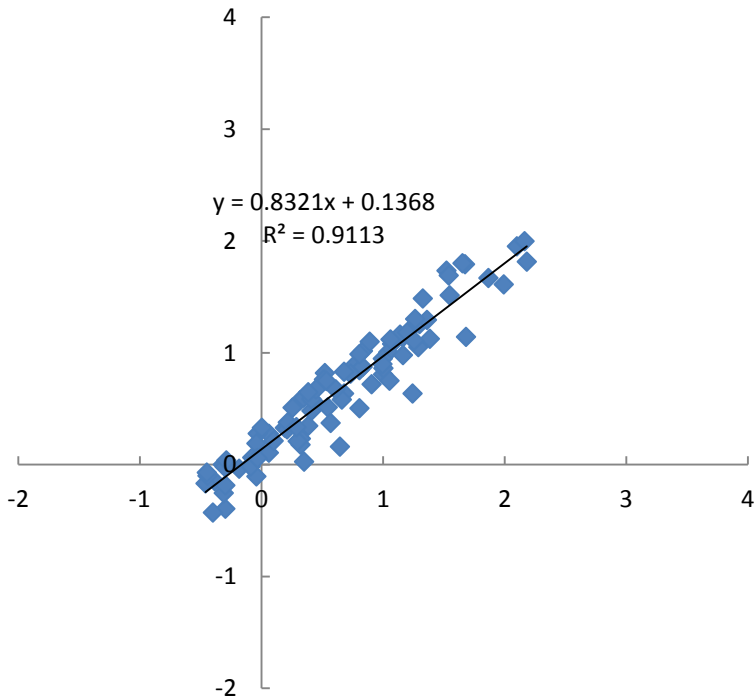
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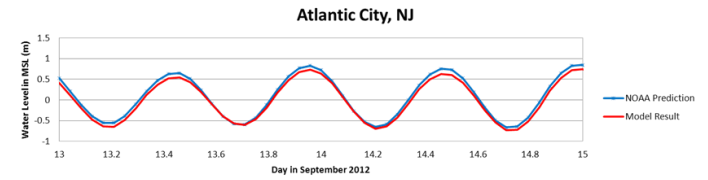
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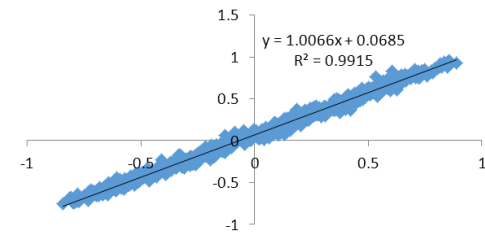
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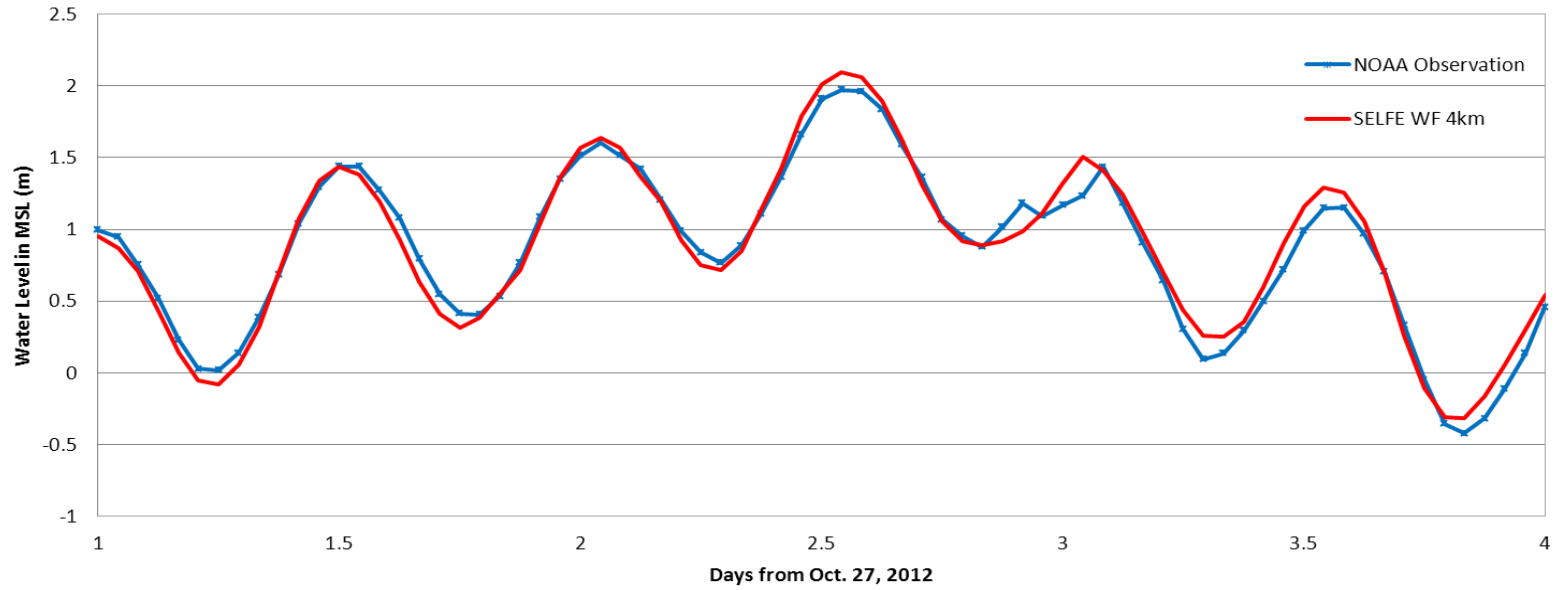


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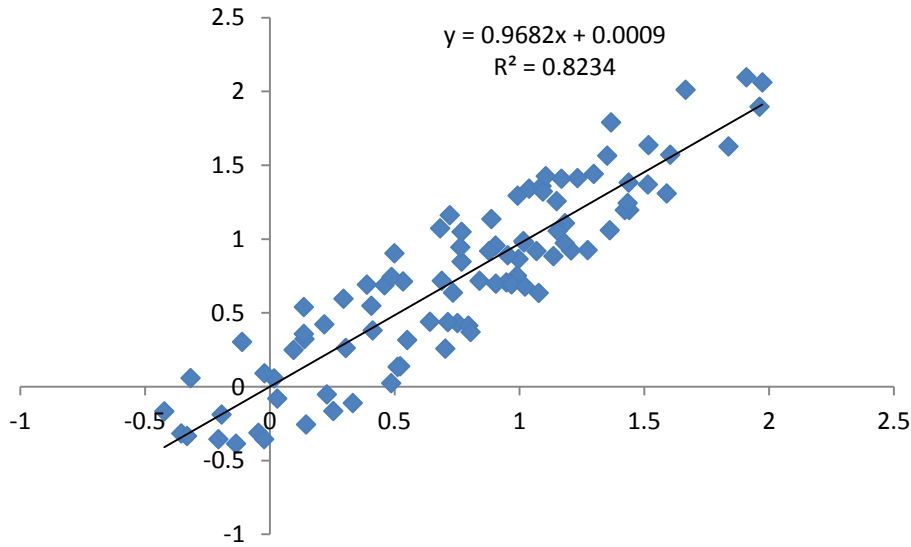




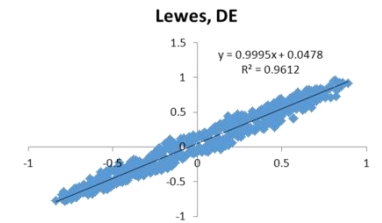
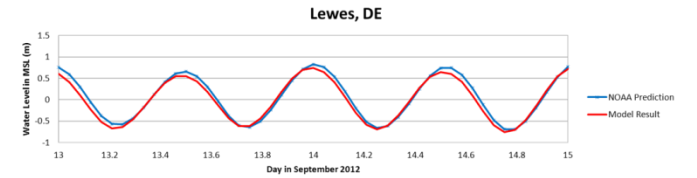
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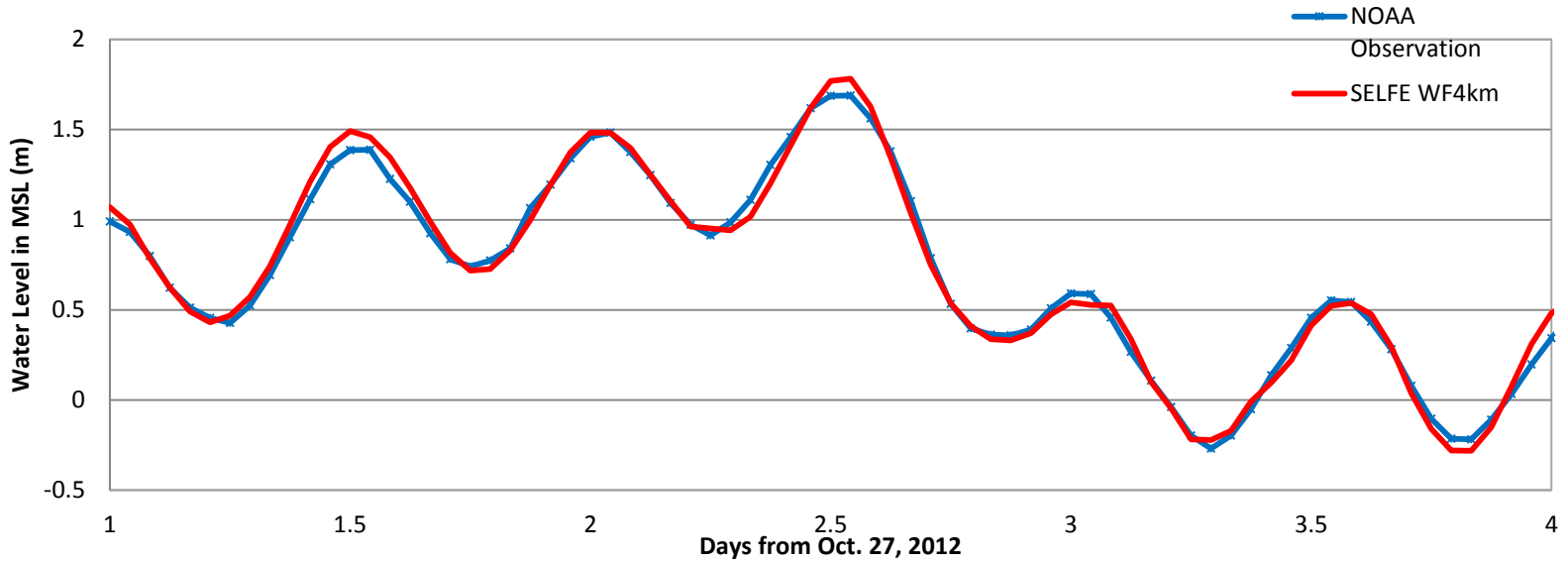
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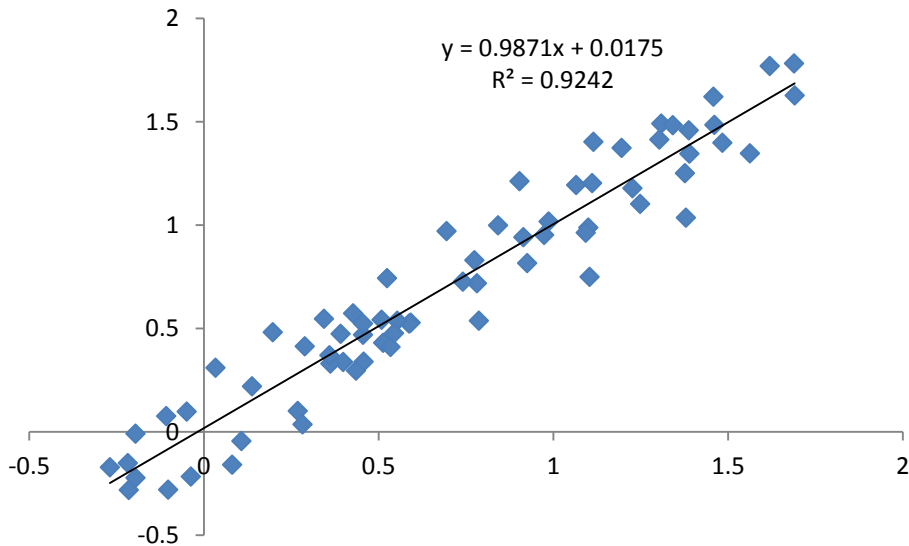
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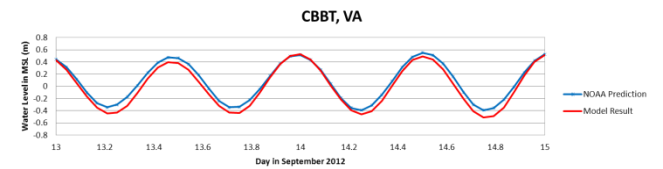
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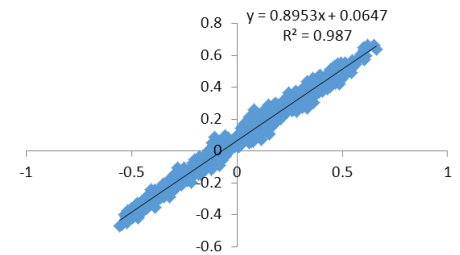
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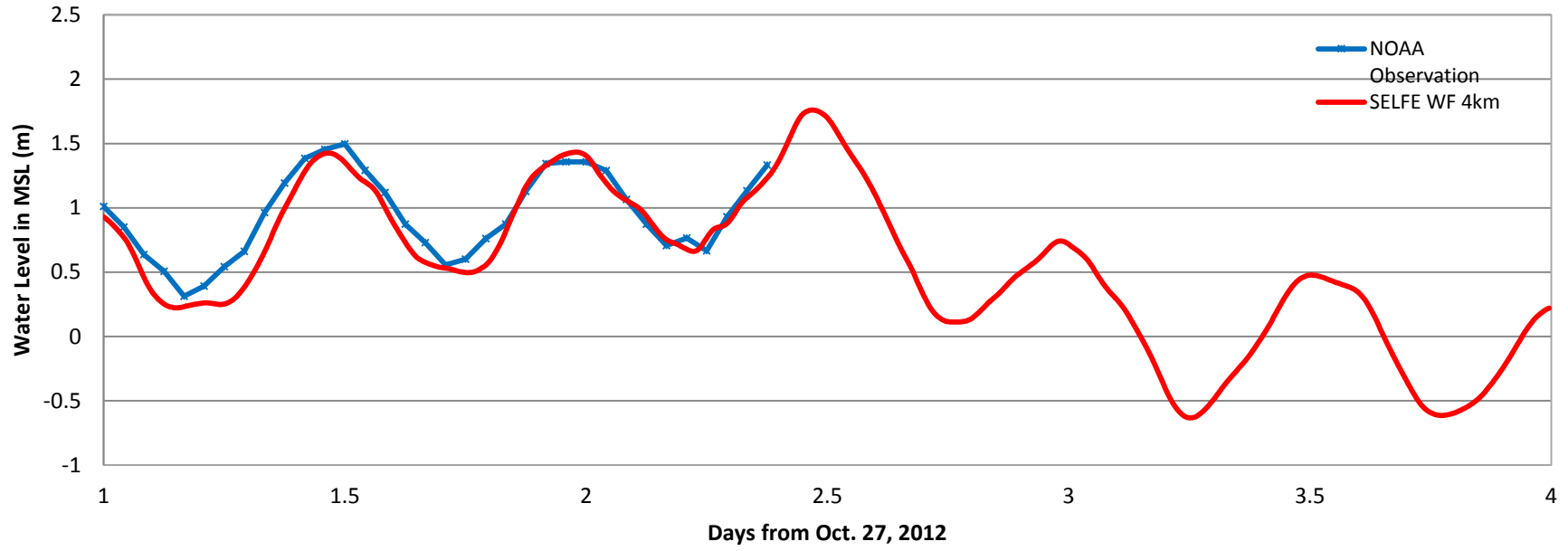
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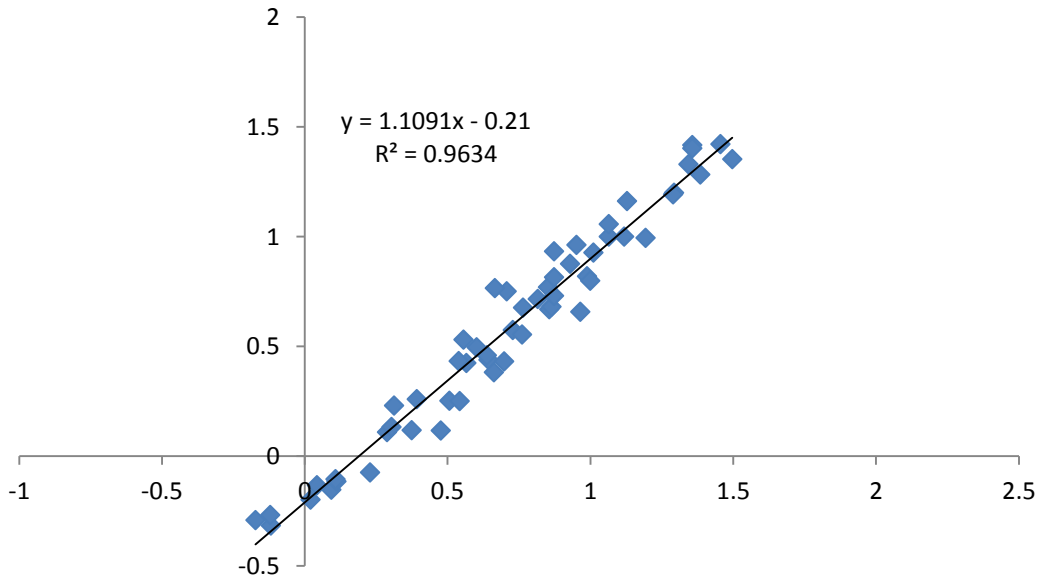
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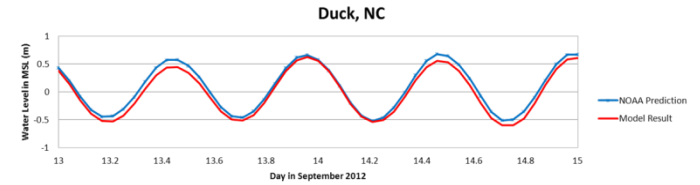
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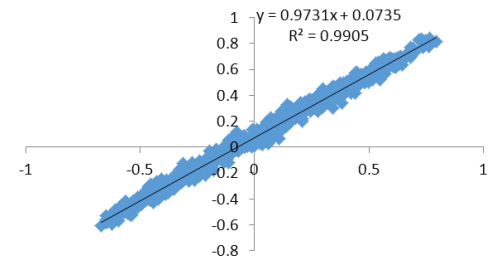
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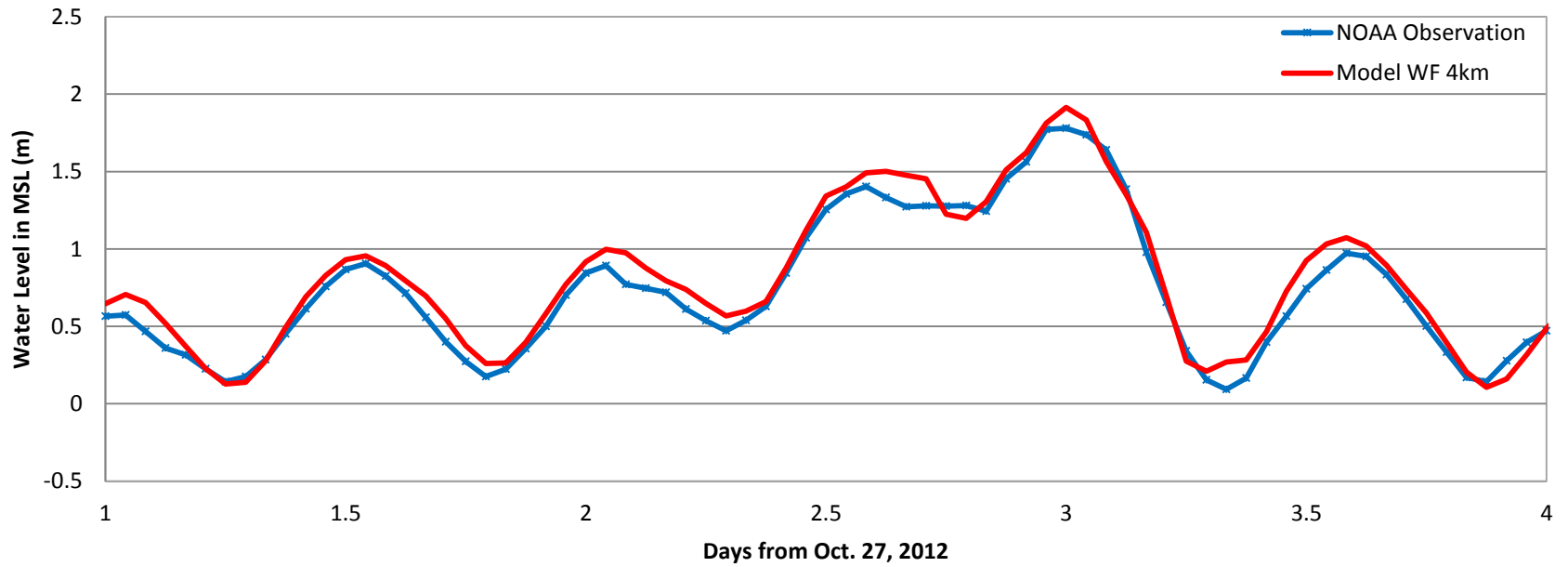


