Working with the TrackPack Configuration Software

This software communicates with the GPS transceivers using a wireless dongle in the computer's USB port. The software turns the GPS units on and off, and controls the interval at which the GPS units communicate with the satellites and on-line tracking system.

Install the TrackPack Configuration Tool

1. If necessary, install the TrackPack Software by running the install program in the TP GUI folder. The install software will create a .jar executable file and place it in TP GUI folder.

Establish Communication

- 2. Insert the dongle into a USB port and set the GPS transceiver near the dongle. A note on the bottom left of the window should indicate successful connection with the dongle.
- 3. Start the TrackPack software by opening the folder and clicking the TpGui2.jar file. This is an executable file.

🛃 TrackPack Configuration Tool

Passkey Serial Port Engineering Help

- Press PassKey > Enter PassKey. [A PassKey may not be required, directions regarding this will be on the dry erase board.]
- 5. Write in the passkey for your GPS units.

Since remembering this PassKey is critical, we suggest writing it in a text document and saving it in the TP GUI folder. That way, it will be there where you need it next time.

- Press the "Scan for One ESN" button, and enter the ESN number for your GPS unit.
- Unit List ESNs Found Search Options Search for Units O Scan All Search for New Units Scan for One ESN ESN: 0-0 Select All O Scan for a Range of ESNs Range Start: Range End: C Load from List Browse ESN Count = 0 ndard Configuration Support Summary Mode Operational Inventory Delay to Start Days: 0 🔻 Hours: 0 🔻
- 7. Press the "Seach for Units" or

"Search for New Units" button depending on whether or not your GPS unit has been initiated yet. (If "Search for Units" doesn't work, try the "Search for New Units" button.)

8. After a moment, the program should indicate that your GPS unit has been found and communication established.

Connected to COM4

9. Highlight your ESN number.

Configure the GPS Unit

- 10. Now scroll down in the window to the Mode box. To turn on the GPS unit, click the "operational" button. Clicking "Inventory" will turn off the GPS unit.
- 11. In the Message Configuration box, click "Use other Standard Configuration:" and choose how often you would like your GPS transmitter to communicate with the satellites and tell you where it is. Which schedule you choose depends on what you're trying to learn or accomplish with your deployment and how obsessive-compulsive you become with your drifter. For today's demonstration purposes, we'll choose "24 Per Day"

In general, there is no need to click the "Use Advanced Configuration" button.

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[] (Delay to Start Days: 0 T Hours: 0 T	
Messag	e Configuration	
() Use	e Default Configuration: 2 Messages/Day, 3 Tries 5-10 Minutes Apart	
Use Use	Scheduled Daily Messages	
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	O 2 Per Day O 8 Per Day	
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O Moti		
	e Advanced Configuration	
U Use	Advanced Conliguration	

- 12. Click the "Configure" button in the lower right. Wait a moment for a message to appear that says that configuration is successful.
- 13. Problems? Do all the things you usually might do when fiddling with a computer program that is not working: close and re-open the program, turn off and turn back on your computer, swear, pray, etc...
- 14. At the end of the day, or when you retrieve your drifter, remember to turn the GPS unit back off by reconnecting with the TrackPack software and clicking on "Inventory".

Working with the ComTech Website

This website is the on-line portal to see and download the GPS (and attached drifter) locations.

Username: Deidre Password: matempc

Using an older Username and password will provide access to locations of some of the drifters we have deployed in the past: Username: mates password: drifters

In the screen grab below, I've used the older username and password for demonstration purposes.

🖎 Unit Control 👻 Route Manager 👻 Sitemap Logout									
UNIT MANAGER									
Selected (0-327604) Messages / Data Unit Setup Unit Summary 162 Total, PAGE 1 OF 17 🕨 🔊									
ESN	Locale	Alarms	Alerts	Name	Note	Status	Message Count	Last Message GMT	
0-318833			-	GOMLF-SSHS	116410702		433	2011/07/01 22:29:55	
0-329690			-	GOMLF-WHOI	115420691		935	2011/07/01 22:25:27	
0-327604			-	GOMLF-UNH	GOMLF-UNH 115430701 🚖 1201 2011/0				
0-322634			-	GOMLF_JS	GOMLF_JS 117370761 🚖 33 2011/07/01 17:				
0-359881			-	GOMLF-ZME	GOMLF-ZME 117410701 🚖 315 2011/06/29 16:29				
0-327011			-	transferred to GOMLF inventory	McGillicud		849	2011/06/29 16:28:10	
0-322444			-	SMCC	106430691		441	2011/06/29 16:14:47	
0-325675			-	105470642	ASF		706	2011/06/29 16:05:13	
0-329857			-	106270831	BP Spill-B		33	2011/06/29 16:03:54	
0-329434			-	GOMLF-MME	114410701		1365	2011/06/28 15:57:36	
Select None Se	Select None Select Multiple Units Select All Auto Refresh								
Last Refresh 2011/07/01 22:30:23 GMT									

