Welcome to the RACS (C) Marine I and RACS (A) Data Sets CD-ROM

Introduction

This CD-ROM (colloquially known as RACS I) contains the following data sets:

> Water column and benthic data from all the RACS RRS Challenger cruises (excluding underway ADCP data).
>
> Water column data from the RV Sea Vigil campaigns in the Humber, Ouse and Trent.
>
> Benthic data from the Humber intertidal mudflats (the Leeds work, not the LISP data set).
>
> Water column data from the RV Tamaris and RIB campaigns in the Tweed.
>
> Meteorological and estuarine data from the Humber Observatory.
>
> Digital Elevation Models from the Humber to the Wash and the Holderness coast.
>
> Beach profile surveys of the Holderness coast.
>
> The complete RACS (A) data set from Weybourne, MV Guardian and the Imperial College Jetstream aircraft.

Further information on these data sets, including the parameters measured and the time intervals covered is included in the RACS fieldwork description document in the Users' Guide. This may be accessed by opening the entry point file (MANUAL.PDF) in the root directory.

The major omission from this CD-ROM is the RACS (C) moored instrument data set that includes the POL Holderness Experiment moorings, the PML moorings off the Wash, the Humber and Tweed jetty moorings and the MAFF CAMELOT moorings. Much of these data are held by BODC, but require further work before they are ready for publication.

CD-ROM Directories

The directories on the CD-ROM and their contents are listed below:

BEACHSUR	Holderness coast beach profile survey ASCII files
DBJET	RACS (C) database in JET formats suitable for *Access 7.0, Access97* and *Access 2000/2002*
DBKIT	RACS (C) database ASCII 'kit-form' files
GEB_CON	Contour vector files used by the Underway Explorer program
HUMBOBS	Humber Observatory ASCII data files
MANUAL	Users' Guide PDF files
RACS_A	RACS (A) data set NASA Ames files
RACSDEM	Humber-Wash and Holderness DEM ASCII and JPEG data files
SWARE	Software installation files
UNDERWAY	Challenger underway binary data files
XMANUAL	*Acrobat* index files for the Users' Guide

From this, it may be seen that the CD-ROM contains a relational database, in *Access* and ASCII formats, the binary underway data set and four directories of simple ASCII data and JPEG image files.

Windows users have two pathways into the relational database: the Database Explorer software or the forms included within the *Access* database files. These deliver data in different formats. As a general rule, *Access* is better suited for reconnoitring the database and the Explorer Software is better suited for extracting subsets of the data from the database. Users of non-*Windows* platforms should either load the ASCII version of the data into their own relational database management system or work from the ASCII files in whatever way is found to be most convenient. Extensive documentation on the contents of these files and a compatible database structure is included in the Users' Guide.

The underway data set contains navigation, bathymetry, surface hydrography and meteorological data that were logged continuously throughout the RACS RRS Challenger cruises. Again, the easiest way to get at these data is through an interface program, the Underway Explorer. The data are in a binary format so users without a *Windows* system will have some programming to do. The necessary format specification is in the Users' Guide.

Details of the data structures and file formats used in the ASCII data directories are provided in the relevant sections of the Users' Guide.

The Users' Guide is a large document containing several hundred pages. Whilst it is obviously not designed to be read in its entirety, **IT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.** The *Acrobat* reader software will allow you to quickly find what you want, through bookmarks, hot links or its lexicographic index. Reading the data documentation is particularly important, as vital information on data quality is included.

Software Installation

Previous BODC products have included installations of the Adobe *Acrobat* reader software for a range of platforms, together with additional software installations specific to platforms running *Windows*. However, the level of distribution support now provided by Adobe (http://www.adobe.com) makes this unnecessary and consequently the installation system on the RACS I CD-ROM is limited to *Windows*. Users of other platforms should totally ignore it.

The BODC software installer (INSTALL.EXE) may be found in the root directory of the CD-ROM. After a brief animation, the program offers a choice of three software installations.

Adobe Acrobat Reader with Search (5.0.1)
Microsoft Access (v7) Runtime
BODC Explorer Software

Whilst not believed to be essential, it is recommended that the installations be done in the order given above.

All users who do not have either version 3 or later of the *Acrobat* Reader software or the full *Acrobat* system on their PC need to install the Reader from the CD-ROM. Once installed, it should be used to open the file MANUAL.PDF that may be found in the root directory of the disc.

Windows users who do not have *Access* installed on their PC might like to take advantage of the copy of Run-time *Access* included on the CD-ROM. This is a stripped down version of the program that allows the RACS Database to be interrogated and data in databases to be modified or extended (providing a copy has been made on hard disk). However, it does not allow any changes to be made to the database design.

NB If you wish to use the BODC Database Explorer program and you do not have *Access* 7 installed on your machine, you **MUST** install Run-time *Access*. This applies even if you already have *Access97* or a later version installed.

The BODC Explorer Software installation configures the Database, Underway and Moorings Explorer programs for the RACS I Data Set. If previous versions of the software are installed then these will remain untouched and additional shortcuts will be created in the BODC group for the new software version. Any projects previously installed from other BODC CD-ROM products will be accessible to the upgraded software.

User Support

BODC personnel will do their utmost to assist you if you have any problems installing the software or using the CD-ROM. Please direct any queries by e-mail to **enquiries@bodc.ac.uk**. This group mailbox is checked virtually every working day. Alternatively, fax queries to +44-151-652-3950.

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