## Duck, NC

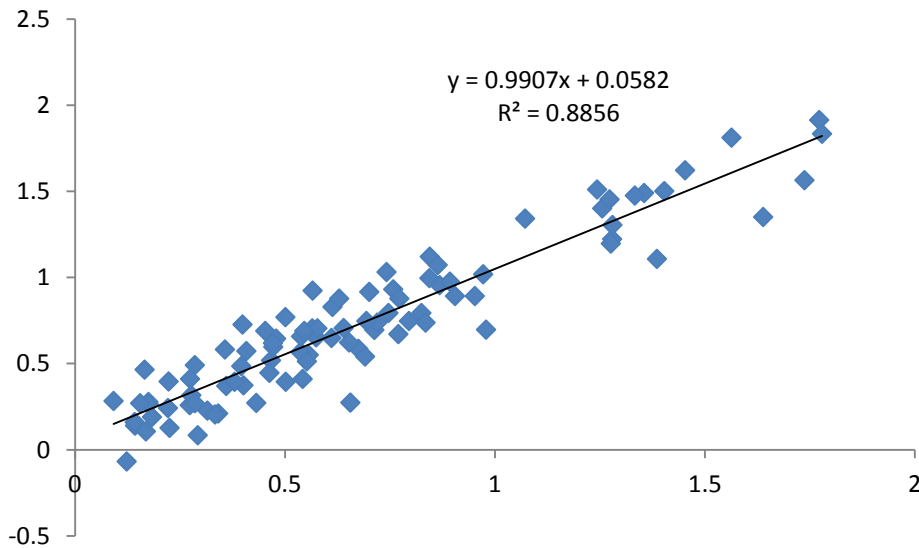




# Montauk, NY



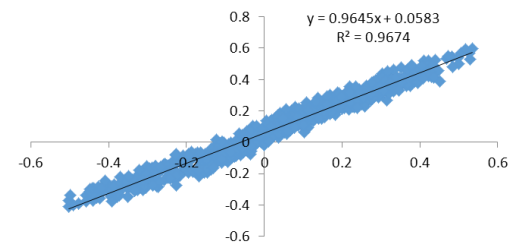
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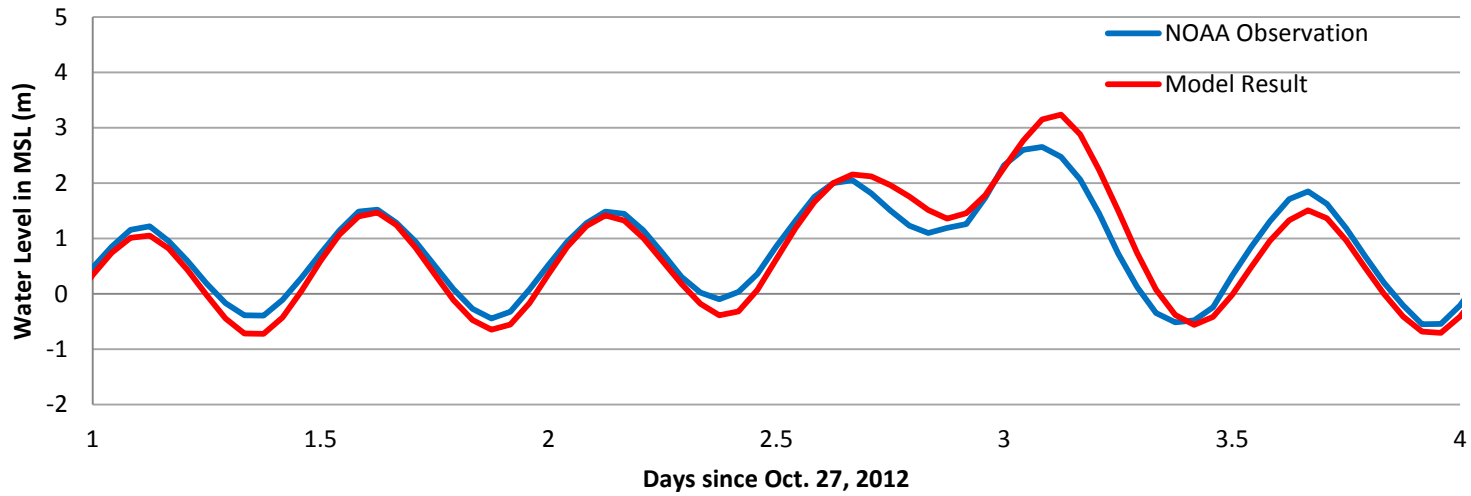
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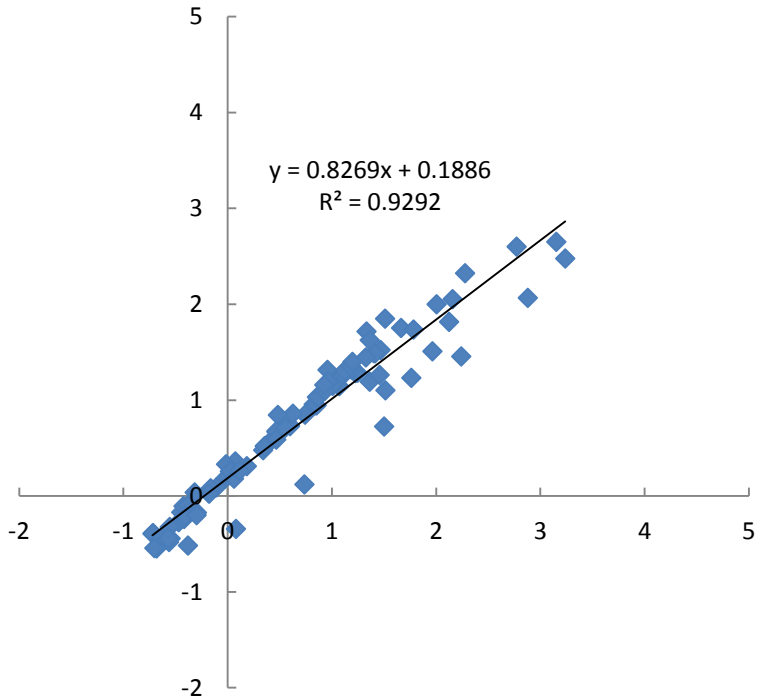
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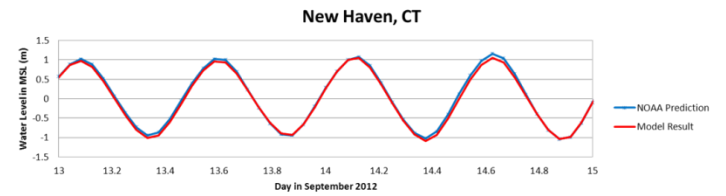
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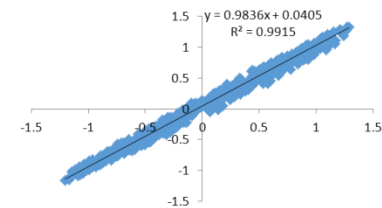
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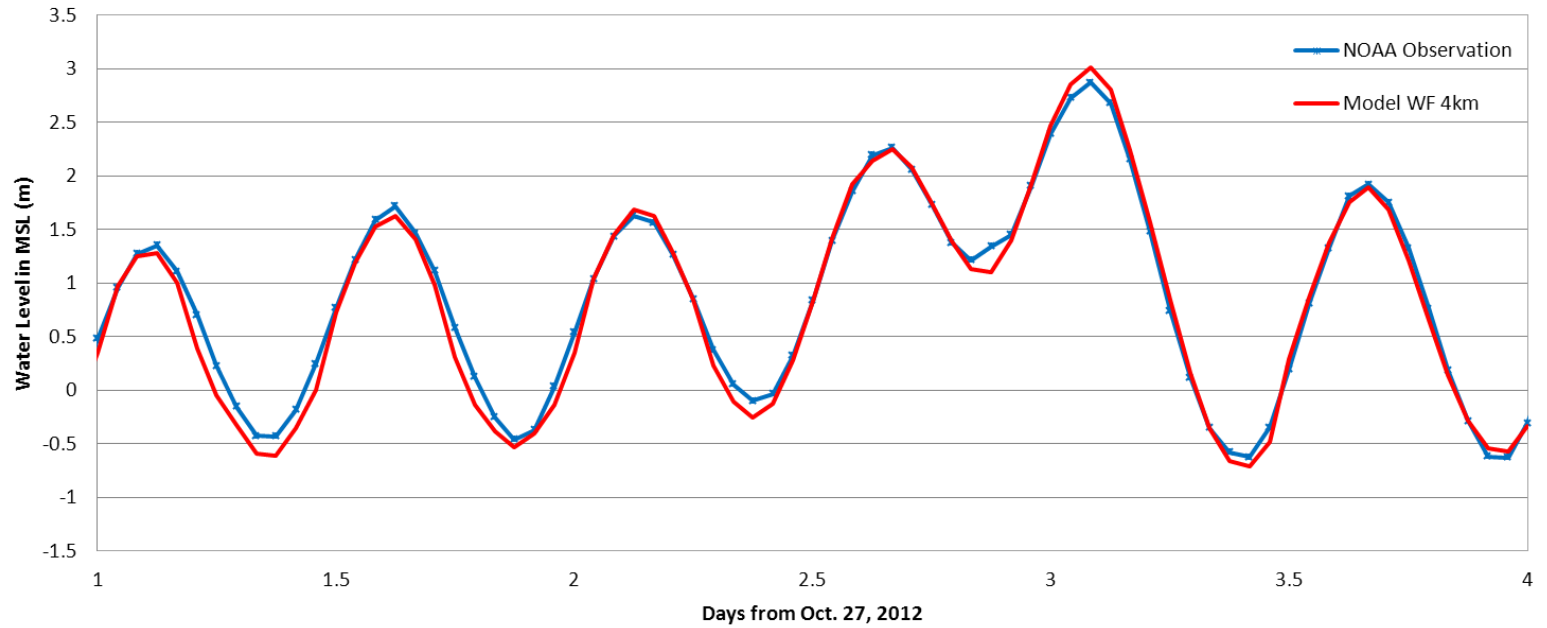
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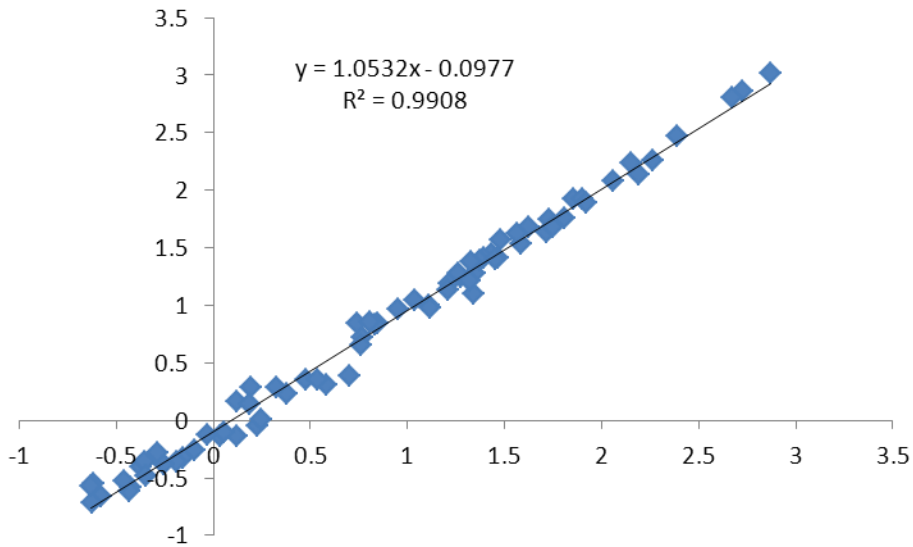
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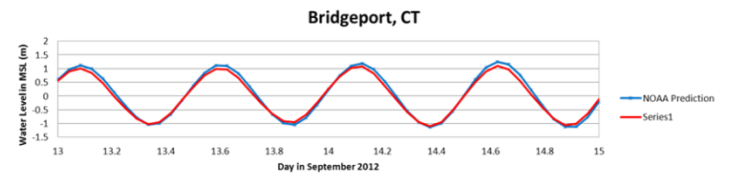
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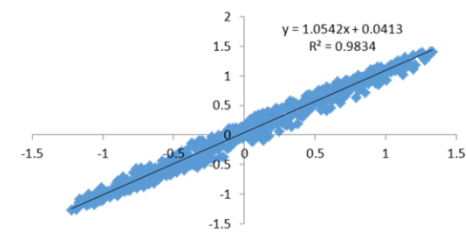
## Bridgeport, CT



## Tide only

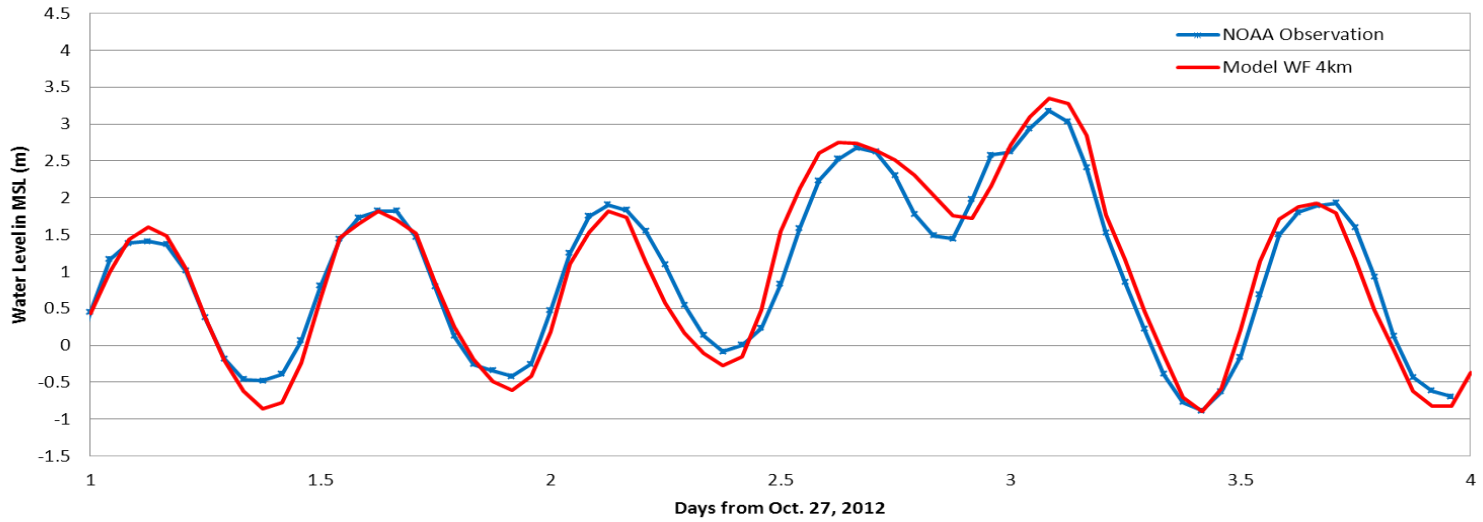


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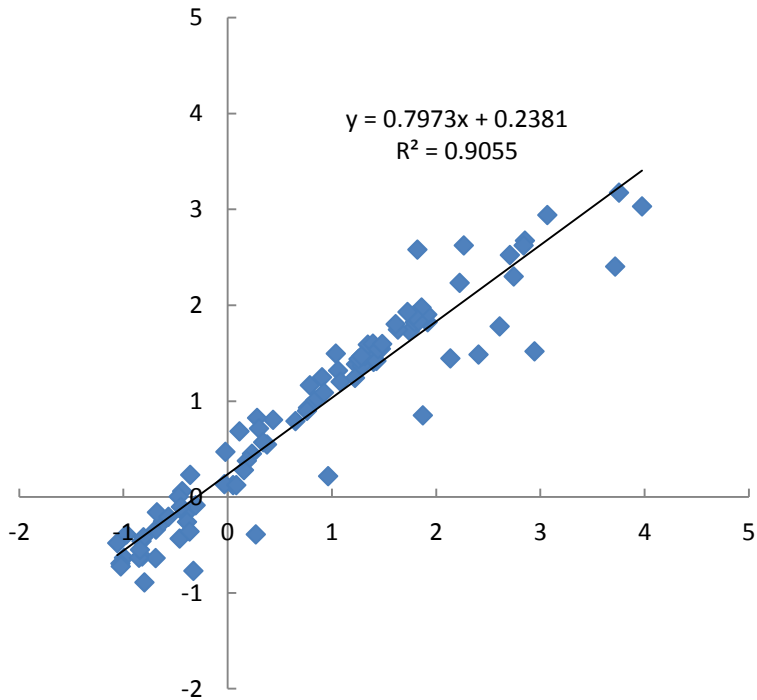




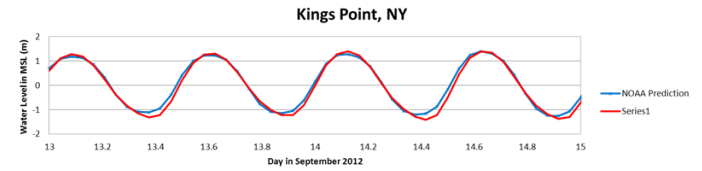
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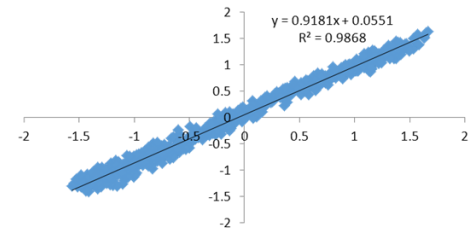
# Kings Pt, NY



# Tide only



# Kings Point, NY



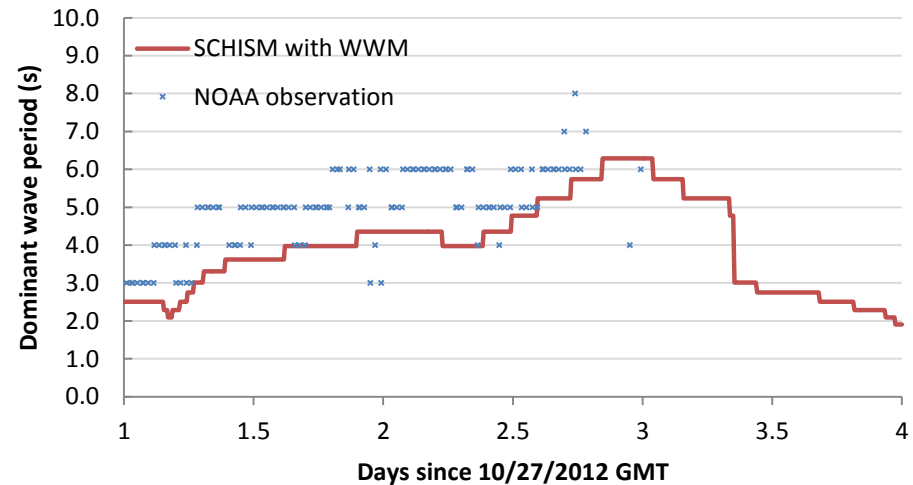
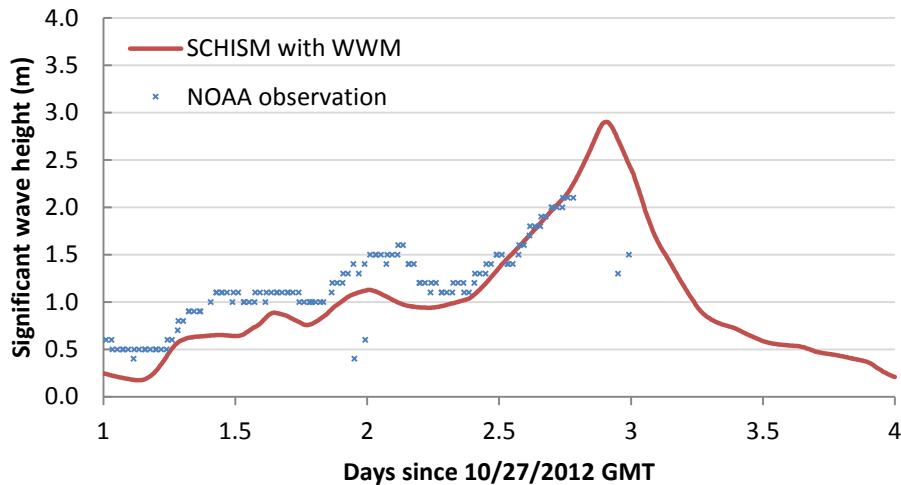


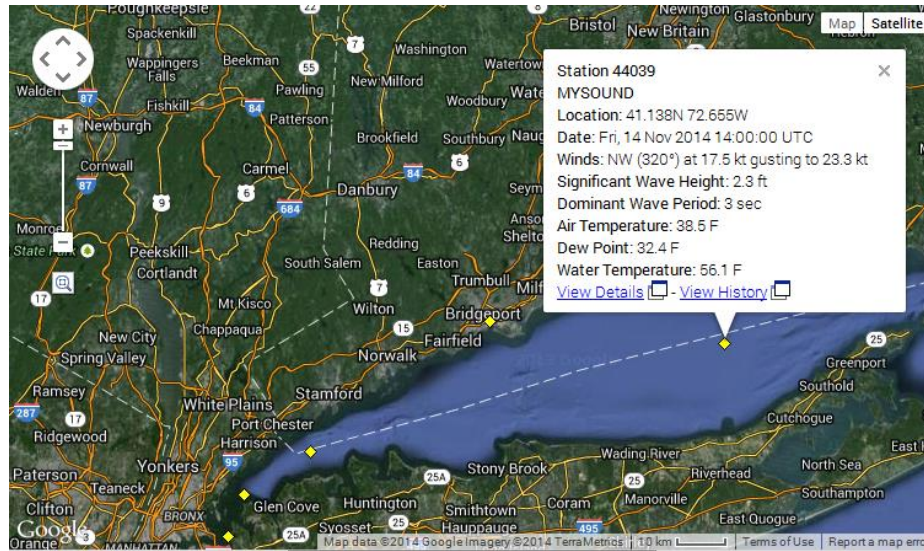
Significant wave height (m)

Dominant peak period (s)

### Station 44040

### Station 44040



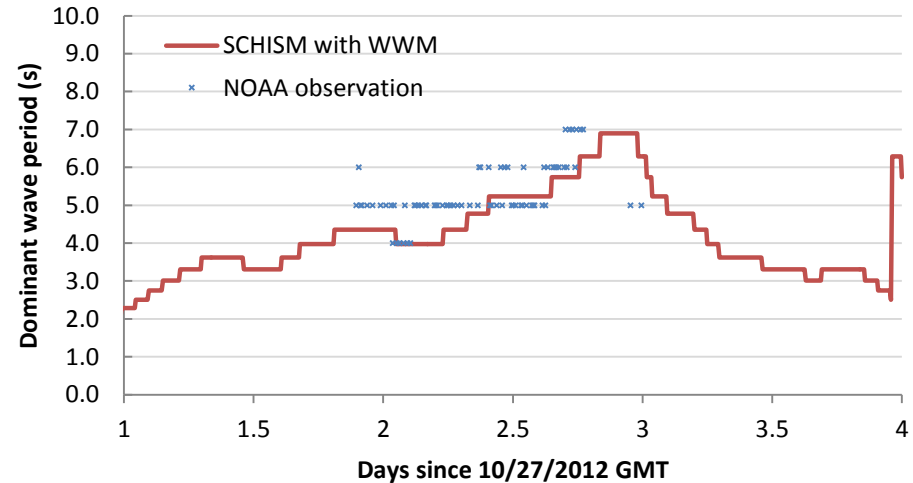
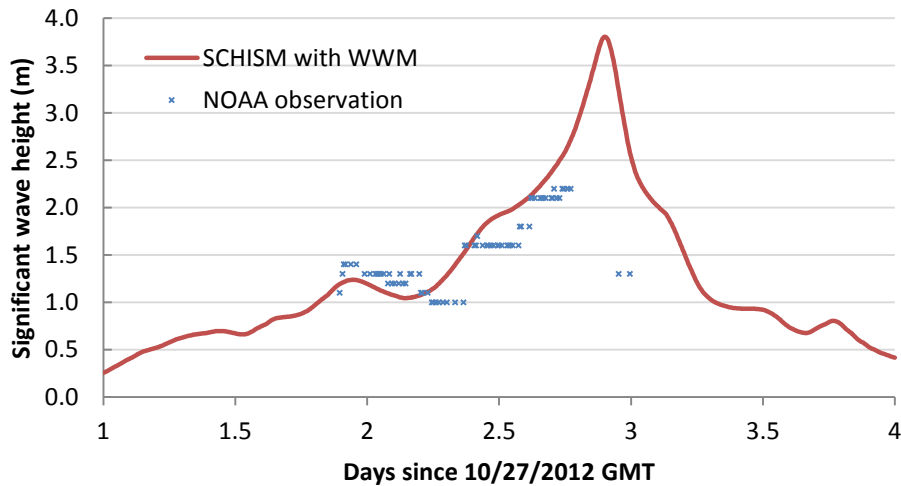


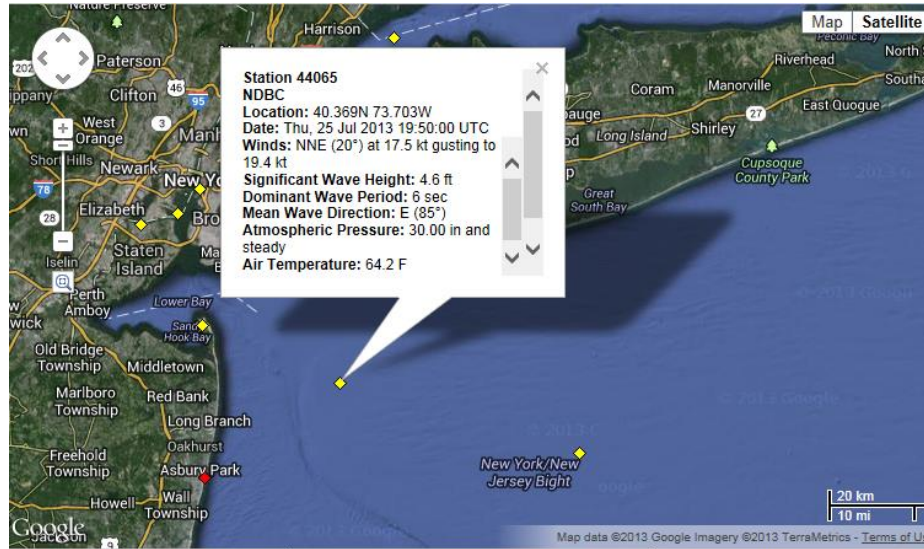
Significant wave height (m)

Dominant peak period (s)

### Station 44039

### Station 44039



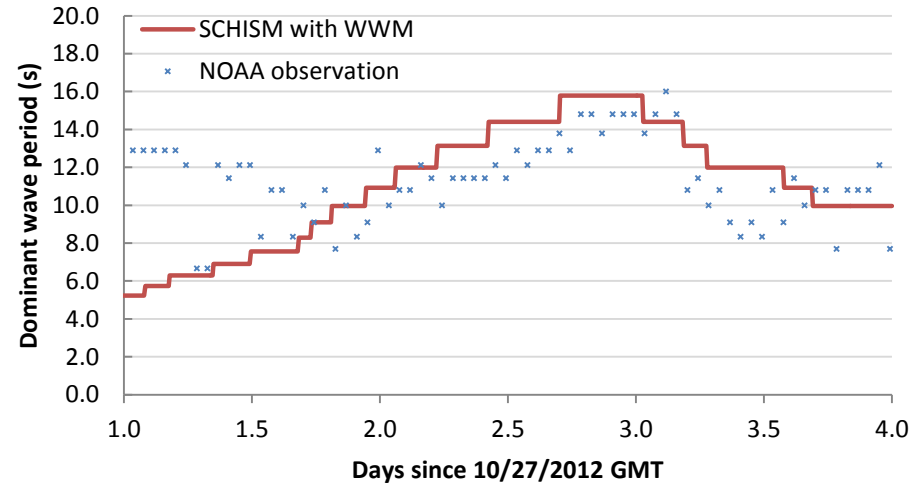
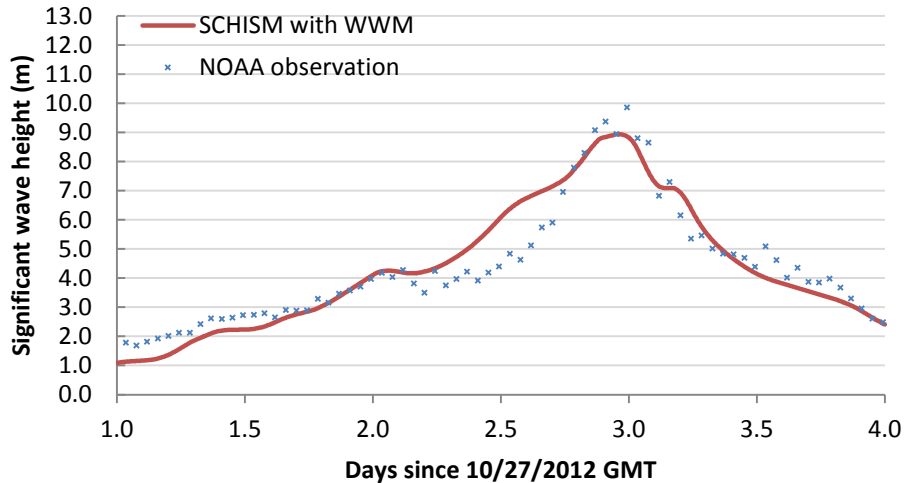


Significant wave height (m)

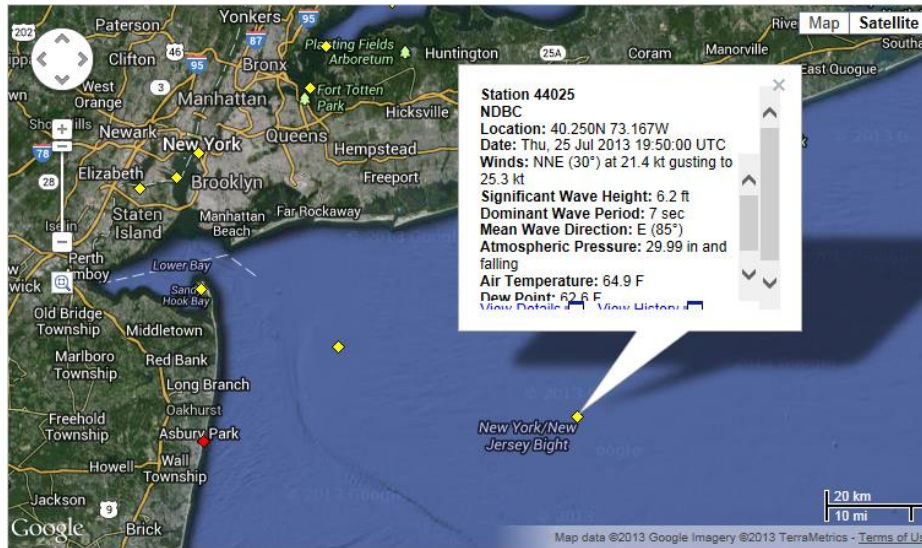
Dominant peak period (s)

**Station 44065**

**Station 44065**





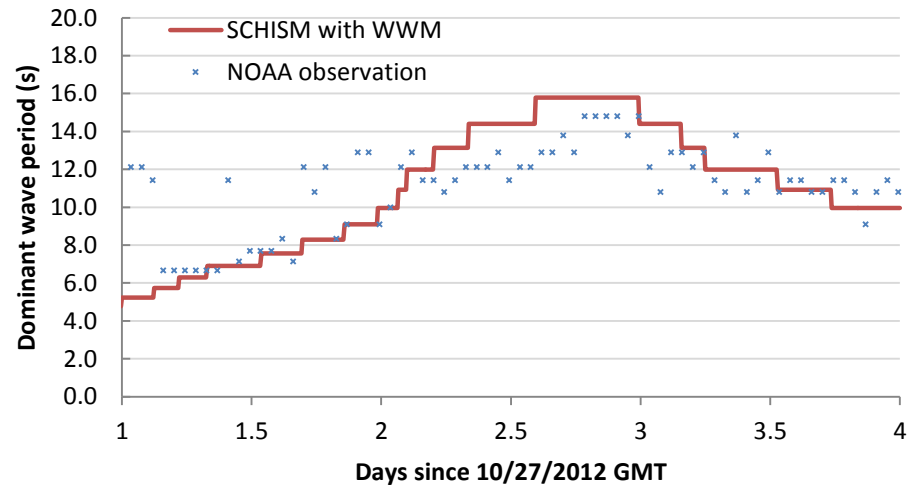
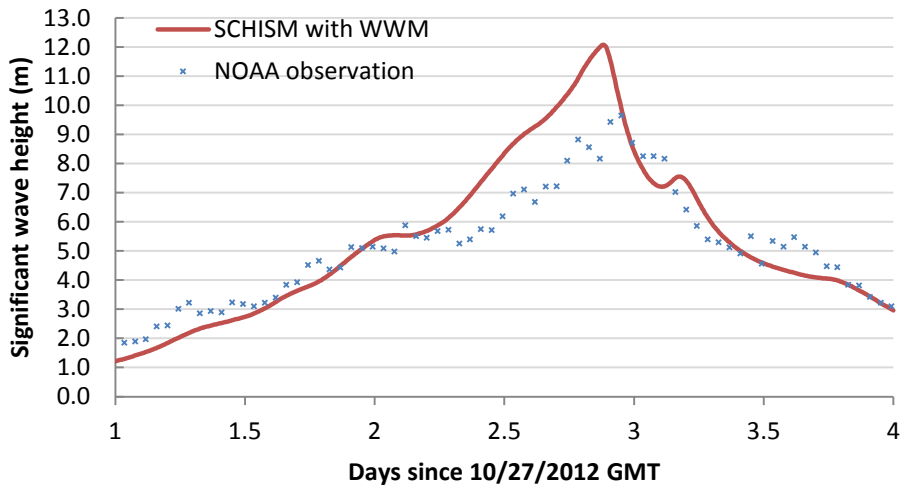