- 1. In order to see drifter locations, check the box on the left designating your drifter of interest. This example shows a drifter from GOMLF-UNH highlighted. If you want to see more than one at a time, press "Select Multiple Units" before selection.
- 2. In the buttons across the top, press "Messages/Data" in order to see the data.
- 3. If a window appears asking if you want to see only content that was delivered securely, indicate that you do indeed want to see the insecurely delivered content as well. This may be a "yes" or "no"

Securi	ity Warning 🛛 🔁	<
A	Do you want to view only the webpage content that was delivered securely?	
	This webpage contains content that will not be delivered using a secure HTTPS connection, which could compromise the security of the entire webpage.	
М	fore Info Yes No	

answer depending on the phrasing of the question, which differs system to system.

Oceanography and Google Earth: Observing Ocean Processes with Time Animations and Ocean Drifters MATE Summer Institute: August 1-5 2011 Instructors: Fred Hochstaedter and Deidre Sullivan

Selected (0-3	27604)	Messages	s / Data	Unit Setup	Unit Summar	ry			
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1201 Total, PAGE 1 OF 121 2 2

Adjust Displayed Rows 🔽

View Archive Messages

- 4. At this point, the screen should look something like the image above. Try zooming in and out.
- 5. Play with the page number (enter a number other than "1") and adjusting the Displayed Rows in the drop-down menu. Check one of the boxes on the left and see what happens.

Oceanography and Google Earth: Observing Ocean Processes with Time Animations and Ocean Drifters MATE Summer Institute: August 1-5 2011 Instructors: Fred Hochstaedter and Deidre Sullivan

Downloading Data for displaying in Google Earth

1. Click the "Download Message Data" in the upper left.

🖎 Unit Control 👻 Route	Manager 👻 Site	map Logout	t				
						UNIT MANAGER	
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						Cancel	
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	2010 2011	2012					

- 2. Select a starting time and ending time for your data by using the drop-down calendars as shown above. Use the "Decoded" Format. Press "Go".
- 3. Save the file using a filename and a location in a folder that you will remember.
- 4. The file is a standard, tab-delimited text file that you can easily import into Excel or read with other programs. Try opening the text file with Word, Notepad, or Excel.

In a later session we will describe how to manipulate the data in these types of files and plot them on Google Earth.

**Note: if the data is more than a year or so old, you may have to press the "View Archived Data" button in the lower right-hand corner in the "Messages/Data" screen.

Working with the NOAA Website

This is a website maintained by Jim Manning at NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). Jim has developed many of the protocols of this project and the website he maintains has many graphics showing the various drifter tracks of participating organizations. The website has been redesigned a few times over the last few years and may be actively changing at this time. As you plan your drifter deployment, you should go to this website and enter the information about your plan. You will receive a deployment ID, which you will then use to report the time and coordinates of your actual deployment.

http://gisweb.wh.whoi.edu/cgi-bin/ioos/drift/driftTable.cgi

After exploring some of the maps and descriptions of other drifter deployments on the website, click on Documenting > Plan Deployment (you may have to scroll to the right to see this).

Enter the information requested in the boxes. The drifters we build this week are "Eddie" drifters.

I think the "planned deployment" aspect of this website is new, and I have not actually done this yet. But presumably it will all work.

The older website is here: <u>http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter/</u>

On this website, you can find a Google Map of your currently underway drifter. As an example, search on "California" to find drifters deployed by MPC and College of the Redwoods during 2011. Click on the links to see images of the drifter tracks, text file data, as well as photographs of the deployment.

**Note: the Google Map image available on this website is the most useful link to provide to students and other interested people to monitor the track of the drifter. It does not require any passwords and is the most visually appealing.

An example: http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter/drift mpc 2011 1.html



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