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Title: Study on Geophysical Survey for Optical Fiber Construction in the River-Sea Interactive Area-the Changjiang River Mouth as an Example

Abstract:

There are strong river flow and tidal current interactions in the Changjiang (Yangtze) River mouth area. The average annual run-off is 29.4×10^3 km³/a and average river water discharge is 925×10^9 m³/a, with average suspended sediment discharge (mainly fine sand and silt) of 486×10^6 t/a. It is affected by meso-tides, mostly irregular semidiurnal type, with the average high tidal level of 3.82m, and low tidal level of 1.86m. The river bed in the study region, at a curve section where the river changes to flow southeastward instead of eastwards in the river mouth area, is more than 9km wide, separated into two distinctive geomorphologic parts. The northeastern part occupied 1/3 of the river width, is the main deep river channel basically controlled by the river flow, with the water depth more than 20m, and the deepest part more than 50m. The middle and southwestern parts are normally dominated by tidal processes, consist of sand and silty sand composed shoals/islands with tidal channels (generally less than 3m depth), the shoals are ordinarily exposed during the ebb tidal period. So during the river flood period, the situation becomes more complex. So for the construction of optical fibers across the river, combined with the traditional surface and core sediment sampling, hydrographic monitoring and tidal level observation, the geophysical method has been applied to the pre-feasibility studies in order to provide the basic data for the route design. Side Scan Sonar and GeoPulse are used for the plane and vertical profile survey, with the help of high accuracy GPS and Echo Sounder. It is proved to be a useful and reasonable way for the rapid survey in the river mouth area, which is more complex comparing with the coastal beach because of not only the active river-sea interactive dynamic processes but also the changeable topography, even it still needs to be improved.

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