Significant wave height (m)

Dominant peak period (s)

### Station 44025

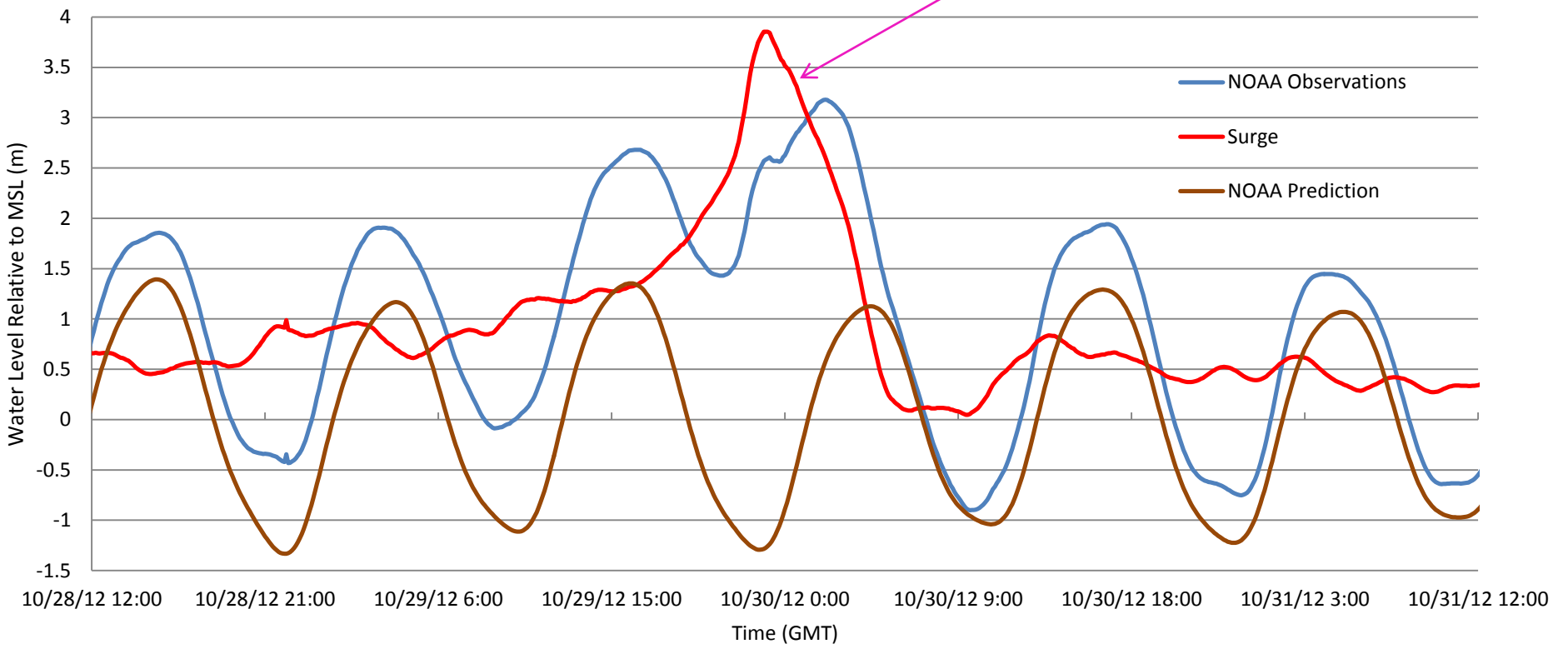
### Station 44025



# Observation of explosive surge setup in Long Island Sound

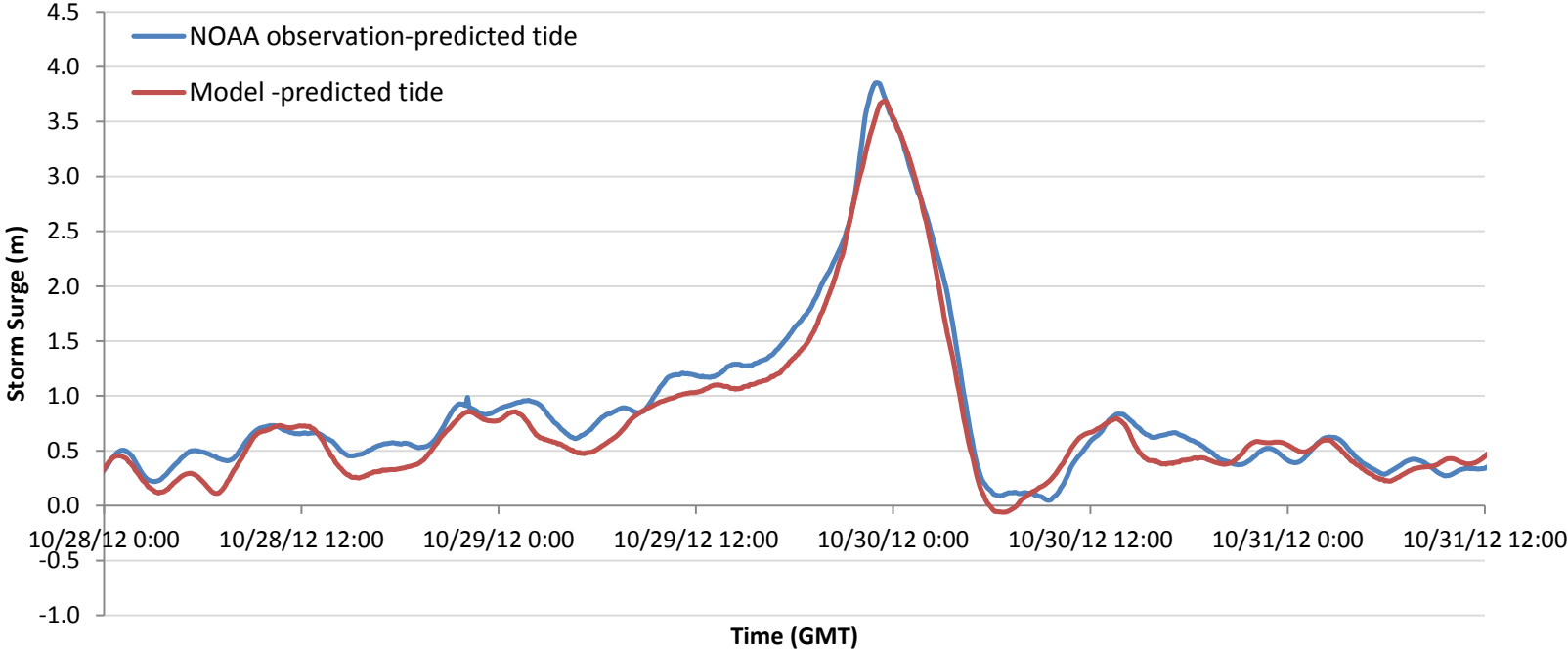
**Kings Pt, NY**

Explosive setup !!



# Modeled explosive non-tidal surge

## Kings Point, NY



## II. High-resolution, sub-grid inundation modeling

### **Synopsis:**

*While many global basin scale storm tide models focus primarily on waterways, it is our belief that the technology for predicting local inundation over land is equally important, if not more important.*

- *The goals for local inundation prediction:*
  - The maximum inundation extent*
  - The timing of the inundation*
  - The depth of the inundation*



# Fundamental Idea of “Subgrid Modeling”

- *The availability of detailed bathymetry LIDAR data plugged within a coarse grid model can and should be used to further improve a model accuracy*
- *The availability of super computing power... are useful tools but, alone, are still insufficient to faithfully account for complex topographic features.*

## The key features for sub-grid modeling\* are:

- *Nonlinear semi-implicit solver for wetting-and-drying*
- *A conveyance formulation (based on friction dominated flow) allows the effects of small features be more accurately represented without overly expensive computational cost.*

\*Casulli V. and Stelling, G. S (2011): Semi-implicit subgrid modelling of three-dimensional free-surface flows. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Fluids, Vol, 67, p441-449.

## A. Nonlinear semi-implicit solver for wetting-and-drying

- High resolution bathymetry data at sub-grid level allows the cross-sectional area and volume be calculated more accurately
- It allows mass balance in wet, dry, and partially-wet-and-dry region
- It does not require a threshold value for minimum water depth
- It generates accurate results with relatively coarse mesh and large time step by solving a mild nonlinear system:

$$V(\eta) + T\eta = b$$

$\eta$  is determined iteratively by a converging Newton type method

$$\eta^{(m+1)} = \eta^{(m)} - \frac{[V(\eta^{(m)}) + T\eta^{(m)} - b]}{[P(\eta^{(m)}) + T]}$$

fast, and efficiently implemented by use of a PCGM

# B. Conveyance formulation on a sub-grid scheme

- A simplified 2D depth averaged momentum equation:

$$\frac{DU}{Dt} + g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + cf \frac{U \|U\|}{h} = 0$$

where  $cf = g/Cz^2$  or  $cf = g n^2 / h^{1/3}$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{DU}{Dt} + g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + g \frac{U \|U\|}{\Omega^2} = 0$$

If friction dominates, the main balance is the last two terms in each time step

$$U = \Omega \sqrt{\zeta_x}$$

or

$$\frac{U^2}{\Omega^2} = \zeta_x$$

Where

$$\Omega = \sqrt{\frac{gh}{cf}}$$

is conveyance velocity

- In 2D sub-grid, for each pixel  $\frac{cf_j}{gh_j} \|u_j\|^2 = \text{constant}$  (assume  $\zeta_x$  is constant)

Introduce cell average velocity  $U$  where

$$\|U\| = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J h_j \|u_j\|}{\sum_{j=1}^J h_j}$$

$\longrightarrow$

$$\left( \frac{\|u_j\|}{\Omega_j} \right)^2 = \text{constant} \forall j$$

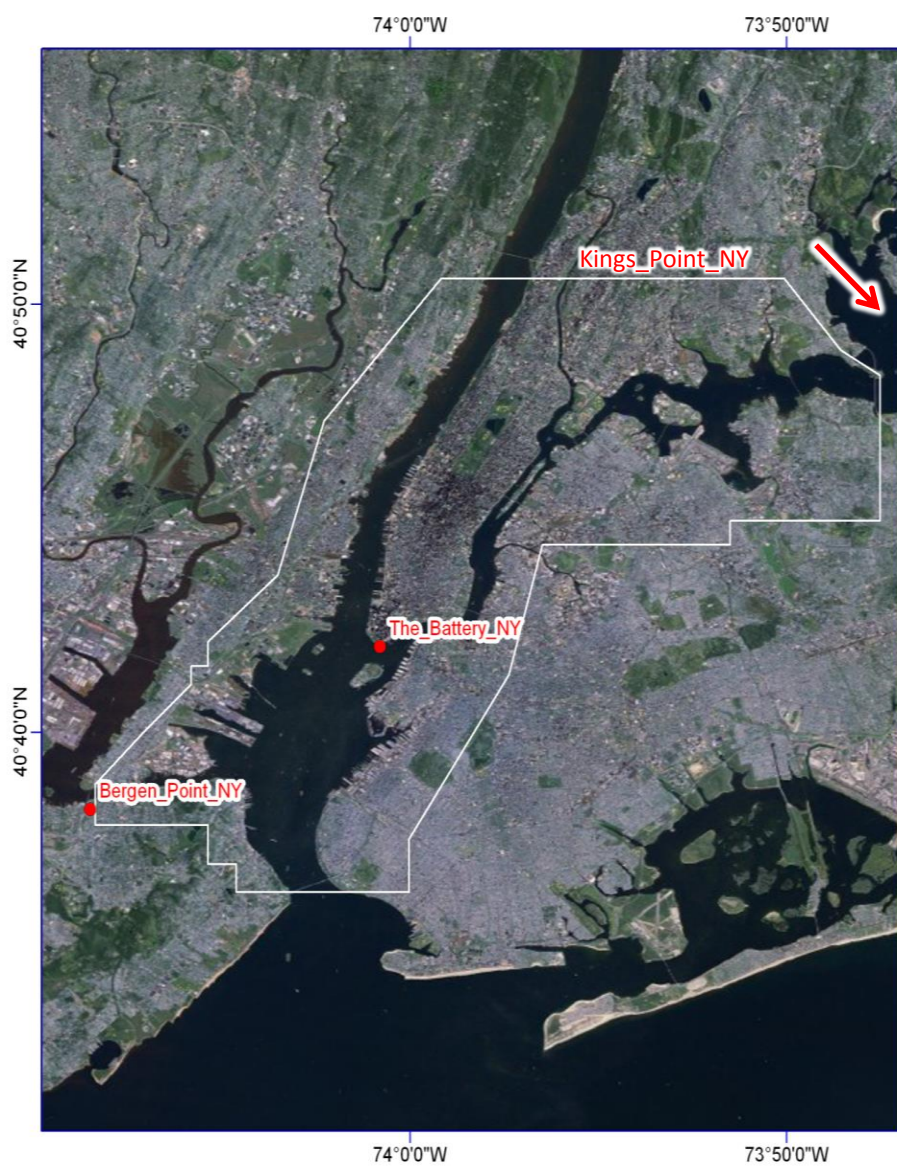
- Then

$$\frac{\|u_j\|}{\Omega_j} = \frac{\|U\|}{\Omega} \forall j \quad \text{or} \quad \|u_j\| = \Omega_j \frac{\|U\|}{\Omega}$$

where

$$\Omega = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J h_j \Omega_j}{\sum_{j=1}^J h_j}$$

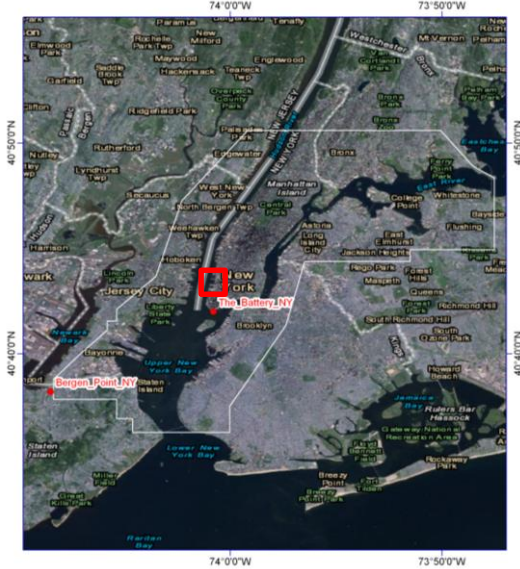
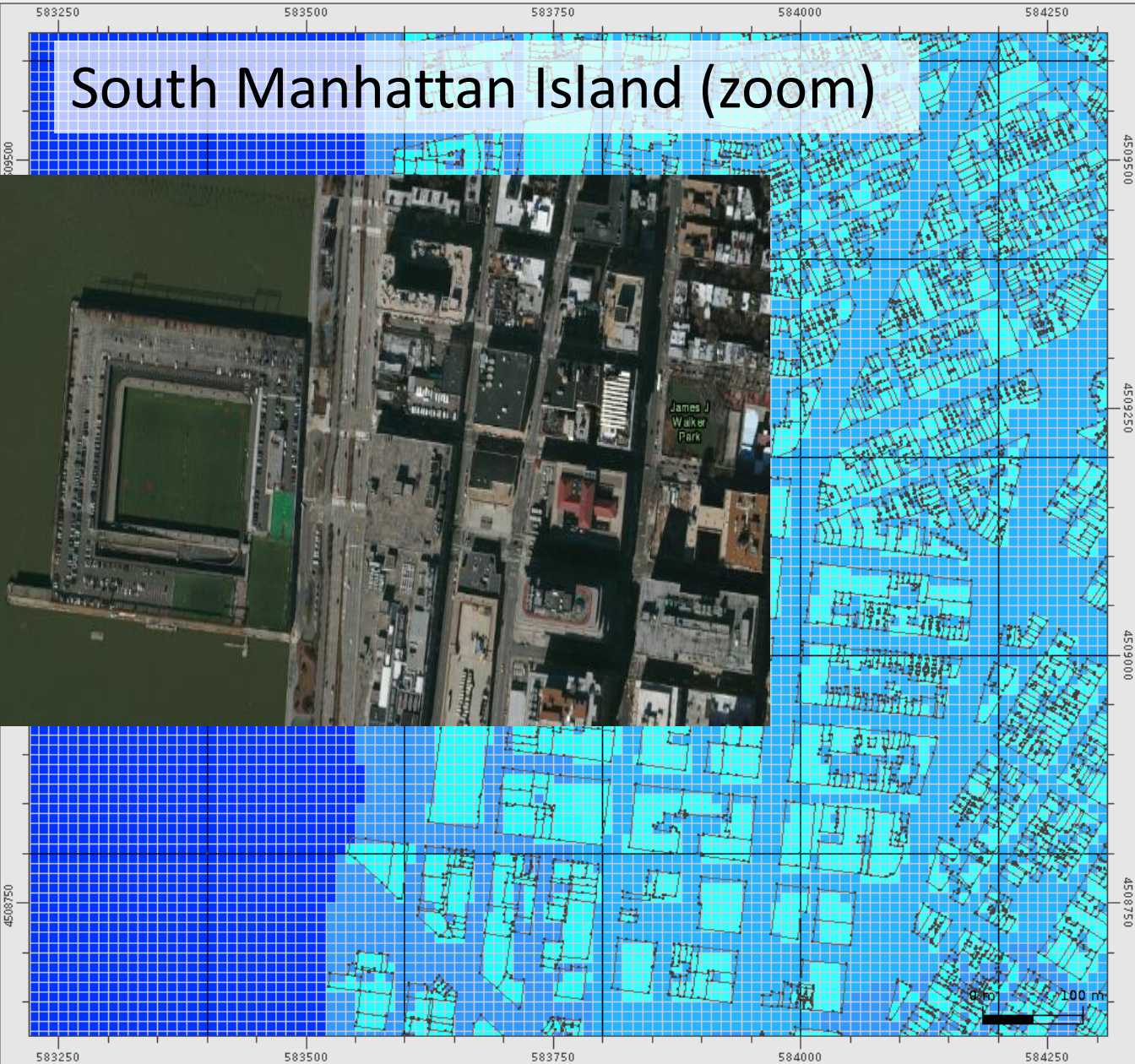
# High resolution, local inundation dynamic model on sub-grid scale



Base-Grid Nodes: 9,946  
Base-Grid Cells: 9,663  
Sub-Grid Cells: 3,865,200



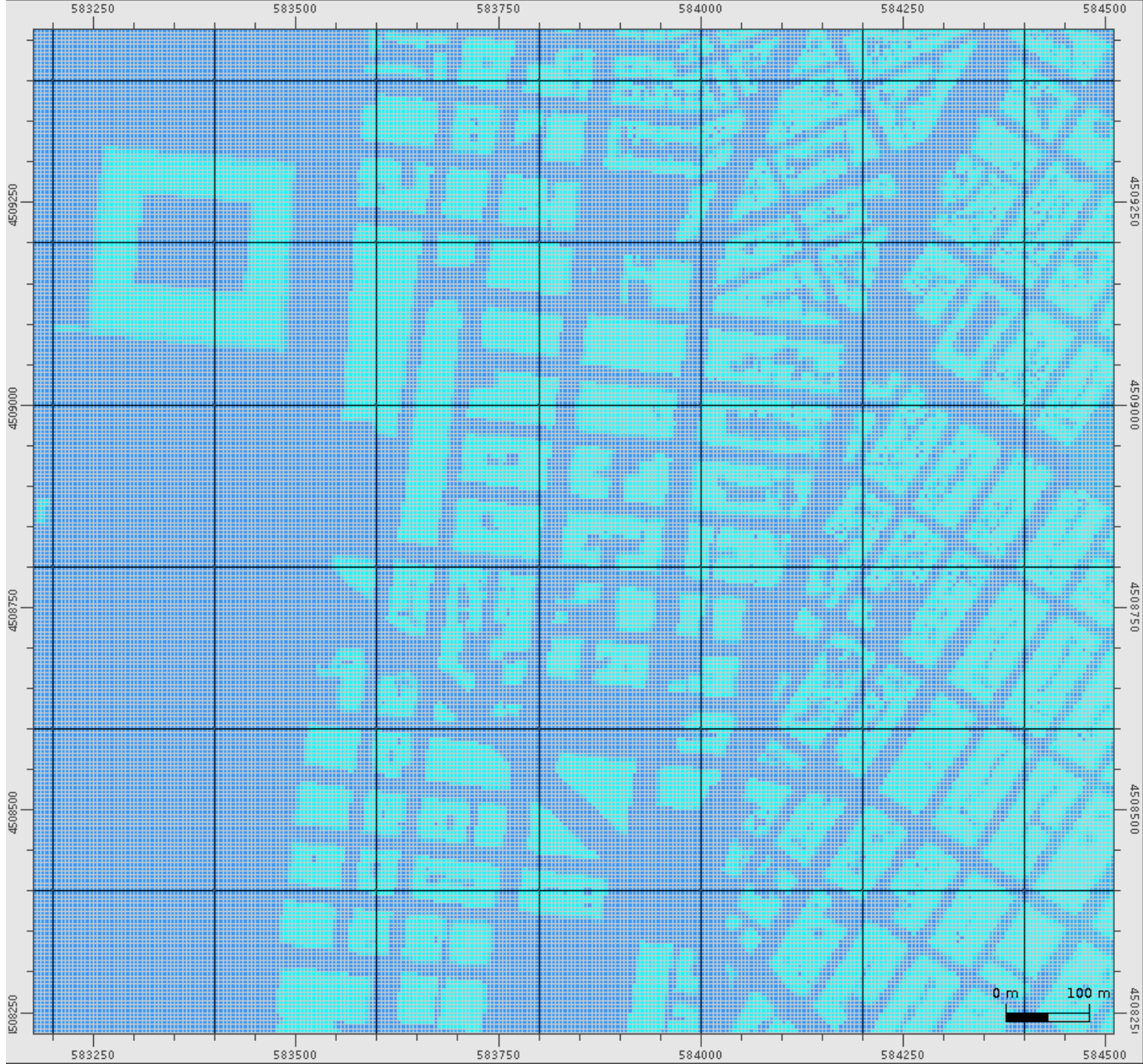
# South Manhattan Island (zoom)



New York City Sub-Grid  
High-Resolution Domain

Topography (m)

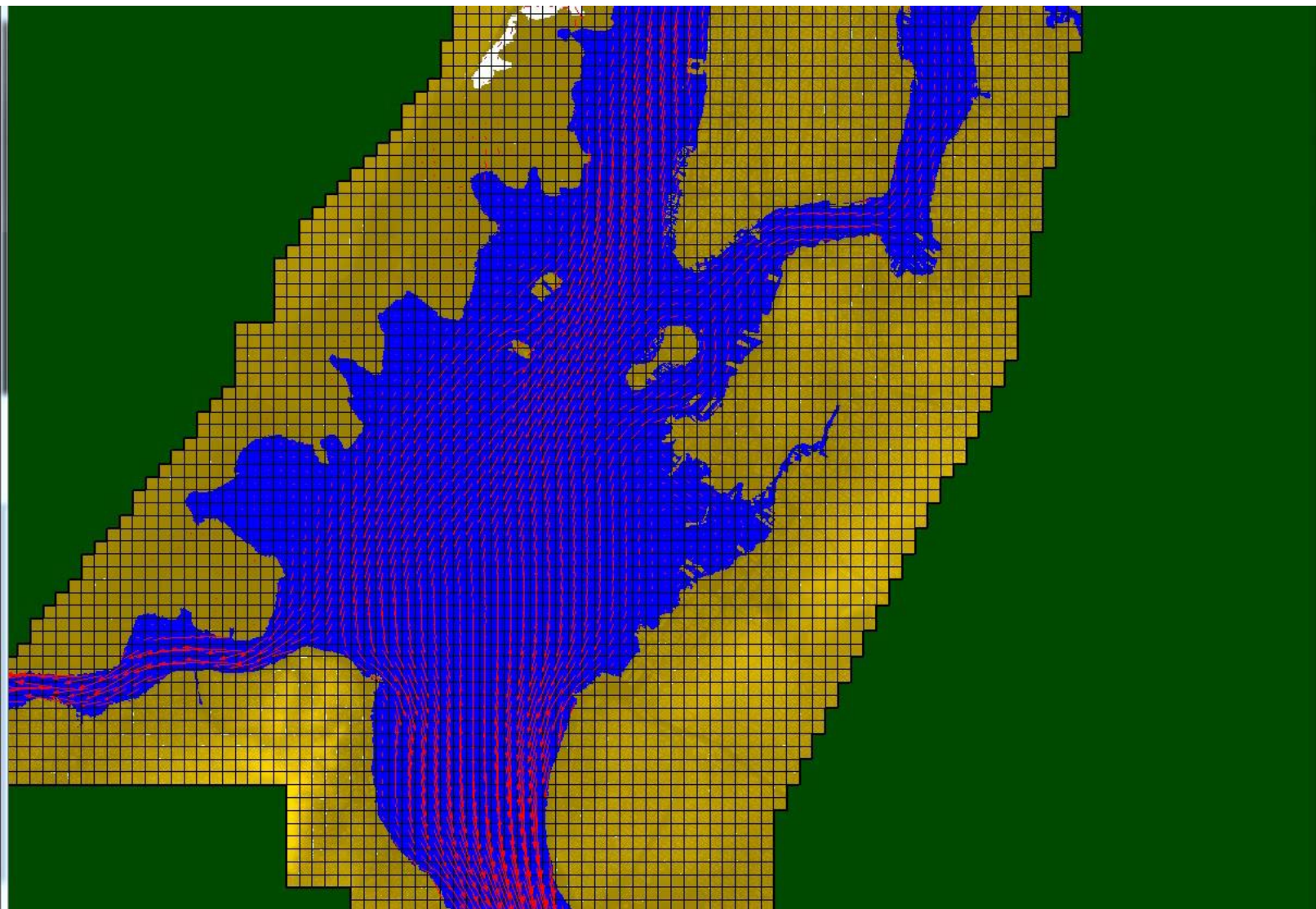






# UNTRIM<sup>2</sup> Sub-grid model setup for Hurricane Sandy

- Open Boundary Forcing from NOAA Stations
  - West Boundary: Bergen Point, NY NOAA Station #8519483
  - East Boundary: Kings Point, NY NOAA Station #8516945
  - South Boundary: near Sandy Hook, NJ NOAA Station #8531680
- Flux Boundary Forcing from USGS Station
  - North Boundary: Hudson River near Wappinger Falls  
USGS Station #01372500
- Model Setup for 10 days from 00:00, 10/25/2012 to 00:00, 11/04/2012
- Atmospheric pressure and wind data retrieved from Bergen Point, NY, at NOAA Station #8519483
- CPU time: 240 time of real time on Dell Precision T-3500 with Intel Xeon W3670; Windows 7, 64-bit OS; 24 GB RAM



Run UnTRIM<sup>2</sup>  
Time=10:00:00

Elevation	Zoom	▲
	2.0	▼
Velocity	Velo.sc	▲
	2.00	▼
Reset	Grid	
Define section	Vert.sc	▲
	1.00	▼
Insert particle	Layer	▲
	1	▼
Refresh	Subgrid	
W-velocity	Specie	▲
	0	▼

<< < o > >>

Min	▲	Max	▲
0.00	▼	3.06	▼

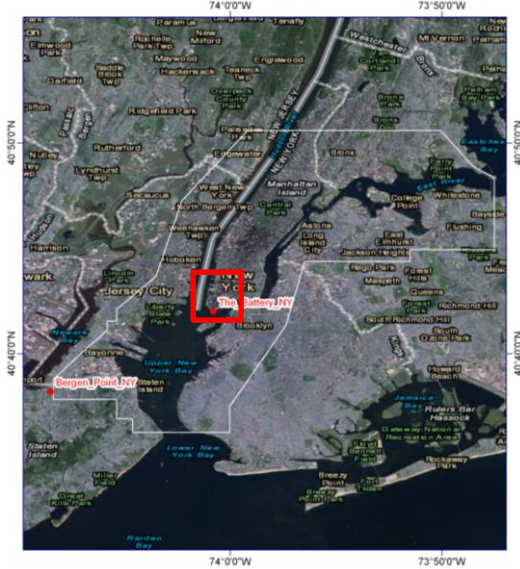
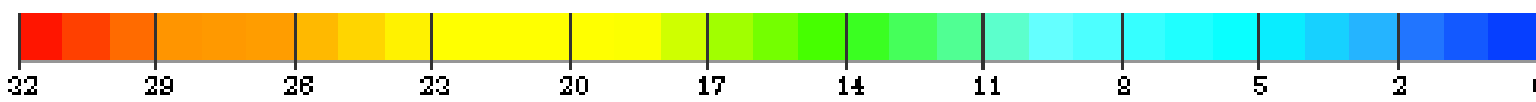
0.0000
0.7657
1.5315
2.2972
3.0629



# South Manhattan Island



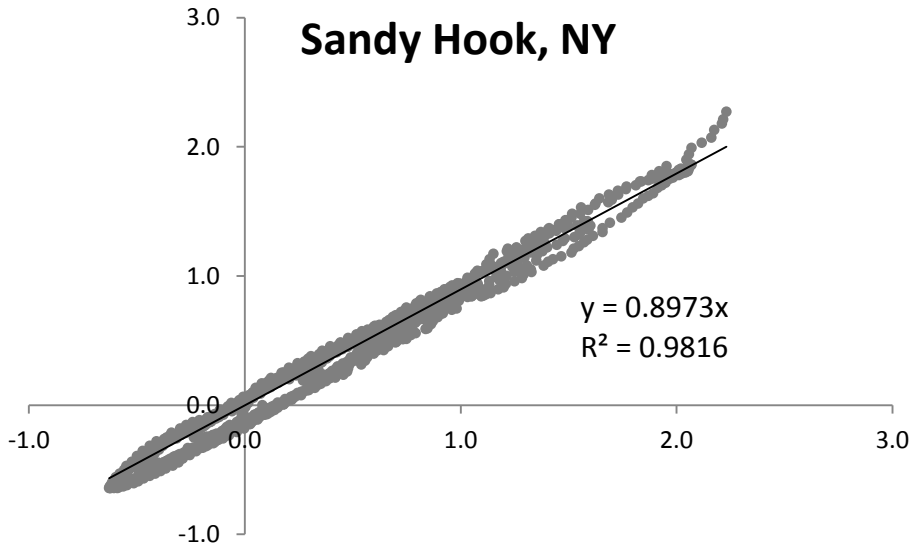
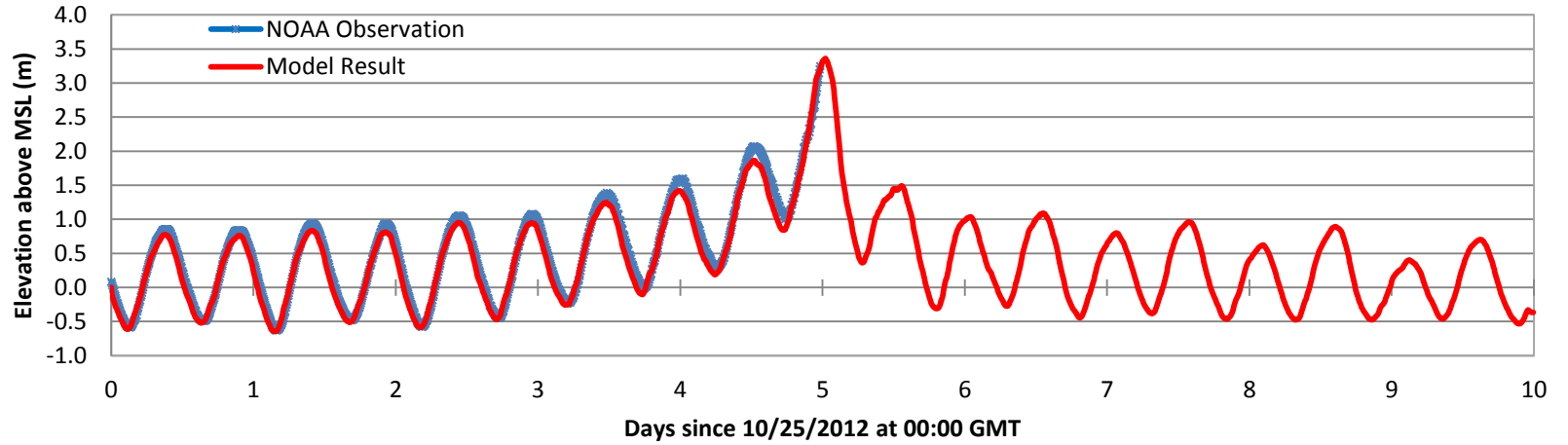
Topography (m)



New York City Sub-Grid  
High-Resolution Domain

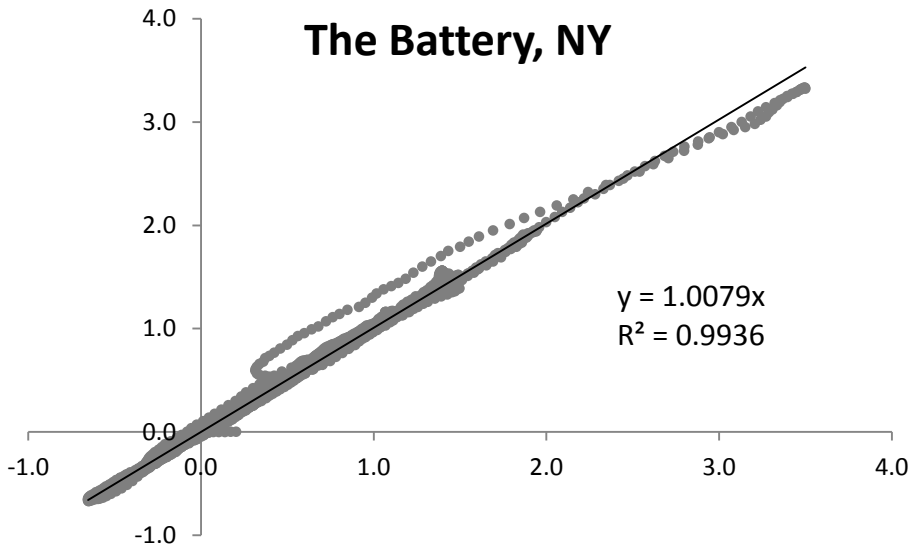
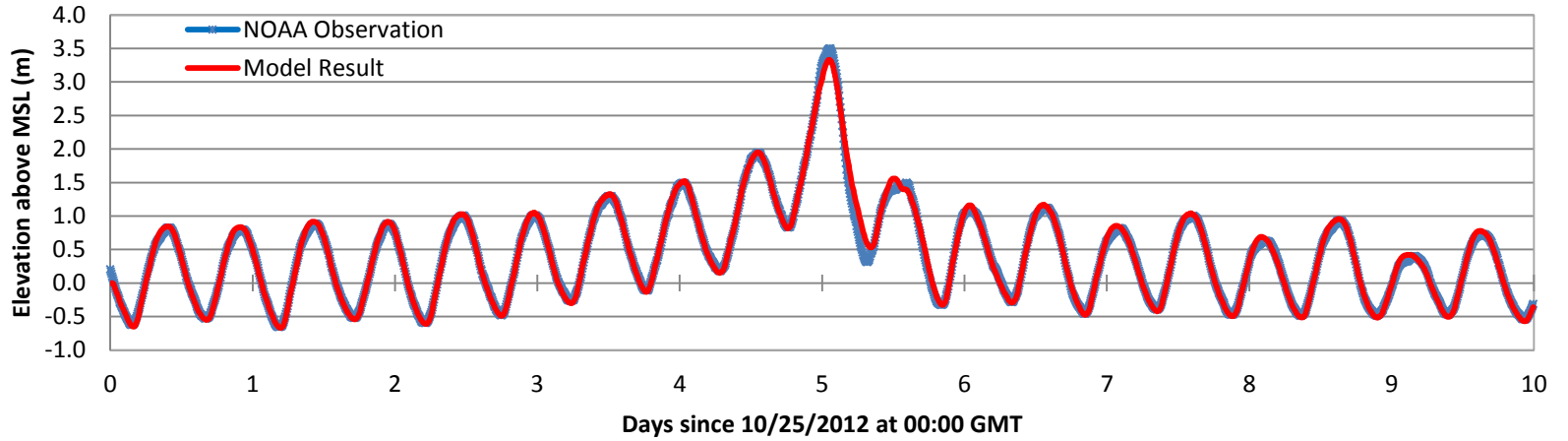
Base-Grid Nodes: 9,946  
Base-Grid Cells: 9,663  
Sub-Grid Cells: 3,865,200

# Sandy Hook, NY

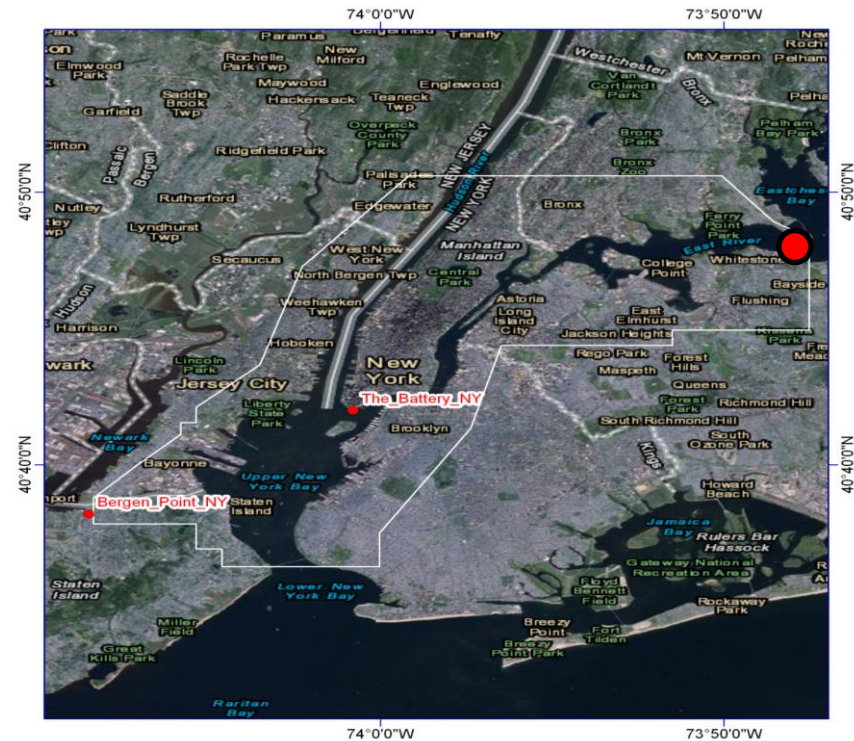
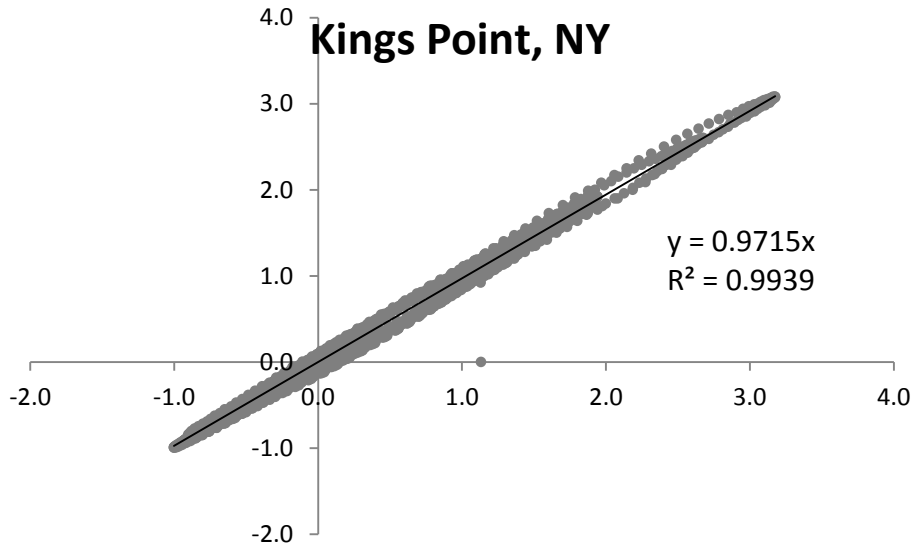
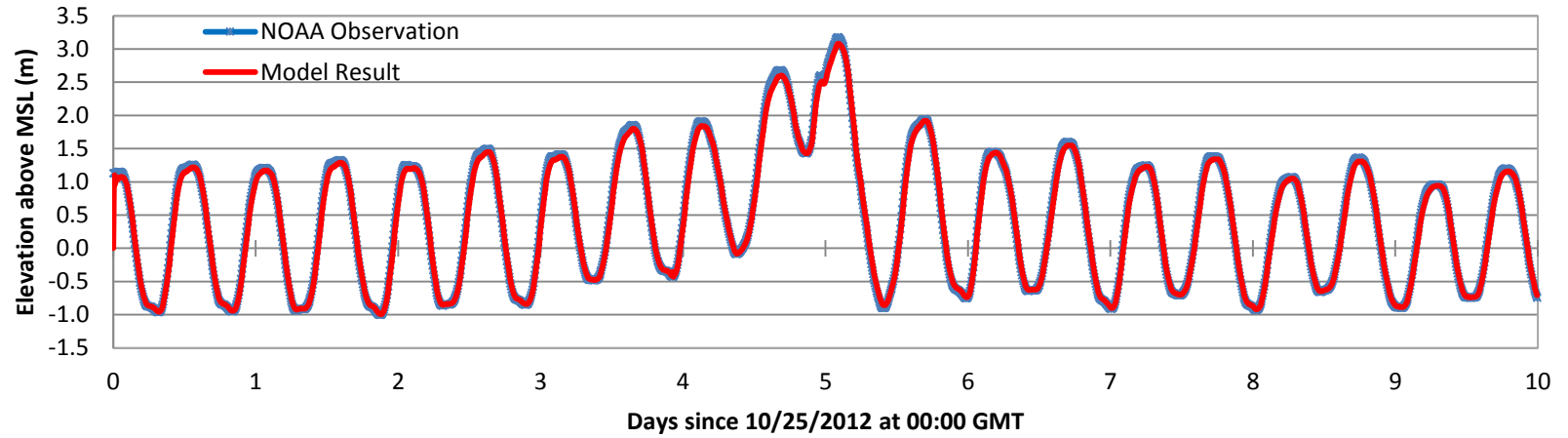




# The Battery, NY



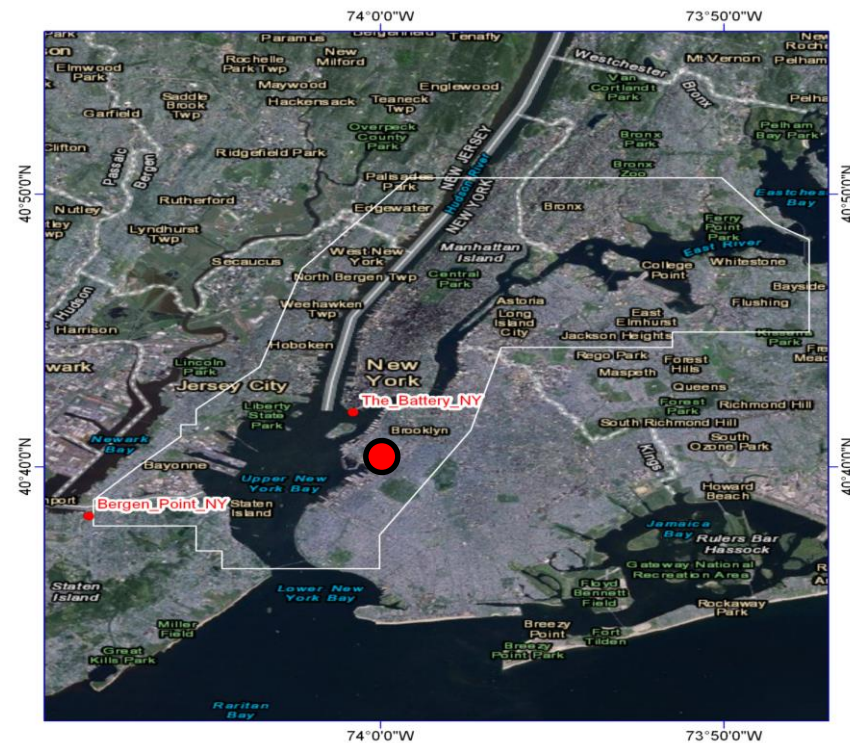
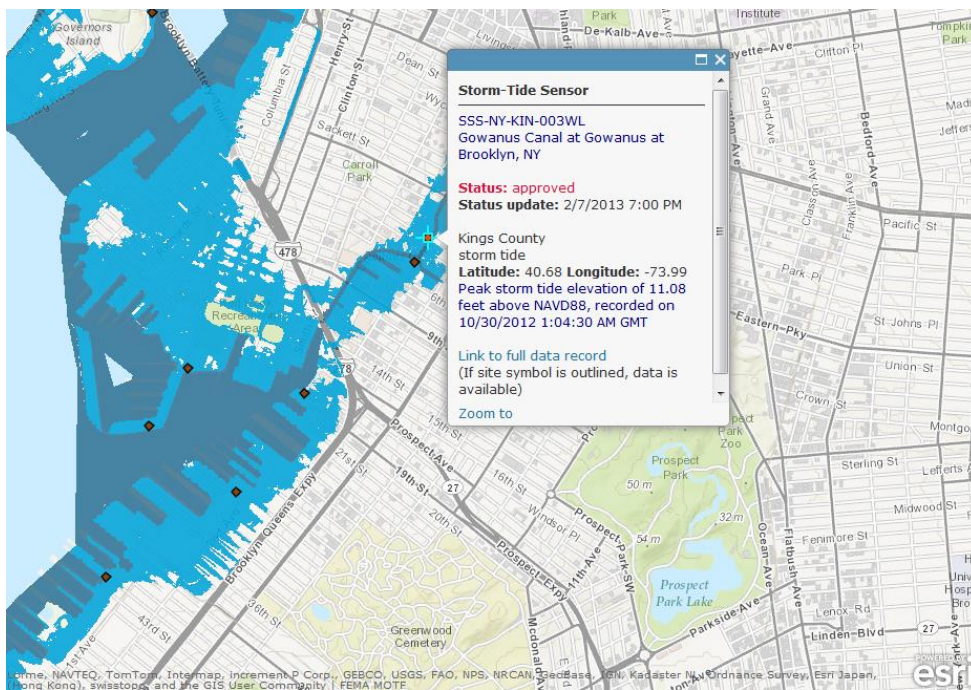
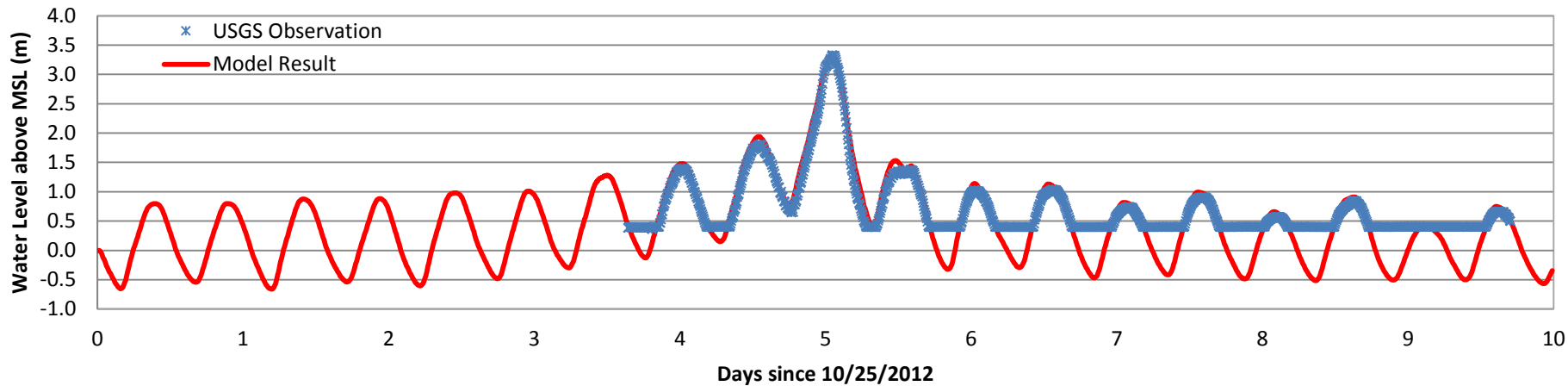
# Kings Point, NY





# USGS Rapid Deployment Gauge Comparison

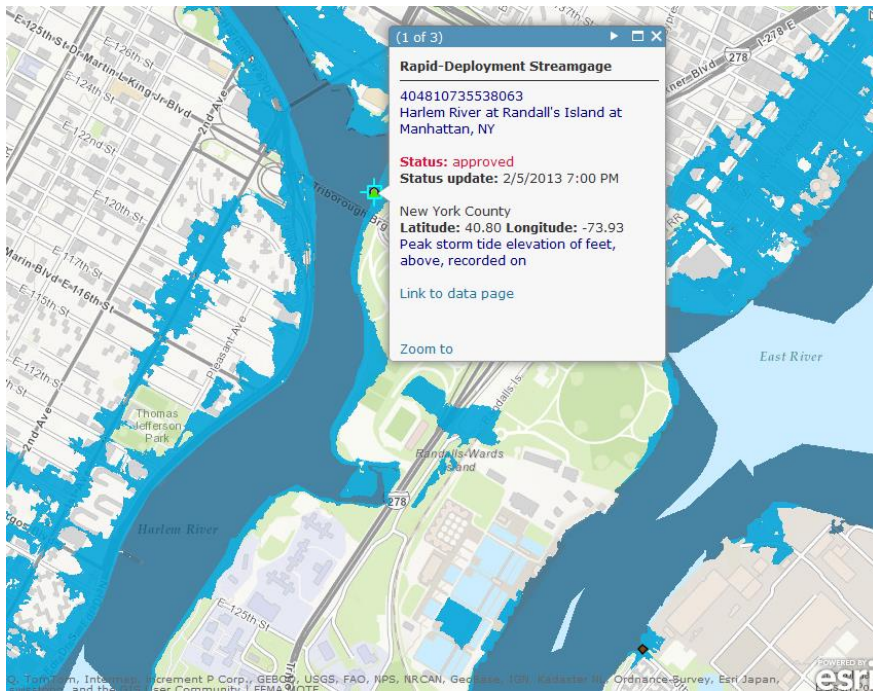
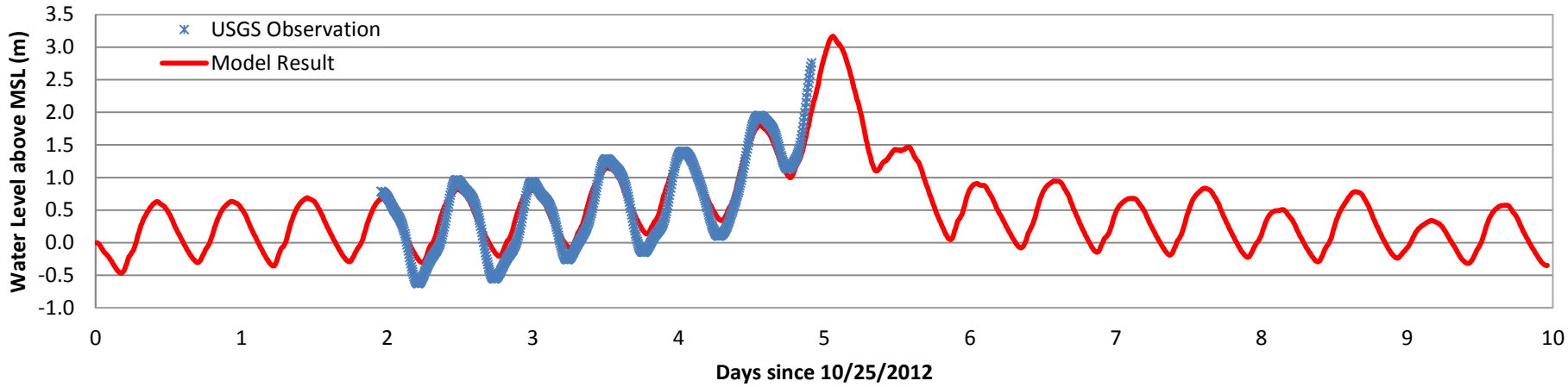
## USGS Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn KIN-003WL





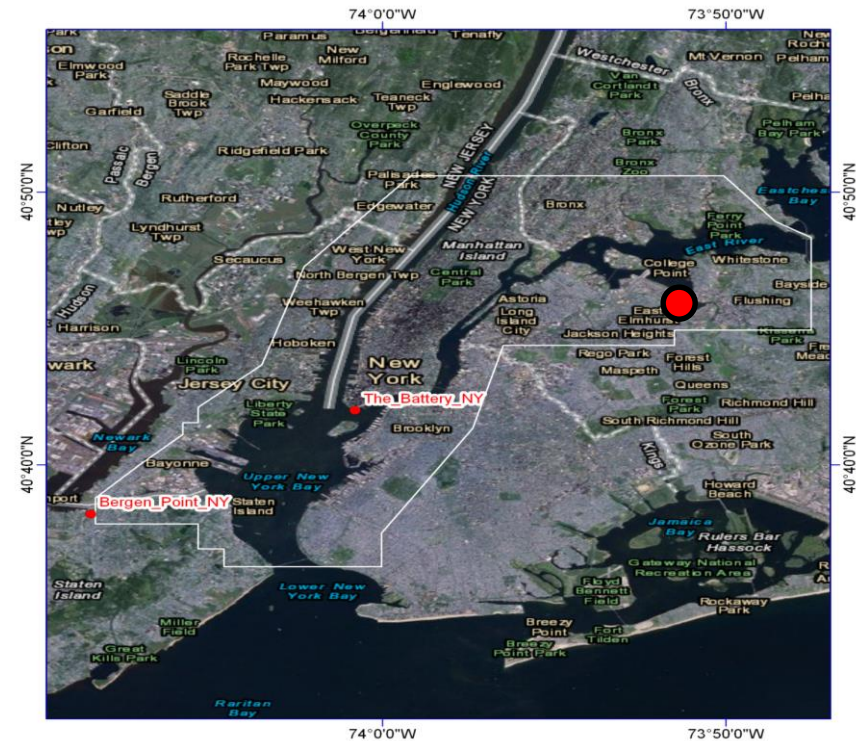
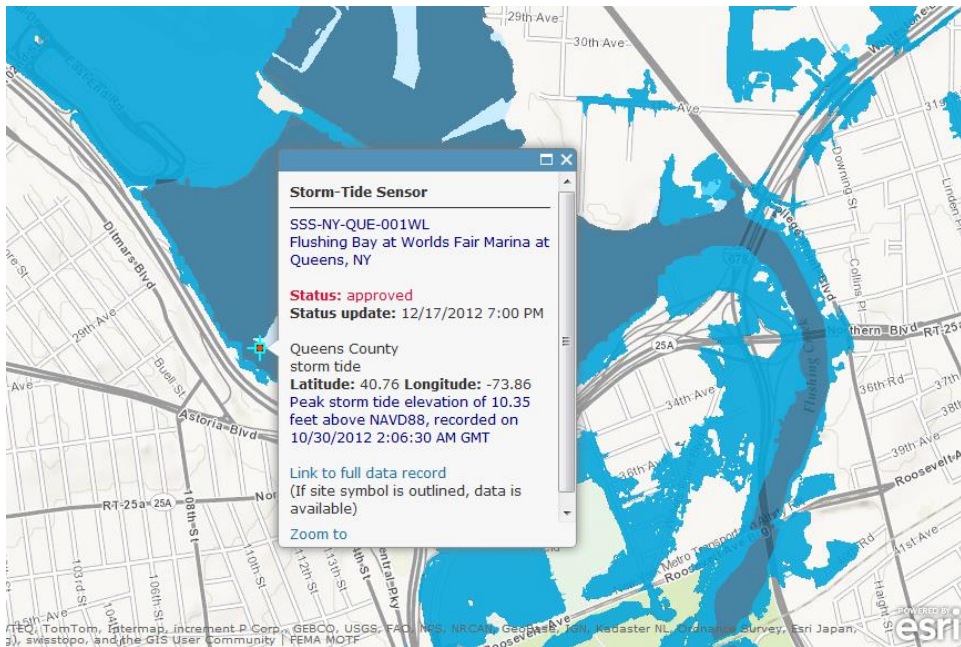
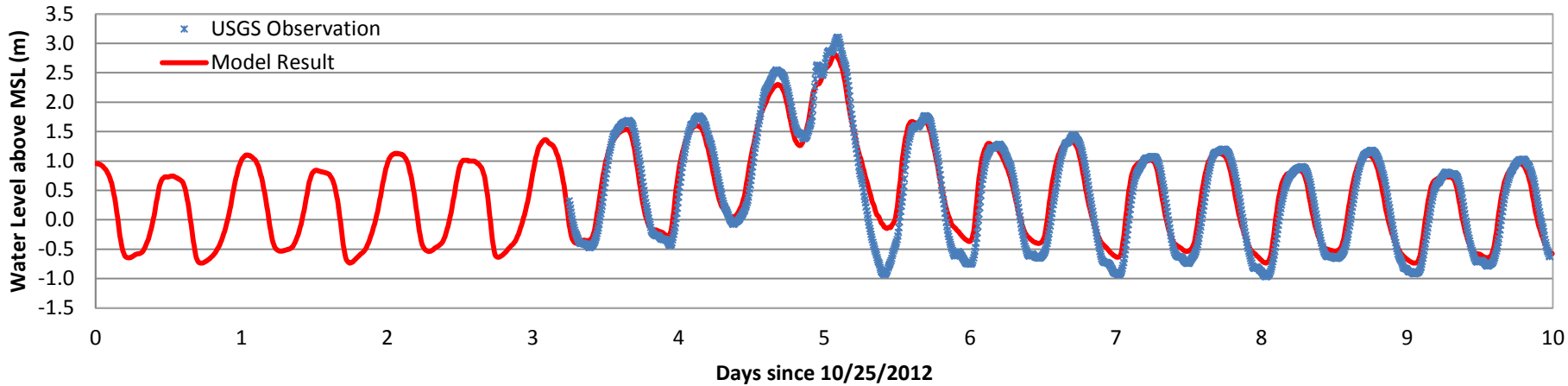
# USGS Rapid Deployment Gauge Comparison

## USGS Station #404810735538063 at Harlem & East River



# USGS Rapid Deployment Gauge Comparison

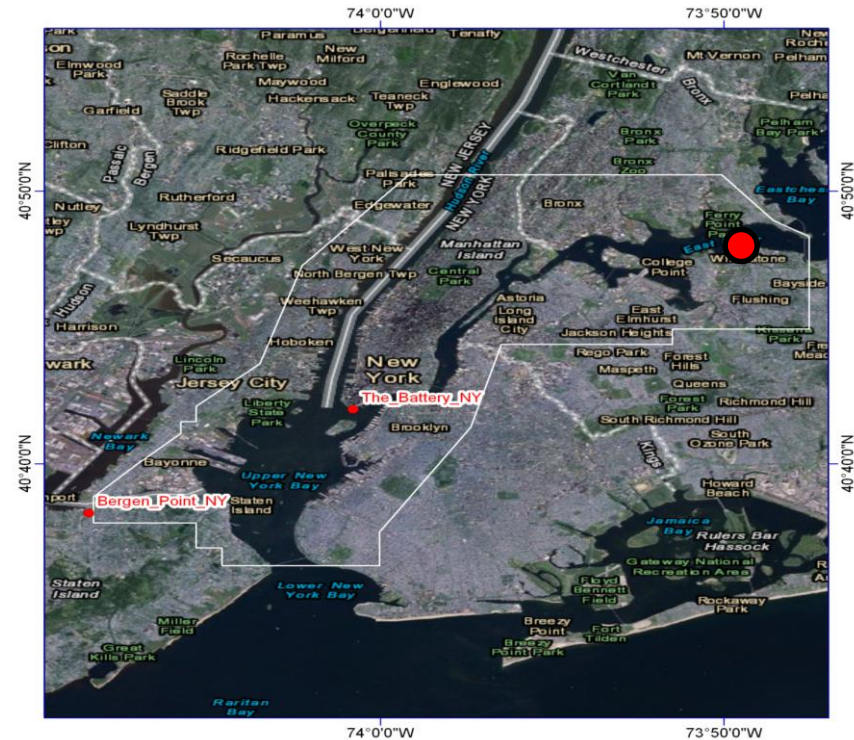
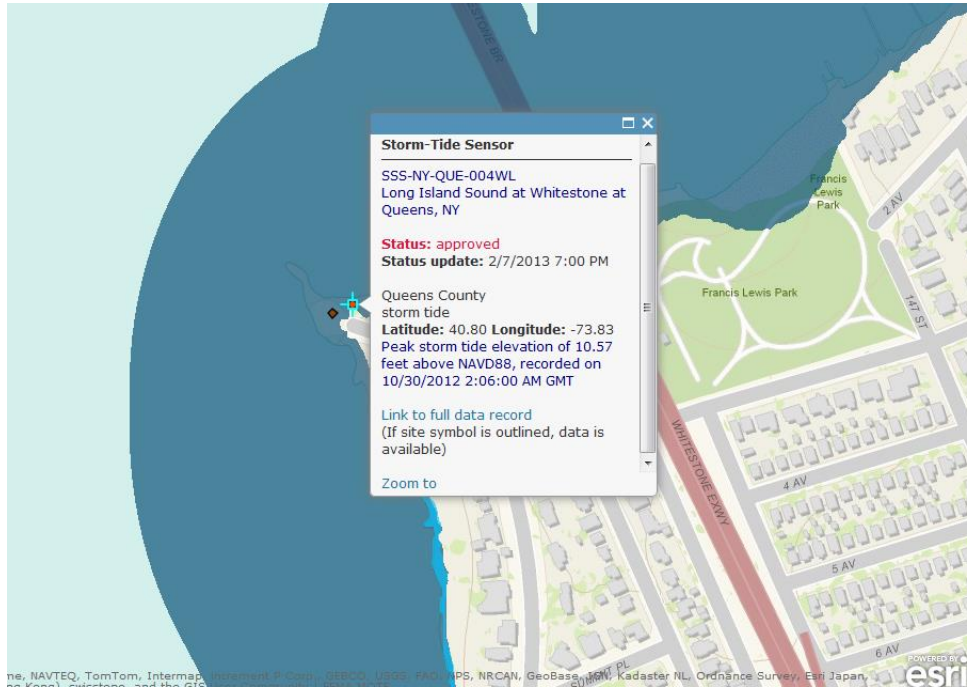
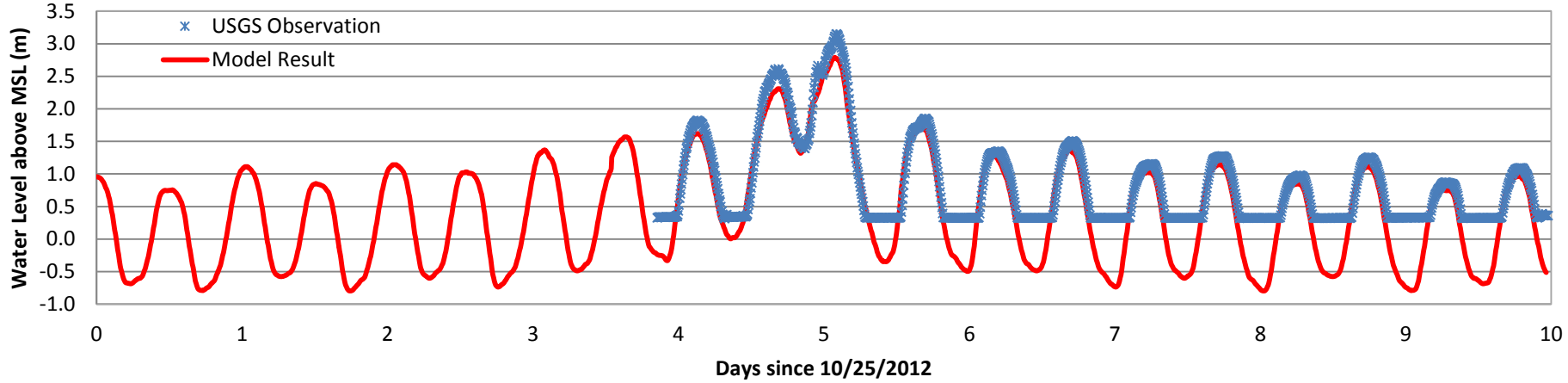
## USGS Worlds Fair Marina Flushing Bay, Queens QUE-001WL





# USGS Rapid Deployment Gauge Comparison

## USGS Whitestone, Queens QUE-004WL







Run UnTRIM<sup>2</sup>  
Time= 2:00:00

Elevation	Zoom	▲
	16.0	▼
Velocity	Velo.sc	▲
	4.00	▼
Reset	Grid	
Define section	Vert.sc	▲
	1.00	▼
Insert particle	Layer	▲
	1	▼
Refresh	Subgrid	
W-velocity	Specie	▲
	0	▼

<< < o > >>

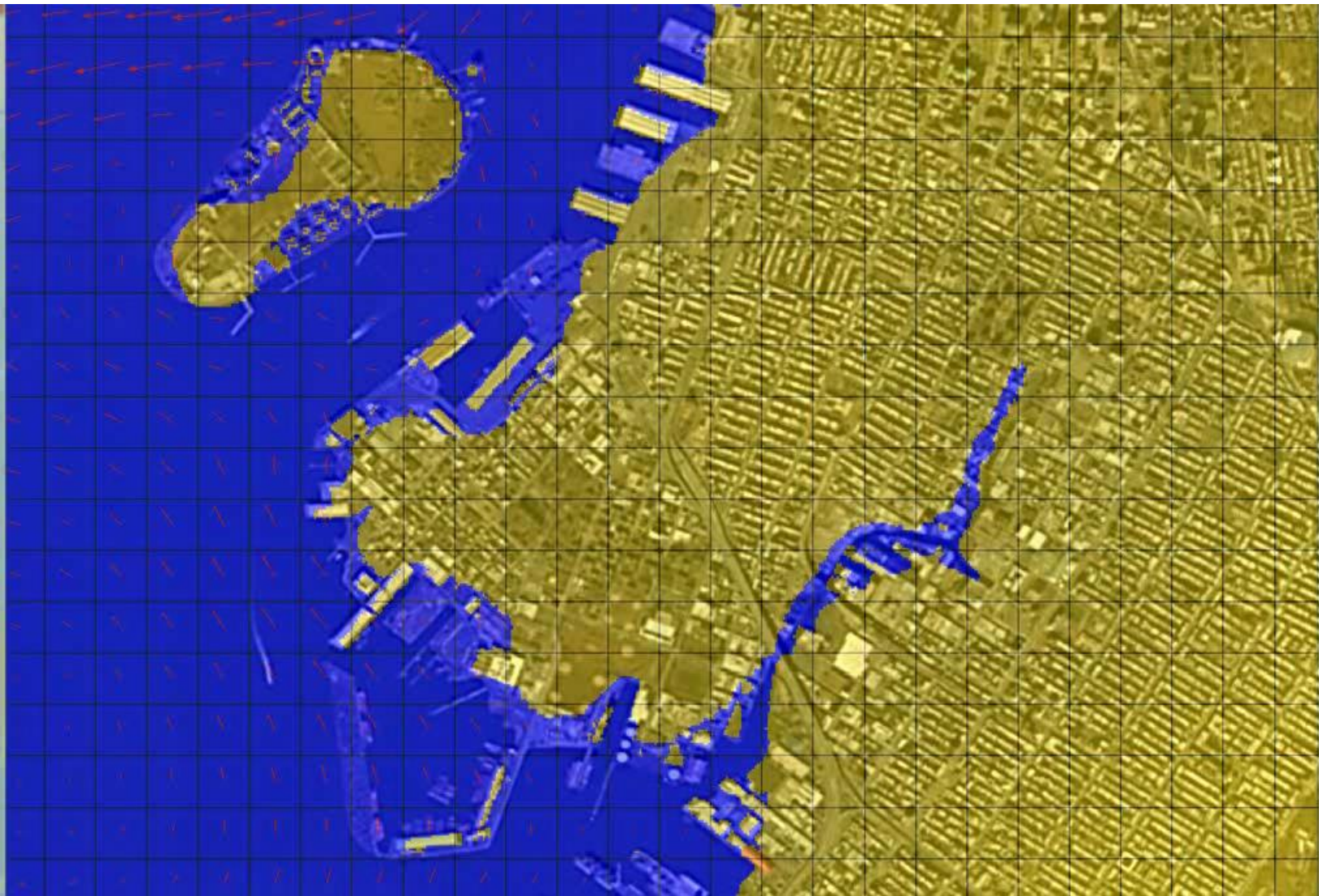
Min	▲	Max	▲
0.00	▼	3.14	▼

0.0000  
0.7845  
1.5690  
2.3534  
3.1379









Run UnTRIM<sup>2</sup>  
Time= 2:00:00

Elevation	Zoom	▲
	8.0	▼
Velocity	Velo.sc	▲
	4.00	▼
Reset	Grid	
Define section	Vert.sc	▲
	1.00	▼
Insert particle	Layer	▲
	1	▼
Refresh	Subgrid	
W-velocity	Specie	▲
	0	▼

<< < o > >>

Min	▲	Max	▲
0.00	▼	3.14	▼

0.0000  
0.7845  
1.5690  
2.3534  
3.1379





# III. Model results comparison with USGS Hurricane Sandy Mapper

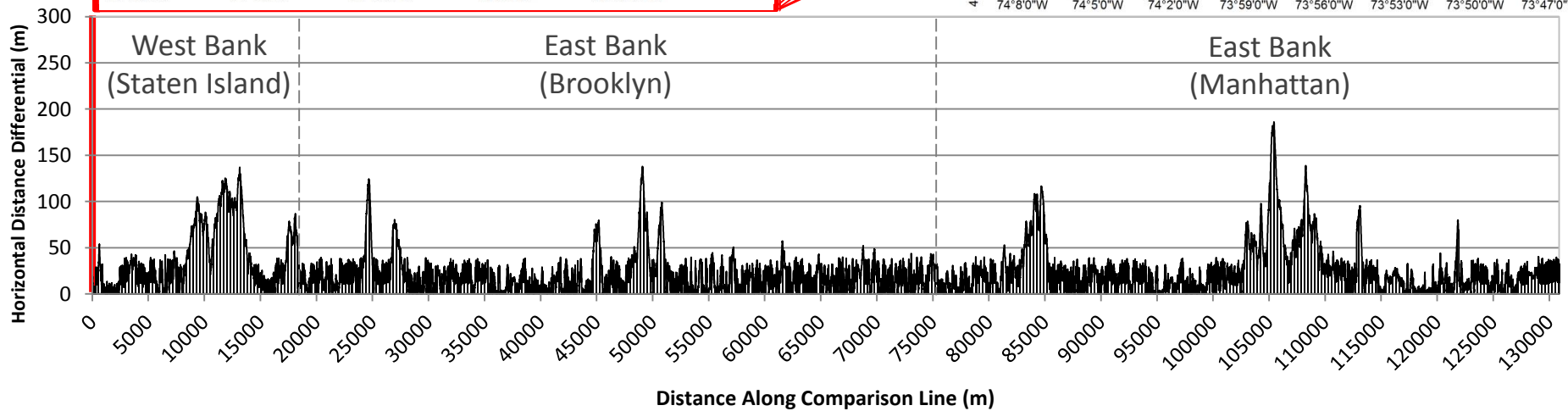
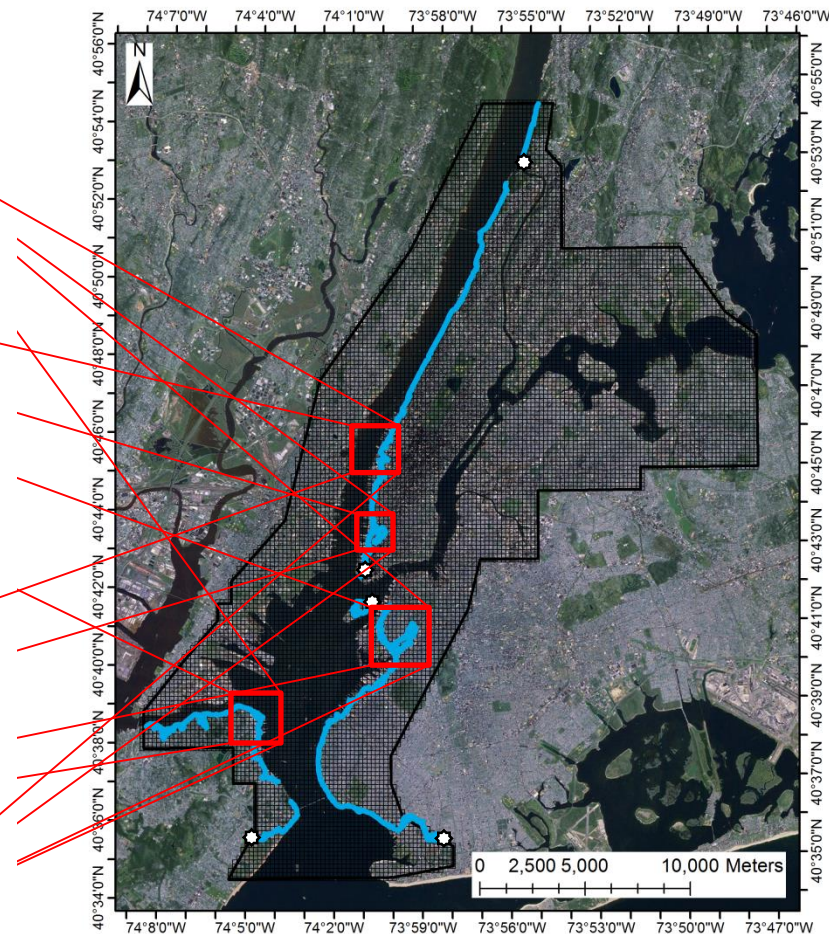
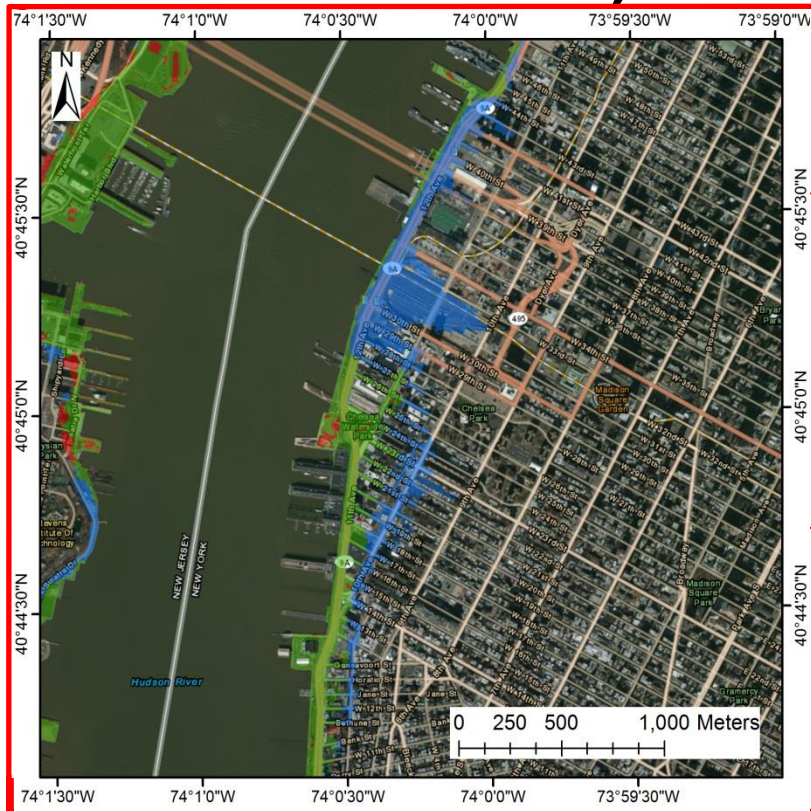
(<http://54.243.149.253/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=c07fae08c20c4117bdb8e92e3239837e>)

New York City Inundation comparison method:

1. Distance comparison
2. Area comparison

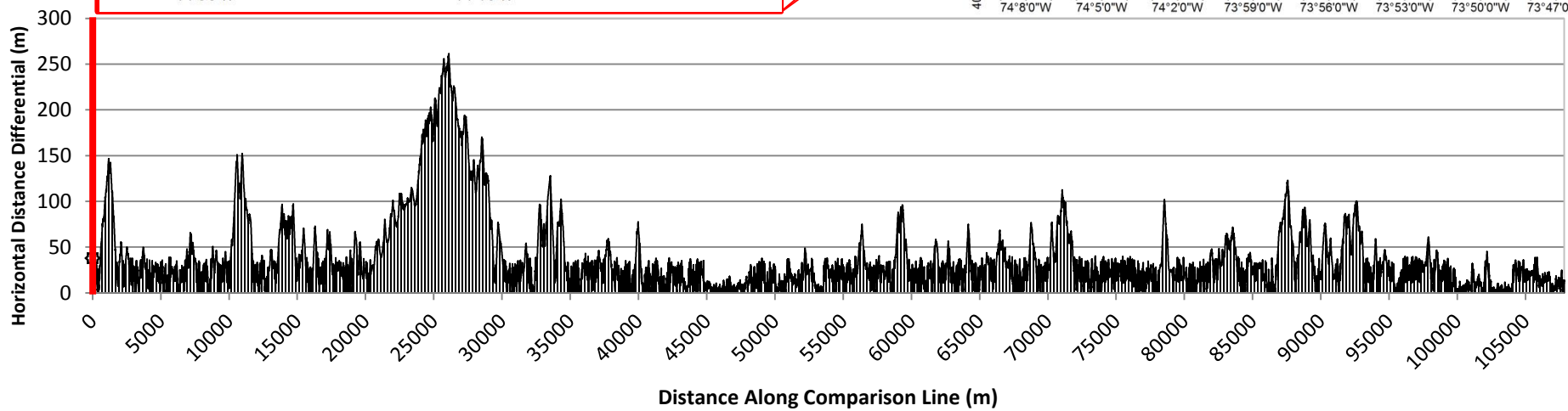
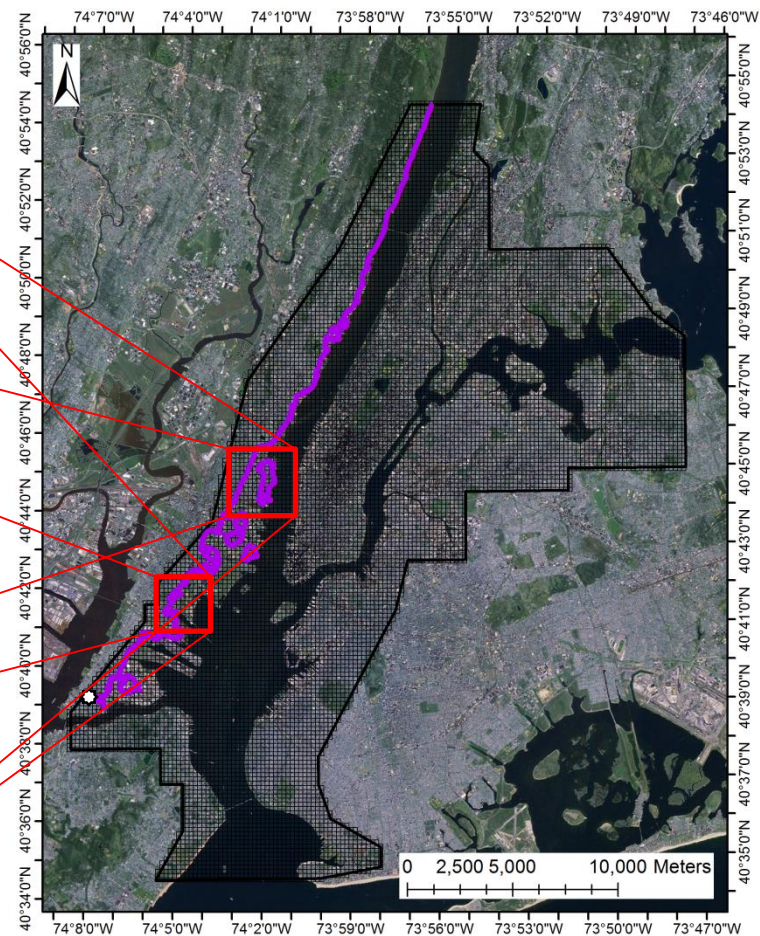
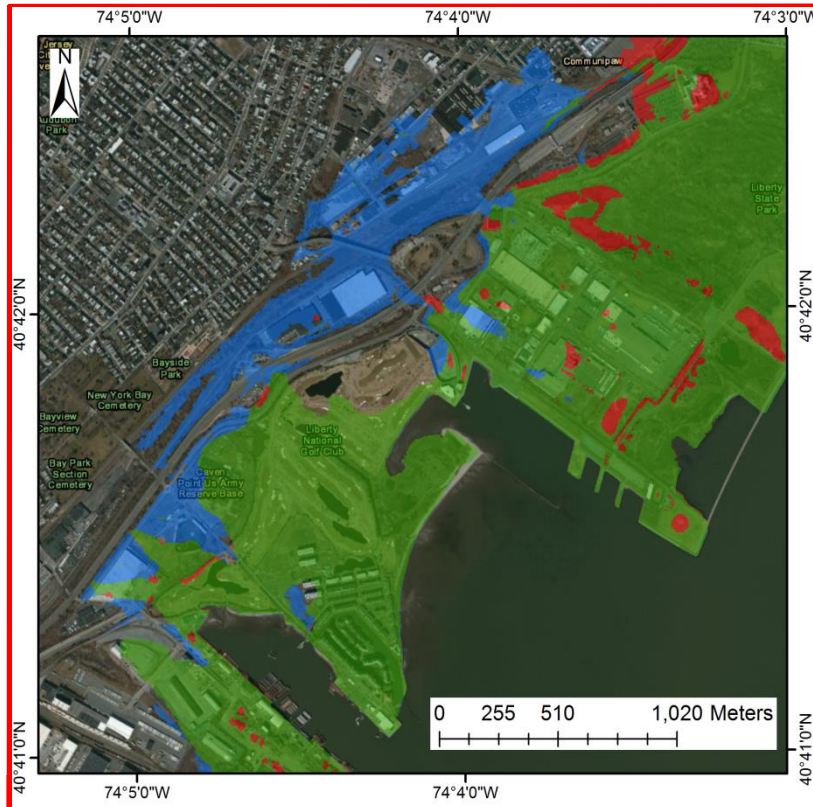


# Hudson River, NY



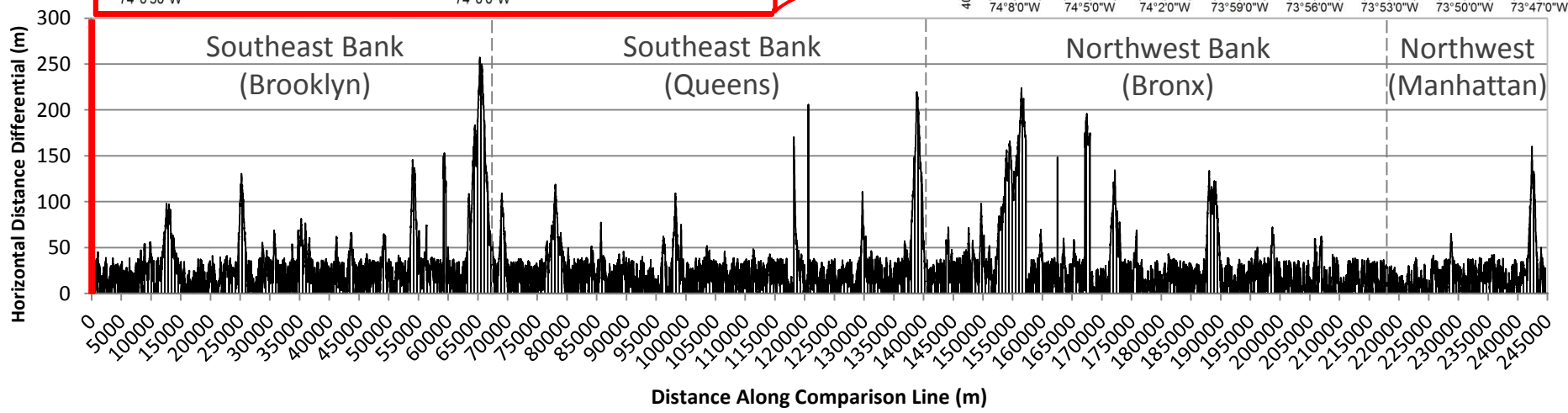
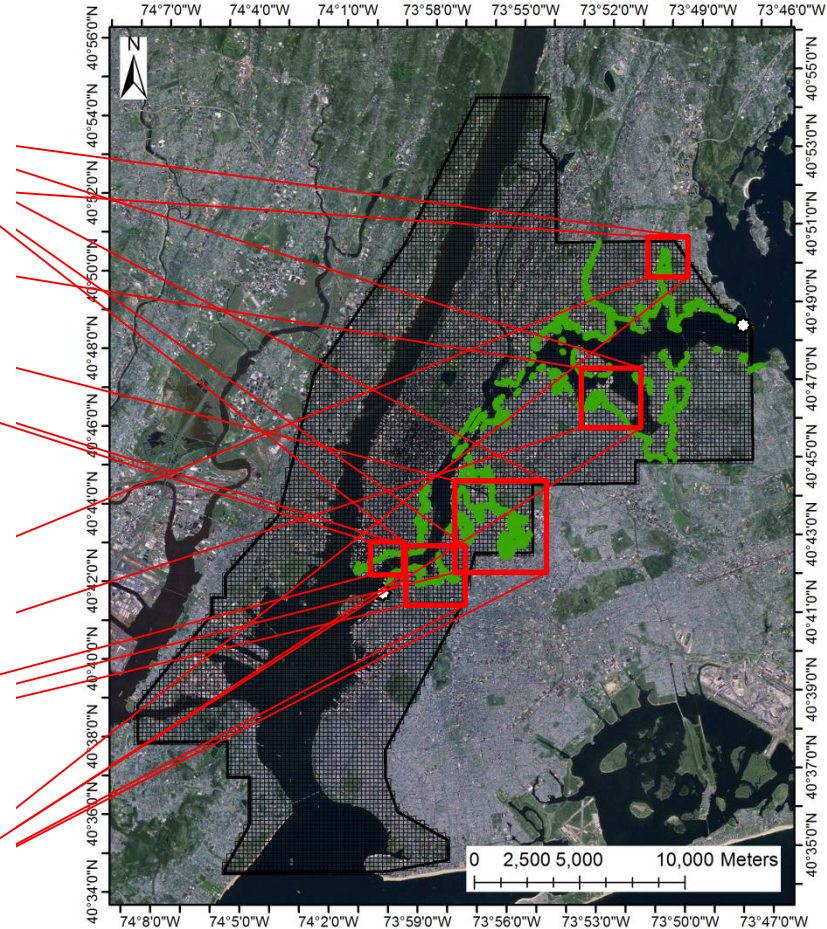
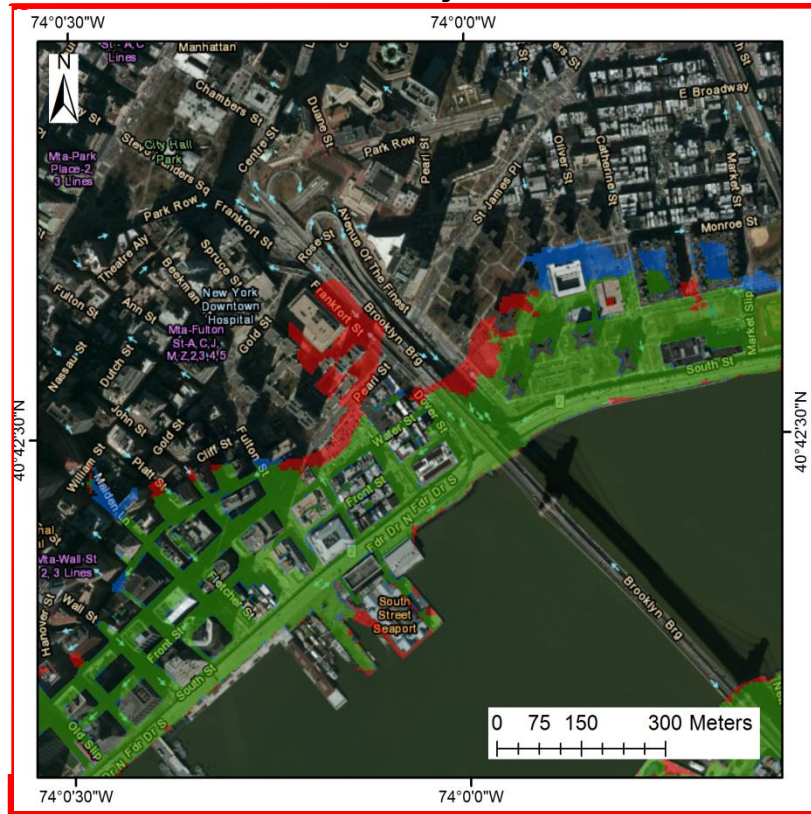


# Hudson River, NJ



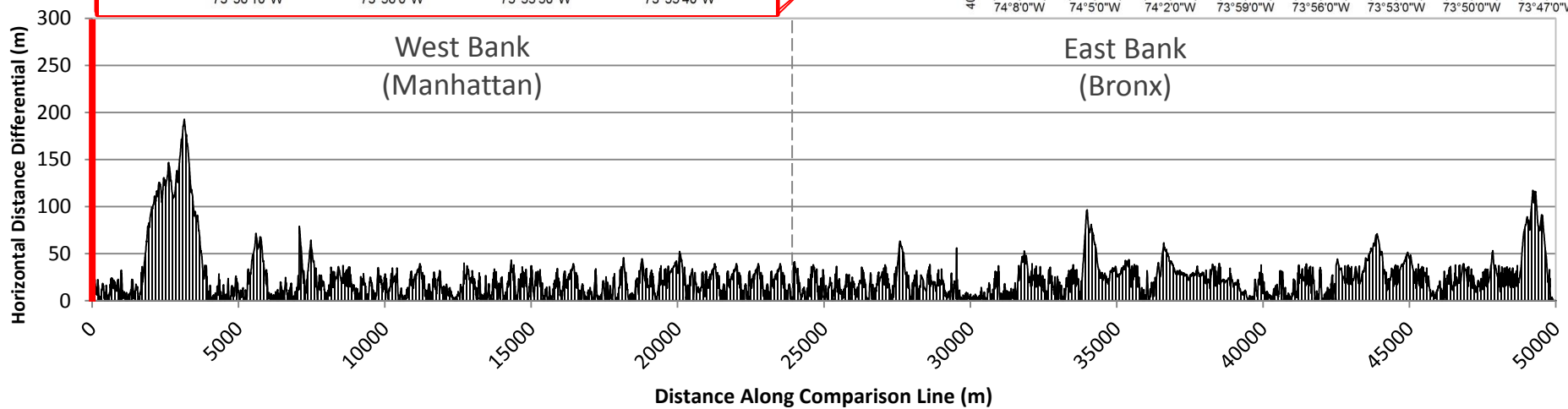
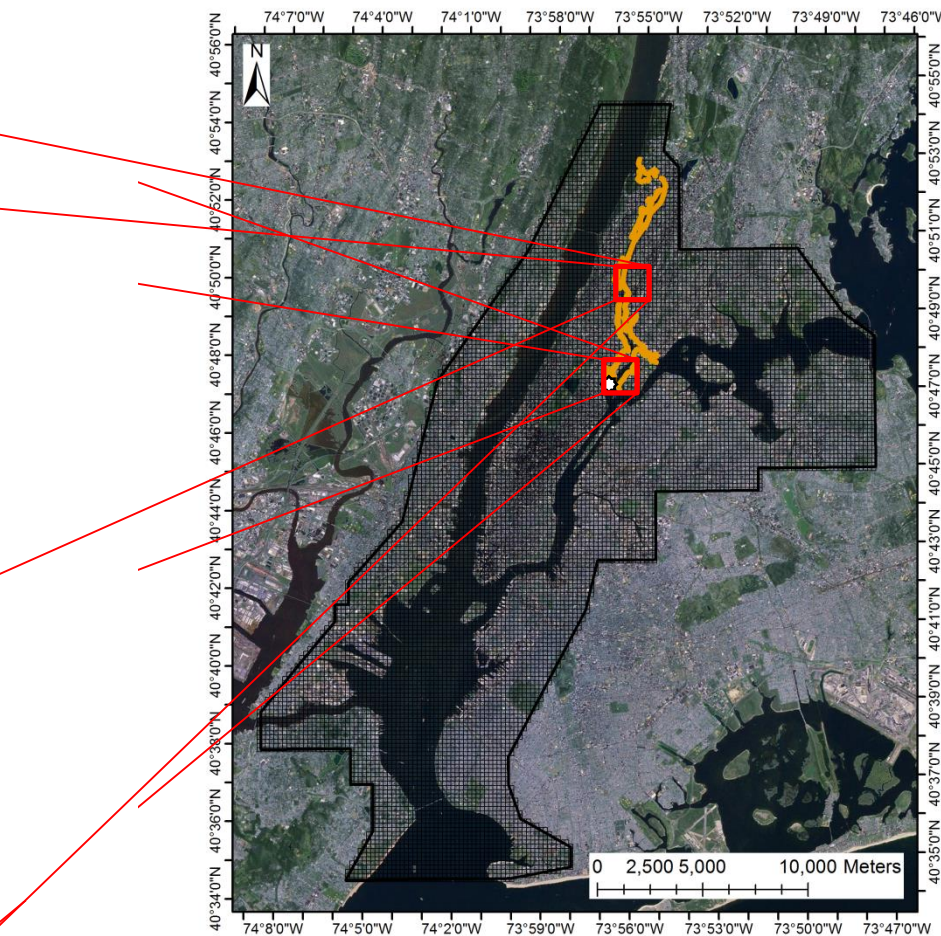
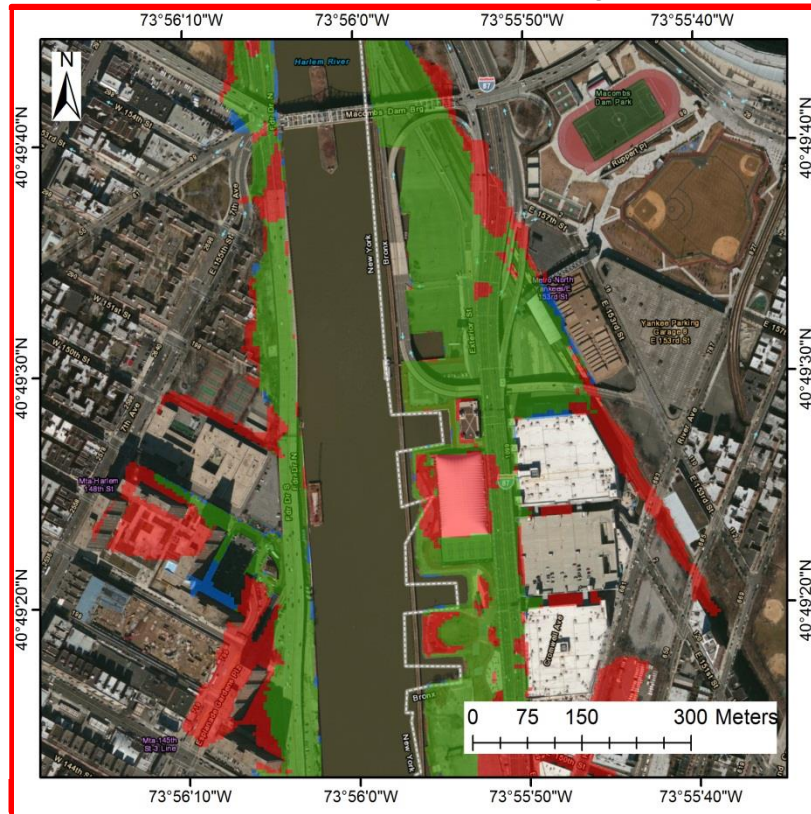


# East River, NY





# Harlem River, NY



# Distances with 40m Max Difference Adjustment

Survey Region	# of Points	Abs. Mean Dist.	(Diff.)	Std. Deviation	(Diff.)
<b>New York</b>					
East River NY	47,283	19.907	26.9	12.984	45.3
Harlem River NY	9,673	18.616	25.6	12.564	44.1
Hudson River NY	21,492	16.484	12.4	9.840	17.2
<i>All New York</i>	78,448	18.336	21.6	11.796	35.5
<b>New Jersey</b>					
Hudson River NJ	16,396	24.079	12.8	13.048	17.3
<i>All New Jersey</i>	16,396	24.079	12.8	13.048	17.3
<i>All Hudson River</i>	37,888	20.281	12.6	11.444	17.3
<i>Total Across Domain</i>	94,844	21.207	17.2	12.422	26.4

(Diff.) is the difference from original distance calculation.

***\*The sub-grid model prediction of flood extent is within 1/2 of a foot fall field accuracy, when comparing with observation conducted by USGS.***



# 2. Area Comparison

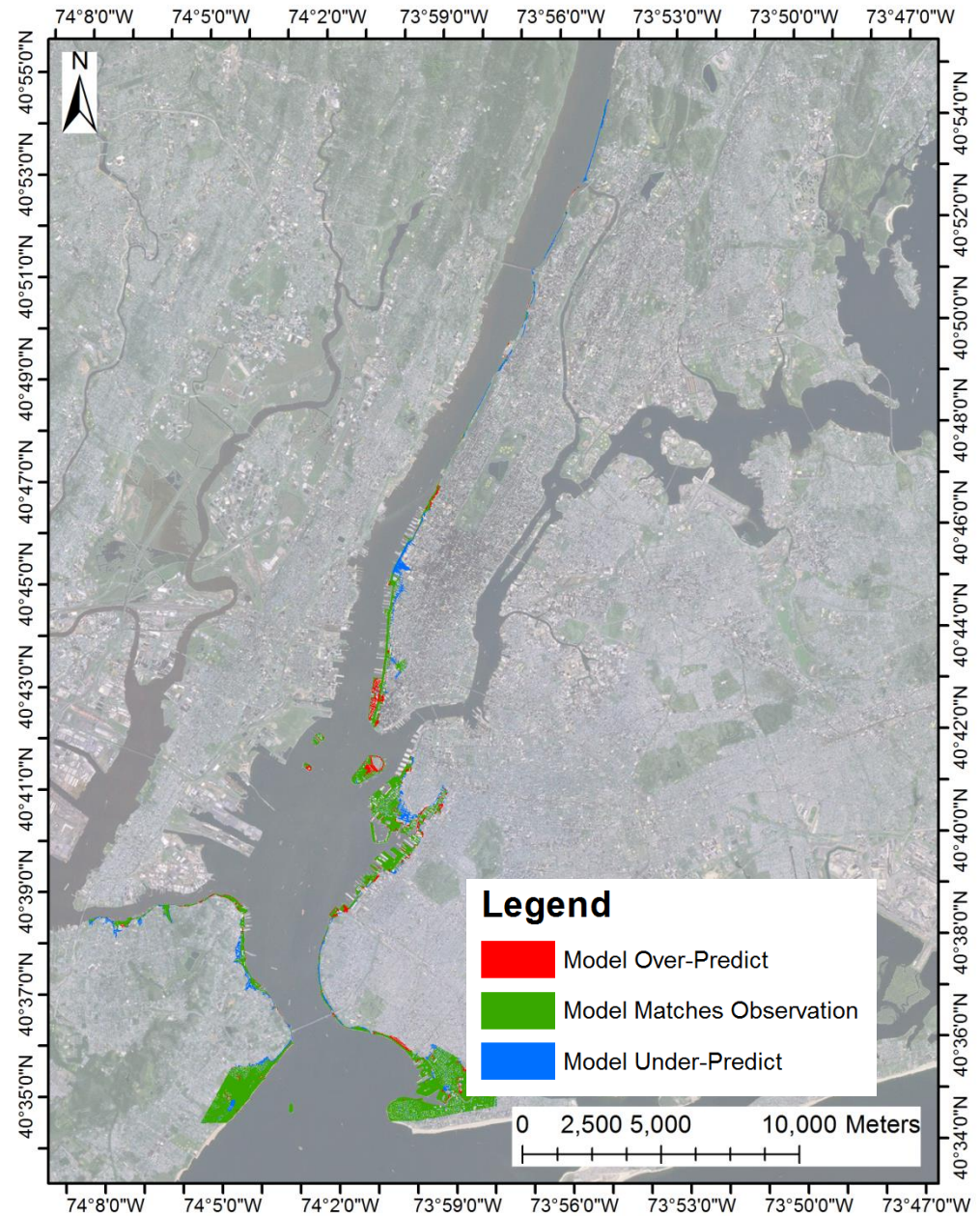
## (a) Hudson River, NY

Survey Region	Hudson River NY
<b>Over-Predict</b> (%)	1,234,304 7.44
<b>Match</b> (%)	13,076,031 78.80
<b>Under-Predict</b> (%)	2,283,797 13.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,594,132</b>

(b) Hudson River, NJ

(c) East River, NY

(d) Harlem River, NY





# Areas After 40m Max Difference Adjustment

Survey Region	Match	(%)	Under-Predict	(%)	Over-Predict	(%)	Total
<b>New York</b>							
East River NY	14,180,524	83.55	1,245,757	7.34	1,545,862	9.11	16,972,143
Harlem River NY	4,457,765	83.14	383,500	7.15	520,177	9.70	5,361,442
Hudson River NY	13,076,031	88.04	1,073,436	7.23	703,736	4.74	14,853,203
<i>All New York</i>	31,714,320	85.28	2,702,693	7.27	2,769,775	7.45	37,186,788
<b>New Jersey</b>							
Hudson River NJ	17,539,367	84.95	1,499,683	7.26	1,606,951	7.78	20,646,001
<i>All New Jersey</i>	17,539,367	84.95	1,499,683	7.26	1,606,951	7.78	20,646,001
<i>All Hudson River</i>	30,615,398	86.24	2,573,119	7.25	2,310,687	6.51	35,499,204
<i>Total Across Domain</i>	49,253,687	85.17	4,202,376	7.27	4,376,726	7.57	57,832,789

***\*Area-wise, the sub-grid model prediction of flood extent covers 85% of the area, when comparing with the observation conducted by USGS.***

# 3D Animations



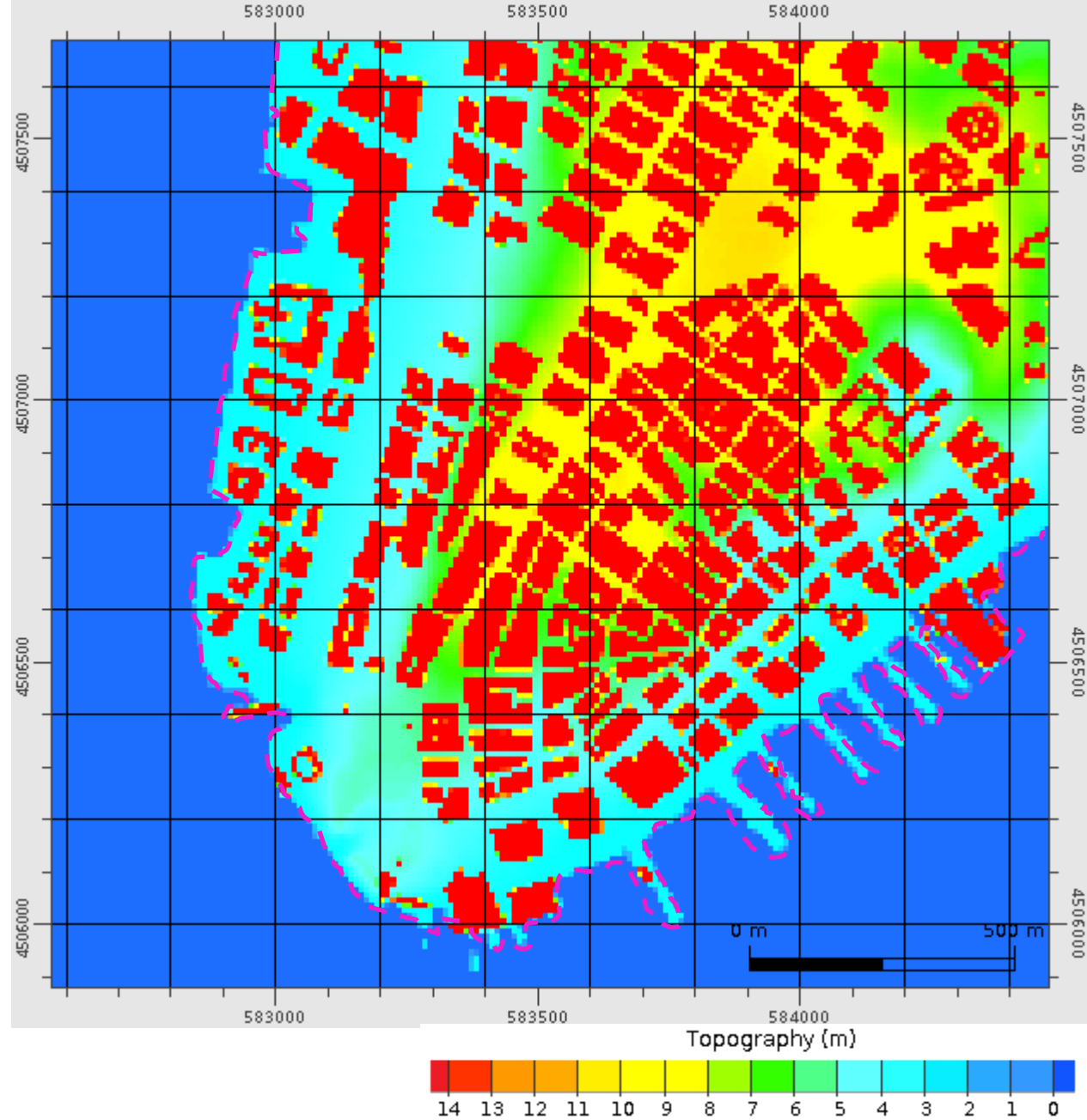
# Sensitivity Test With and Without Sub-Grid Refinement



# Grid Resolution

## 200m Base Grid

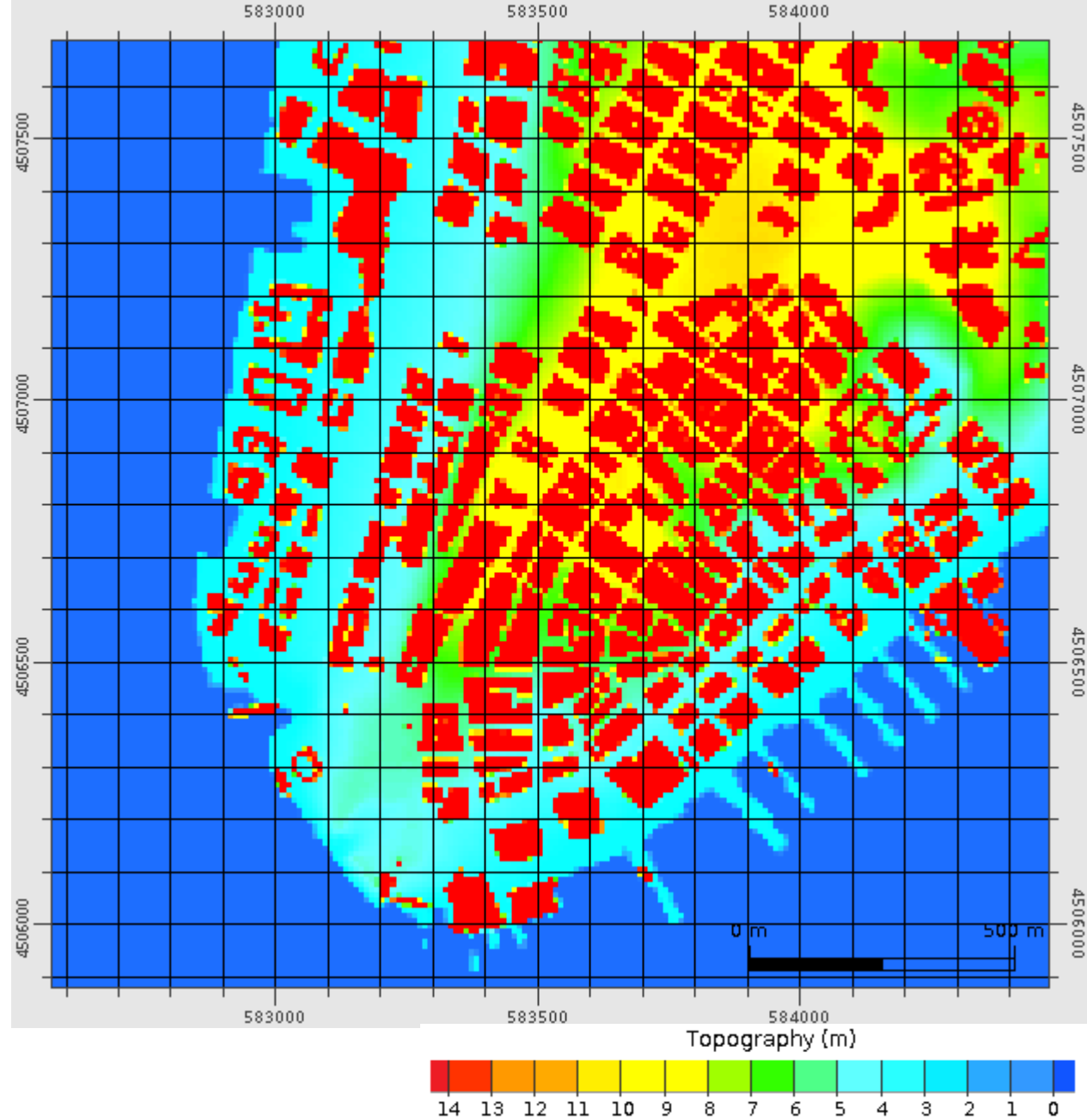
### 5m Sub-Grid



# Grid Resolution

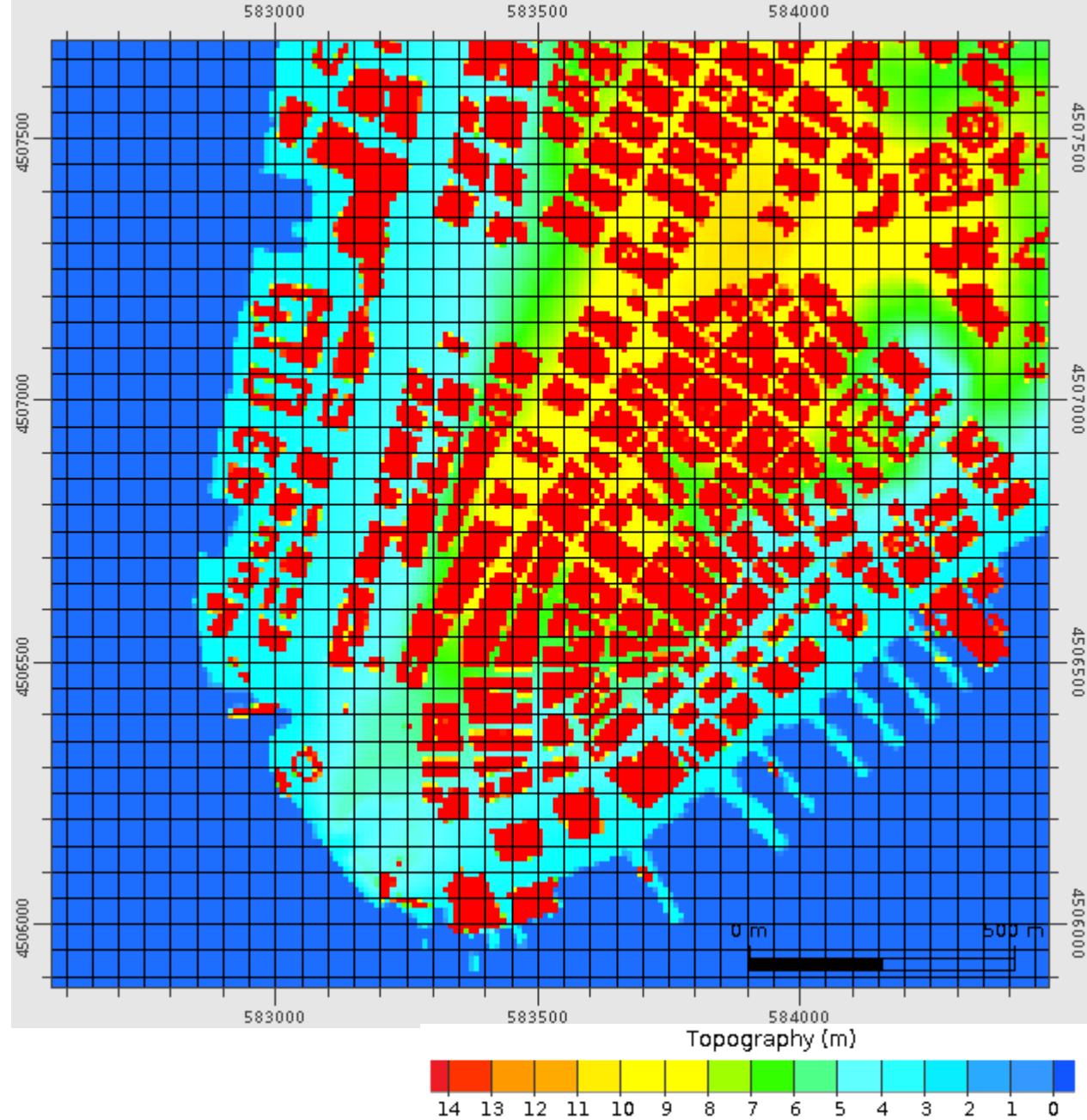
## 100m Base Grid

### 5m Sub-Grid



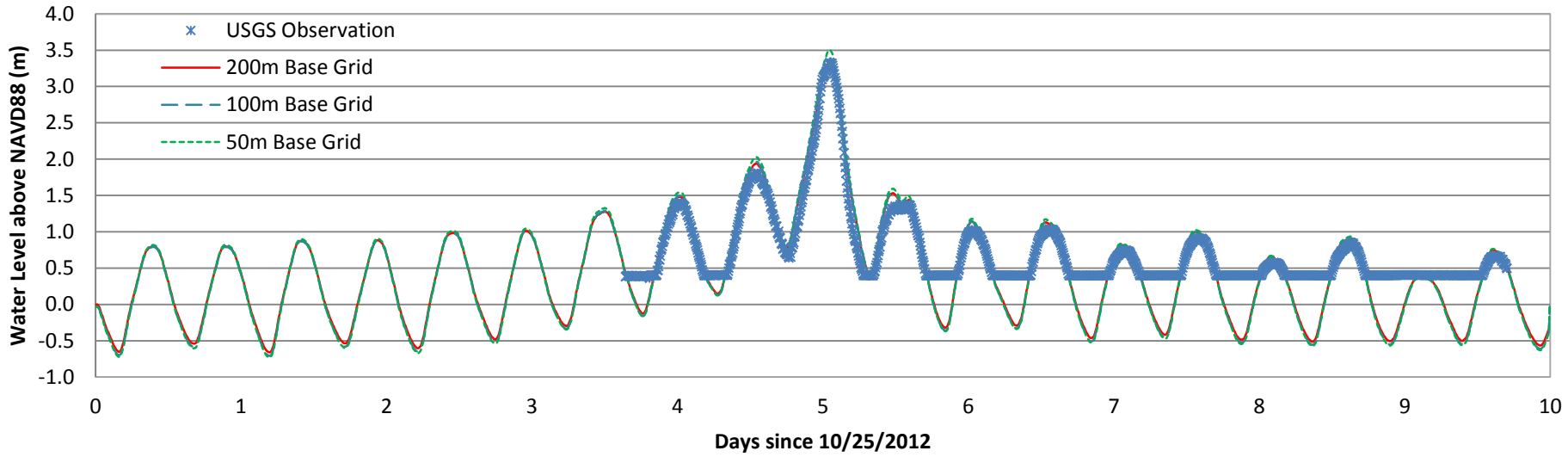
# Grid Resolution

50m Base Grid  
5m Sub-Grid

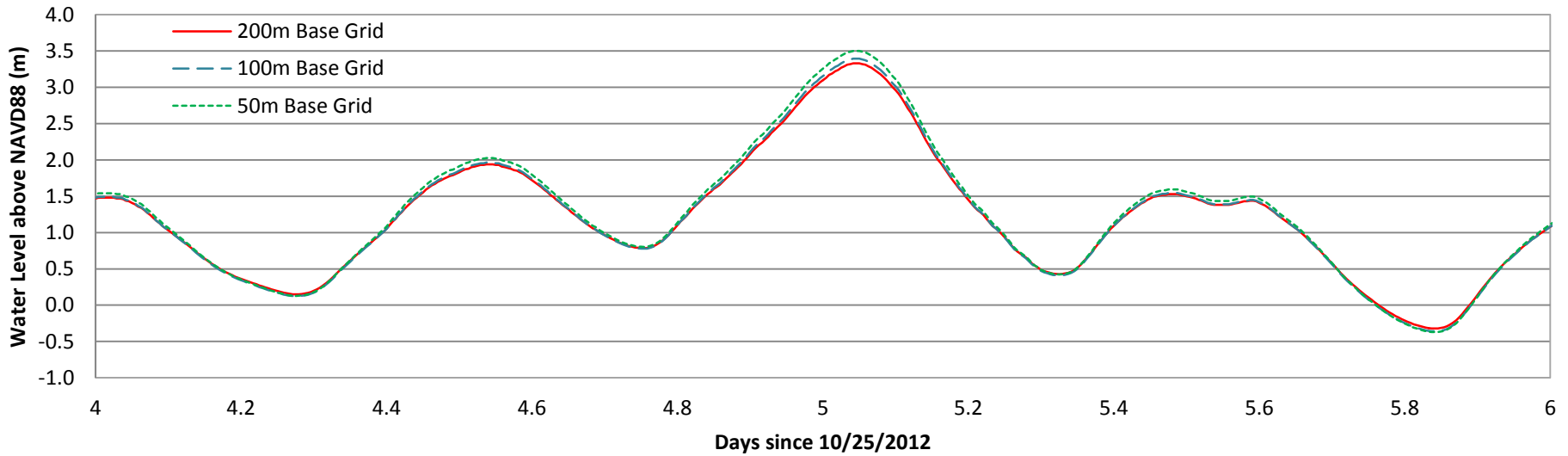


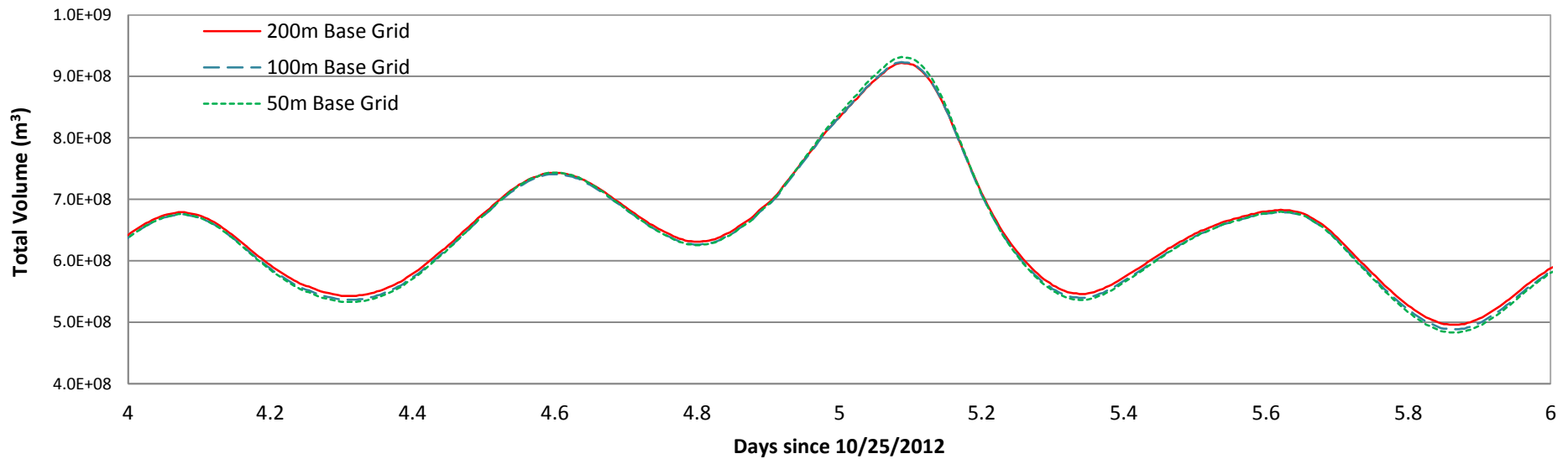
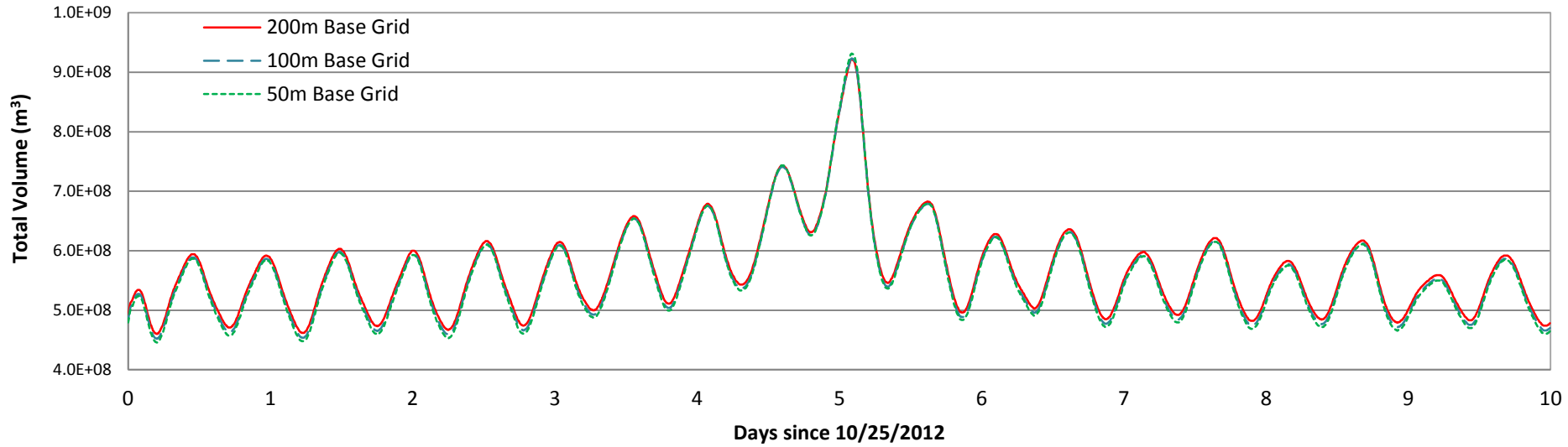


# SSS-NY-KIN-003WL



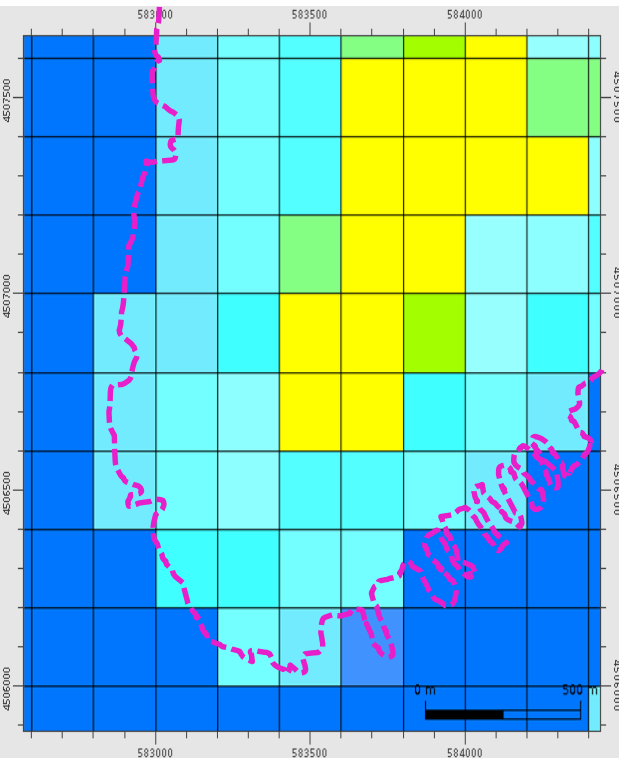
# SSS-NY-KIN-003WL



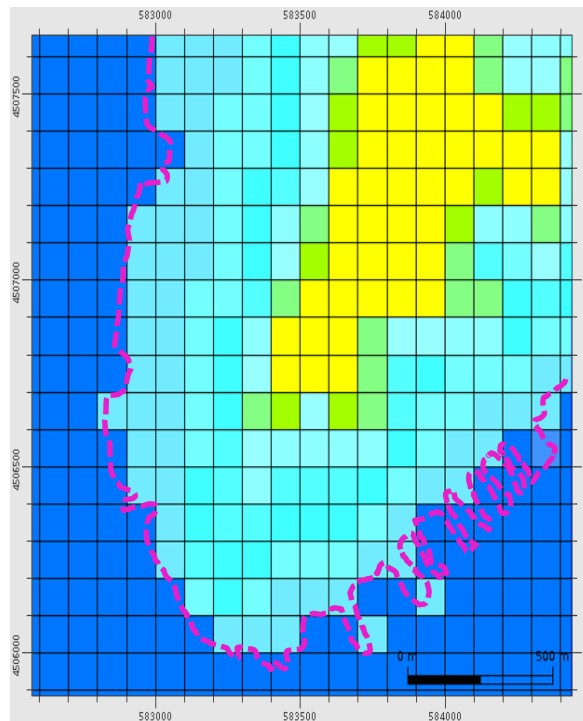


# Without Sub-Grid Refinement

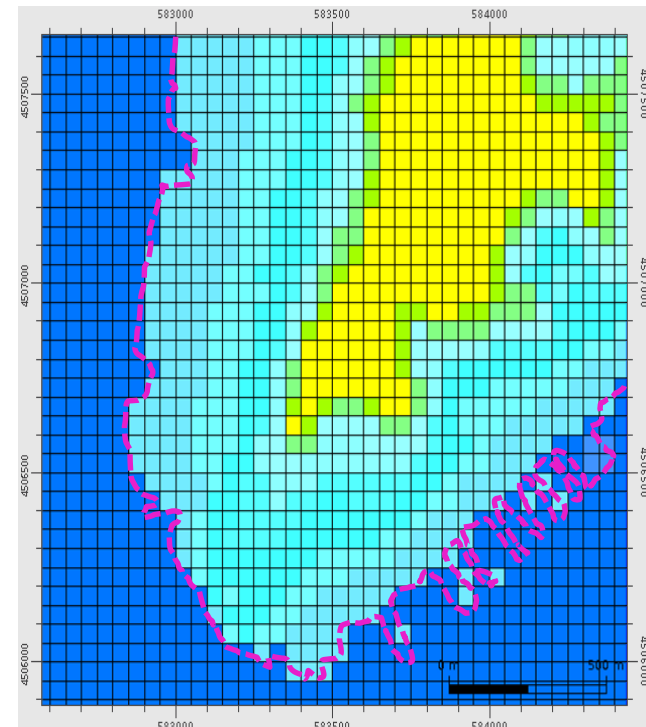
200 m base grid



100 m base grid



50 m base grid



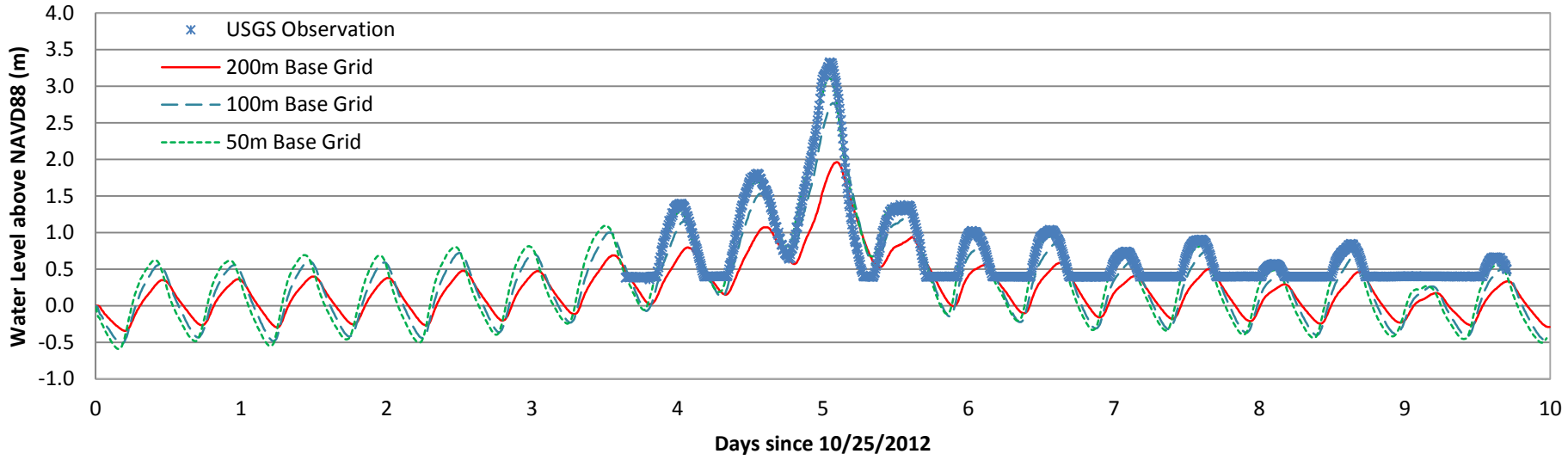
Topography (m)



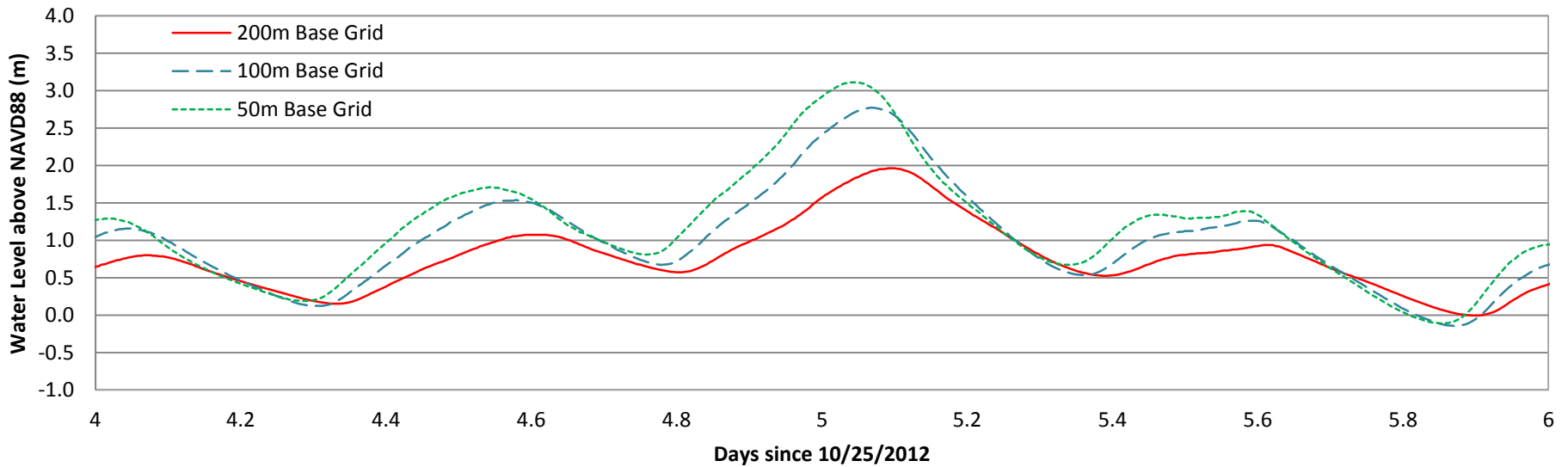
Shoreline 

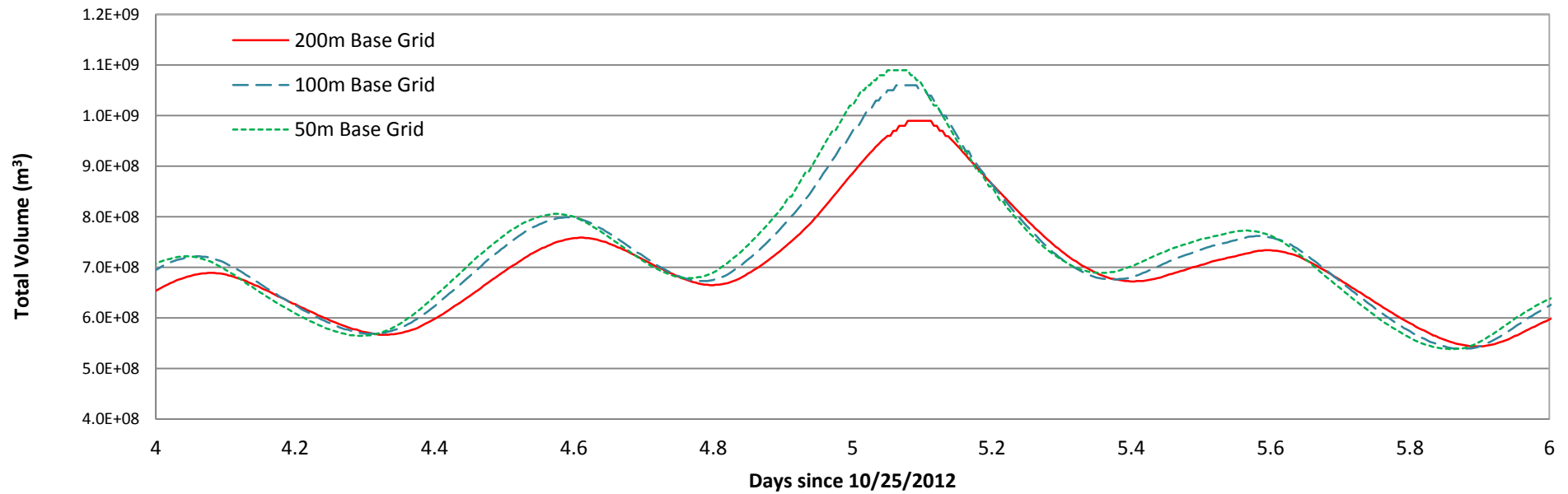
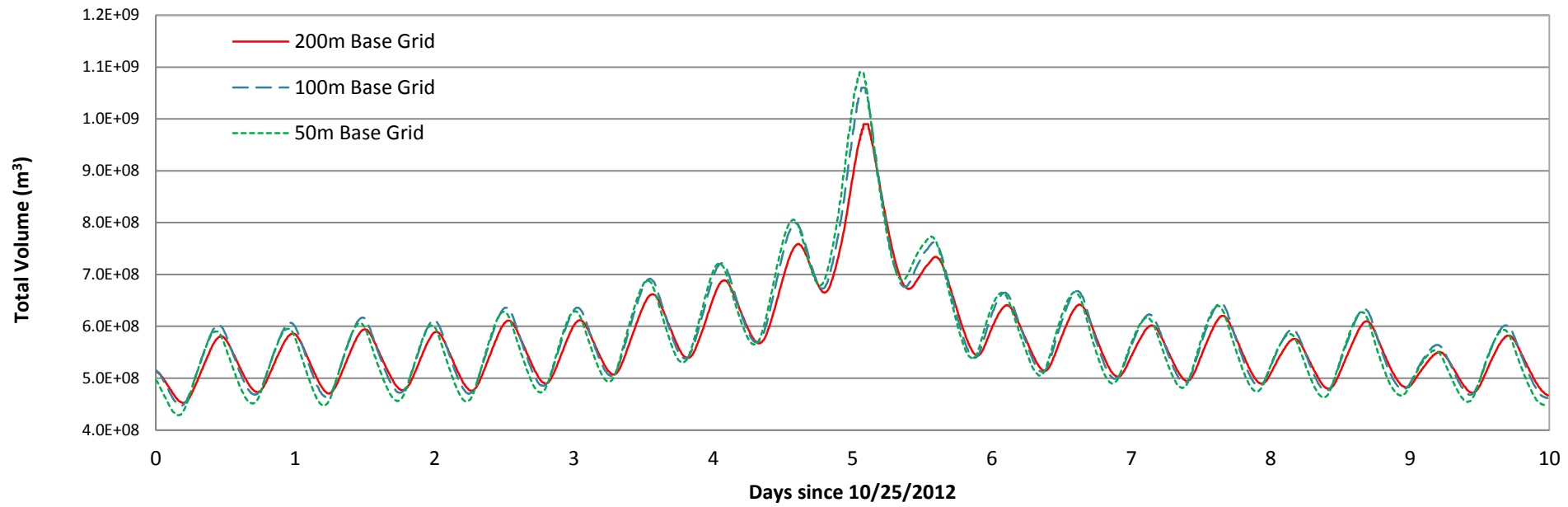


# SSS-NY-KIN-003WL



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# Recent relevant publications:

1. Harry Wang, J. D. Loftis, Z. Liu, D. Forrest and J. Zhang (2014): "The storm surge and sub-grid inundation modeling in New York City during Hurricane Sandy". *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*, p 226-246, doi:10.3390/jmse201062.
2. Loftis, J.D., Wang, H.V., Hamilton, S.E., and Forrest, D.R. (2014). Combination of Lidar Elevations, Bathymetric Data, and Urban Infrastructure in a Sub-Grid Model for Predicting Inundation in New York City during Hurricane Sandy. *Computers, Environment, and Urban Systems*. (Submitted)  
[http://www.vims.edu/people/loftis\\_jd/storm\\_surge2/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/people/loftis_jd/storm_surge2/index.php)
3. Loftis, J.D., Wang, H.V., DeYoung, R.J., and Ball, W.B. (2014). Integrating Lidar Data into a High-Resolution Topo-bathymetric DEM for Use with Sub-Grid Inundation Modeling at Langley Research Center. *Journal of Coastal Research, Special Issue*. (In Review)  
[http://www.vims.edu/people/loftis\\_jd/storm\\_surge2/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/people/loftis_jd/storm_surge2/index.php)
4. Roland, Aron, Yinglong. Zhang, Harry. V. Wang, Yanqiu Meng, Yi-cheng Teng, Vladimir Maderich, Igor Brovchenko, Mathieu Dutour-Sikirice and Ulrich Zanke (2012): "A fully coupled 3D wave-current interaction model on unstructured grids". *JGR – Oceans*, Vol. 117, C00J33, doi:10.1029/2012JC007952
5. Kyoung-Ho Cho, Harry Wang Jian Shen, Arnaldo Valle-Levinson and Yi-cheng Teng (2012): "A modeling study on the response of the Chesapeake Bay to Hurricane Events of Floyd and Isabel" *Ocean Modeling*, Vol. 49-50, p22-46.

## A fully coupled 3D wave-current interaction model on unstructured grids

Aron Roland,<sup>1</sup> Yinglong J. Zhang,<sup>2,4</sup> Harry V. Wang,<sup>3</sup> Yanqiu Meng,<sup>3</sup> Yi-Cheng Teng,<sup>3</sup> Vladimir Maderich,<sup>5</sup> Igor Brovchenko,<sup>5</sup> Mathieu Dutour-Sikiric,<sup>6</sup> and Ulrich Zanke<sup>1</sup>

Received 31 January 2012; revised 13 August 2012; accepted 21 August 2012; published 29 September 2012.

[1] We present a new modeling system for wave-current interaction based on unstructured grids and thus suitable for very large-scale high-resolution multiscale studies. The coupling between the 3D current model (SELFE) and the 3rd generation spectral wave model (WWM-II) is done at the source code level and the two models share same sub-domains in the parallel MPI implementation in order to ensure parallel efficiency and avoid interpolation. We demonstrate the accuracy, efficiency, stability and robustness of the coupled SELFE-WWM-II model with a suite of progressively challenging benchmarks with analytical solution, laboratory data, and field data. The coupled model is shown to be able to capture important physics of the wave-current interaction under very different scales and environmental conditions with excellent convergence properties even in complicated test cases. The challenges in simulating the 3D wave-induced effects are highlighted as well, where more research is warranted.

Ocean Modelling 85 (2015) 16–31



## A new vertical coordinate system for a 3D unstructured-grid model

Yinglong J. Zhang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Eli Ateljevich<sup>b</sup>, Hao-Cheng Yu<sup>d</sup>, Chin H. Wu<sup>c</sup>, Jason C.S. Yu<sup>d</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> California Department of Water Resource, 1416 Ninth St, Room 215-4, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA

<sup>c</sup> College of Engineering, Department Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1415 Engineering Dr, Madison, WI 53706, USA

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Taiwan

### ABSTRACT

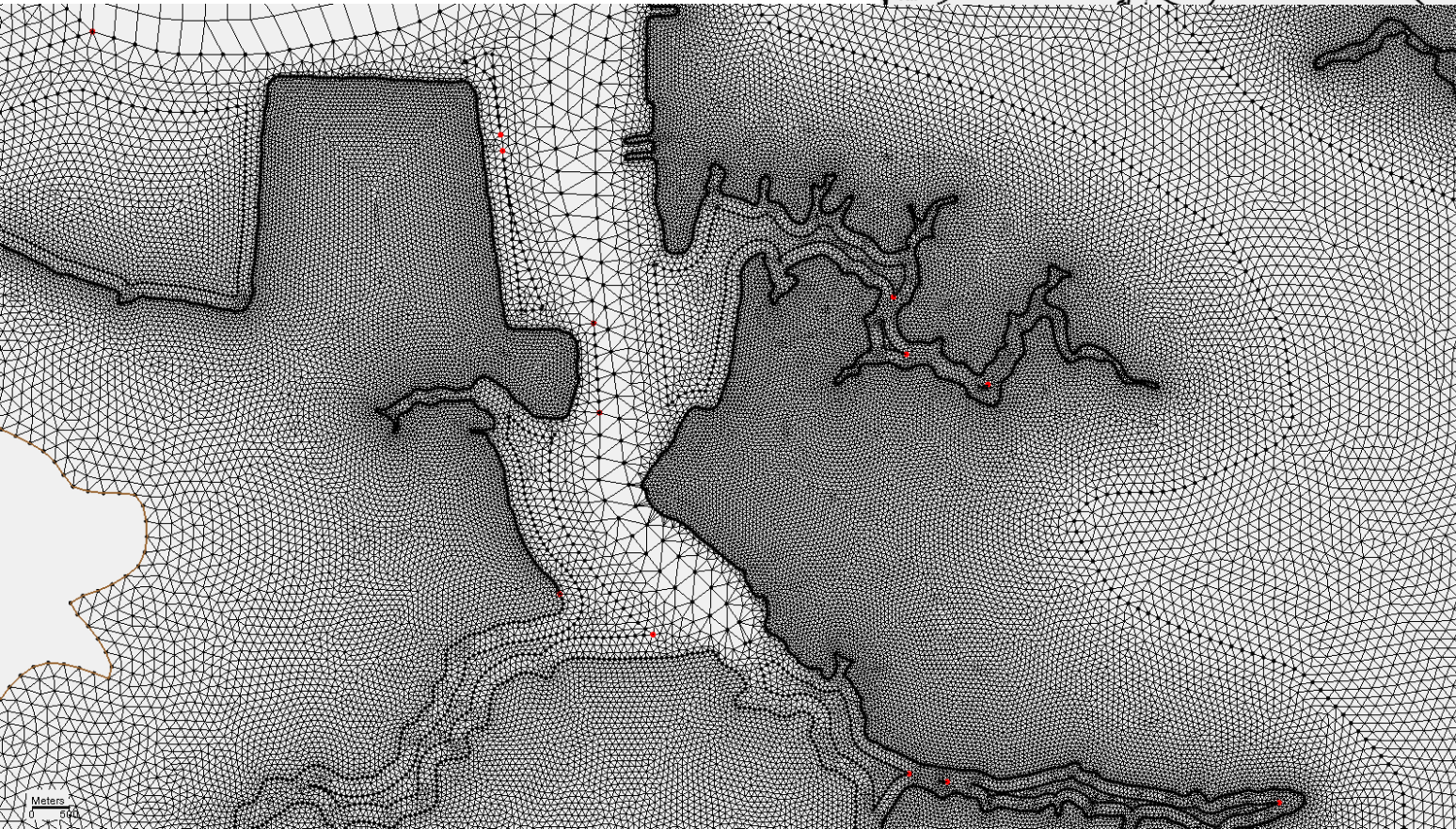
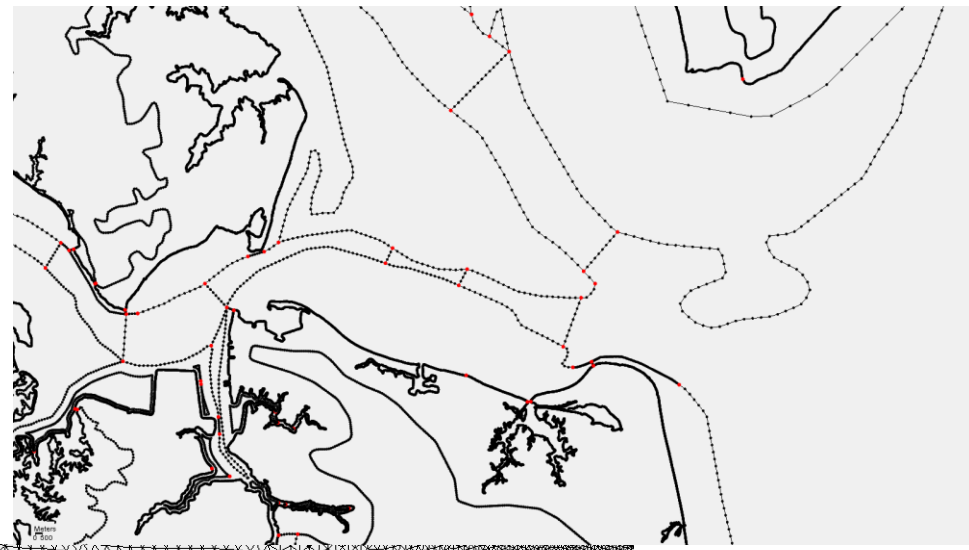
We present a new vertical coordinate system for cross-scale applications. Dubbed LSC<sup>2</sup> (Localized Sigma Coordinates with Shaved Cell), the new system allows each node of the grid to have its own vertical grid, while still maintaining reasonable smoothness across horizontal and vertical dimensions. Furthermore, the staircase created by the mismatch of vertical levels at adjacent nodes is eliminated with a simple shaved-cell like approach using the concept of degenerate prisms. The new system is demonstrated to have the benefits of both terrain-following and Z-coordinate systems, while minimizing their adverse effects. We implement LSC<sup>2</sup> in a 3D unstructured-grid model (SELFE) and demonstrate its superior performance with test cases on lake and ocean stratification.

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# SCHISM's new features:

1. SCHISM's mixed quadrilateral and triangular grids allows for resolving ship channel and detail features such as major piers, Lafayette River, East Branch, West Branch, and southern Branch.

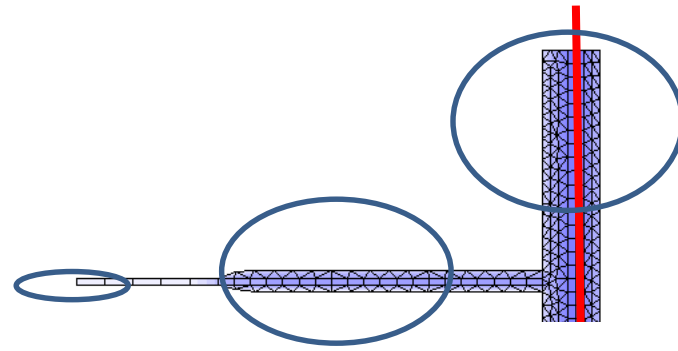


Using SMS to divide ship channels, embayment, overland before generating the model grid

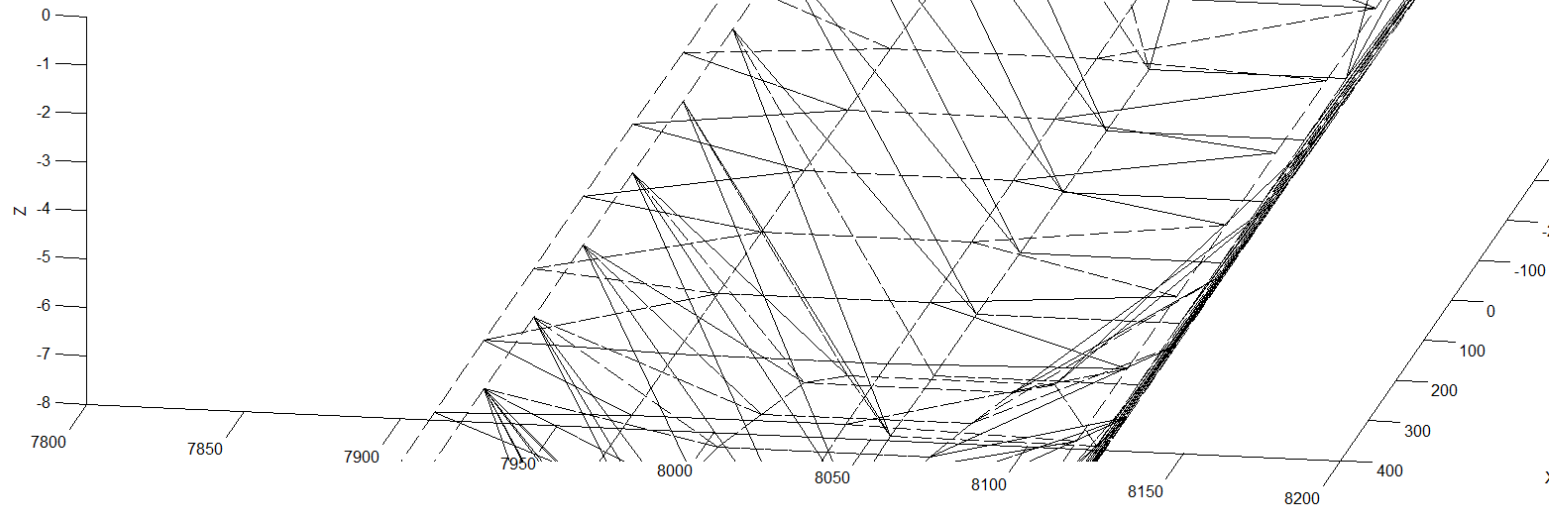
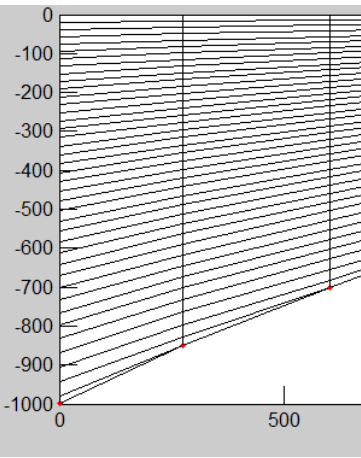
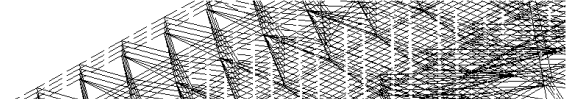
*Ocean Modelling 85 (2015) 16-31*

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Hao-Cheng Yu , Chin H. Wu, Jason  
C.S. Yu

2. A cross-scale model grid, allowing 3D degenerate to 2D, 1D, to simulate from Rivers to the Ocean



Bathymetry (m)





### 3. Addressing precipitation and infiltration

## Integrating Lidar Data into a High-Resolution Topobathymetric DEM for Use with Sub-Grid Inundation Modeling at Langley Research Center

Jon Derek Loftis <sup>†</sup>, Harry V. Wang <sup>†</sup>, Russell J. DeYoung <sup>‡</sup>, and William B. Ball <sup>§</sup>



www.jcronline.org

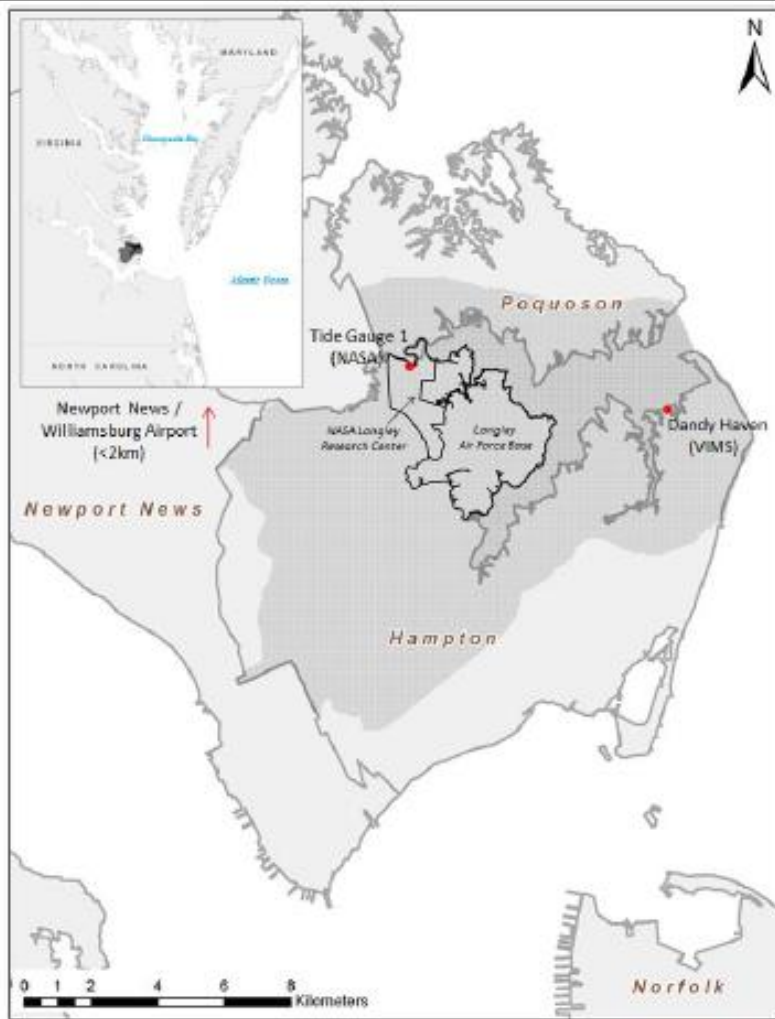


Figure 1. Study area showing 50m resolution model grid (in grey) aligned with the Back River watershed with two tide gauges in red.

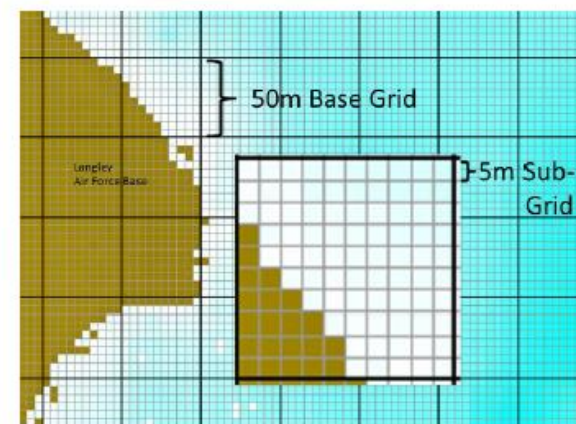


Figure 2. Model grid structure depicting a 50m base grid with a 10x10 nested 5m sub-grid showing the northeast tip of Langley Air Force Base with partially wet (blue) and partially dry (brown) grid cells.

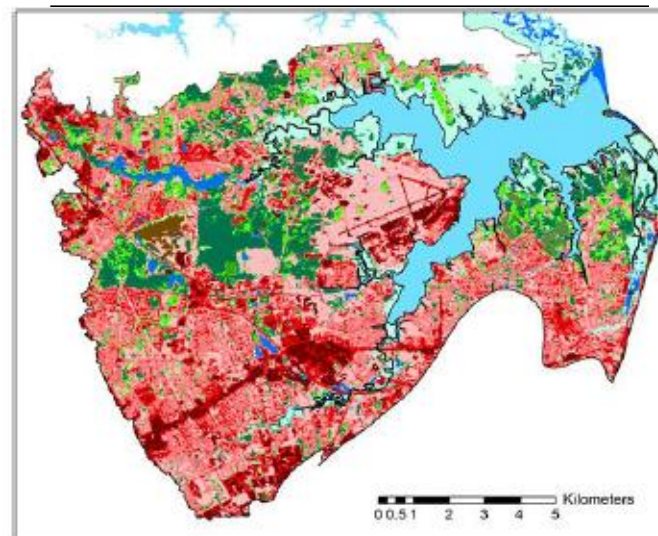


Figure B. Land use map for precipitation and infiltration calculation



## Operational Benchmark and software support

- Large scale storm tide model of ~200 k nodes used in Hurricane Sandy takes CPU time 180 time of real time on a infiniband Dell cluster with 128 processors. The 5 days simulation finished within 40 minutes (without wind wave).
- Commercial usage can be supported by Amazon cloud computing
- In a small cases, can be run under Windows 8 – 16 cores.
- The inundation model is executed on a window 7, 64 bit, 16 cores, 24 GB Ram. It takes 2.5 hour to run 10 days simulation with graphic user interface. Without graphic user interface, it takes 45 minutes to finish.
- Software supported by SMS pre- and post- processing. ACE tool is free-ware. For 3D supported by VisIT visualization.
- SCHISM is a community model supported by national and international community including: California Department of Water Resources, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (Germany), Niedersächsischer Landesbetrieb für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz (Germany), The German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), Central Weather Bureau (Taiwan), National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (Portugal) and Tsinghua Univ. (China).

# Receiving award for conducting operational Forecast during Hurricane Irene



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

10009 General Mahone Highway  
Wakefield, Virginia 23888-2742

August 29, 2011

Dr. John Wells  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
P.O. Box 1346  
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

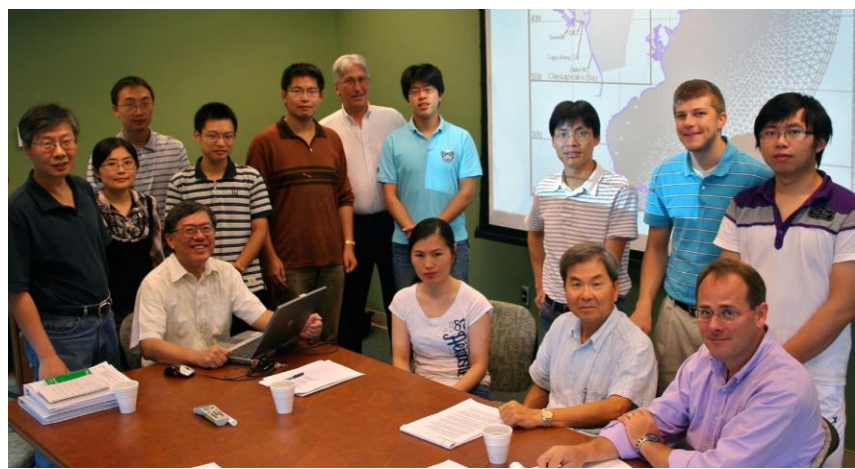
Dear Dr. Wells:

We at the National Weather Service would like to express our appreciation for all of the help and support provided by VIMS during Irene. Dr. Harry Wang contributed by producing 6 hourly runs of forecast storm surge. The details provided by his surge model enhanced the National Weather Service's ability to provide critical forecast surge information to emergency managers. These forecast were particularly useful when examining various bays and tributaries along the lower sections of the Chesapeake Bay. The COMET funded project with Dr. John Brubaker provided an excellent web site for use in observing real time water levels and forecasting location specific storm tide. The constant updating of the observations provided quick feedback allowing us to verify forecasts and monitor rapidly rising water levels as Irene approached. The comparison between the extratropical storm surge model and VIMS model with real time data provided quick feedback as to how forecasts were verifying compared to observational data.

It must be noted that these services were all provided without any funding highlighting VIMS's commitment to applying research into operations. The services directly contributed to improved forecasts and information for Virginia residents which had an impact on the protection of life and property. Thank you for all the hard work which helped to better serve the public.

Sincerely,

## VIMS ECM group won 2011 Governor's Innovative technology award



# Summary

1. Given recent advancement in the atmospheric modeling, VIMS have partnered with WeatherFlow to provides real-time large-scale meteorological forcing for driving the SCHISM/SELFE storm tide model.
2. The storm surge and tide model that covers the domain of entire US East Coast can be executed accurately, efficiently, reliably, with moderate computing resources, as demonstrated by the Hurricane Sandy simulation.
3. The large scale storm tide model is an unstructured finite element model with mixed quadrilateral and triangular grid and can be extended upstream from 3D, 2D to 1D for cross-scale modeling. It already couples with wind



wave model and can be coupled with rivers, small creeks and the sea level rise scenario in 3D manner

4. The high resolution, sub-grid model using nonlinear solver , which directly incorporating LIDAR data into model proved to be capable of simulating street-level inundation robustly and accurately to 30 m and 85% coverage, as demonstrated by Hurricane Sandy application.
5. Going forward, future enhancements include the effects of precipitation, infiltration, urban storm water drainage, and coupling with ODU's Gulf-stream-induced sea level rise scenario.