

USACE

Philadelphia District

Navigation Page Instruction Manual

Introduction

Welcome to the Philadelphia District Navigation Page. The purpose of this utility is to disseminate the results of our hydrographic survey efforts to the public. The survey drawings accessible from the Navigation Page are created to determine the condition of the channel. The COE also uses these drawings to determine and present shoaling rates, approximate navigation hazards, channel locations and other information.

The terms and conditions of the Navigation Page are as follows:

Electronic Survey Distribution Disclaimer

The data on this website is provided for general information only. It is not intended for use as a navigation aid. NOAA publishes the official navigation charts to be used in US waters by mariners. Any navigation use of this data other than the Corps of Engineers constitutes a misuse of this data. At best hydrographic surveys are only accurate at the time they were measured and only within the tolerances of the survey equipment, computers, printers and other tools and equipment used to produce them. Wind, waves, currents and other maritime effects are constantly changing the topography of the water of the United States. Survey equipment and computer plotting software have inherent inaccuracies, and printers and displays can also create inaccuracies.

The materials are provided as is. The government makes no representation or warranties about the quality of suitability of the materials, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non infringement. The government makes no warranties, guarantees or representations as to the truth, accuracy or representations as the truth, accuracy or completeness of the data provided.

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Our navigation page has been designed to be as simple and intuitive as possible. There are multiple options for retrieving our drawings, channel statements and processed survey data. The Google Earth™ interface is a spatial tool that is used to geographically locate and download various forms of hydrographic survey data, including channel statements, bathymetric survey plots and xyz data. Not only can you download the drawing and the processed data but you immediately can see where in the world the data applies to.

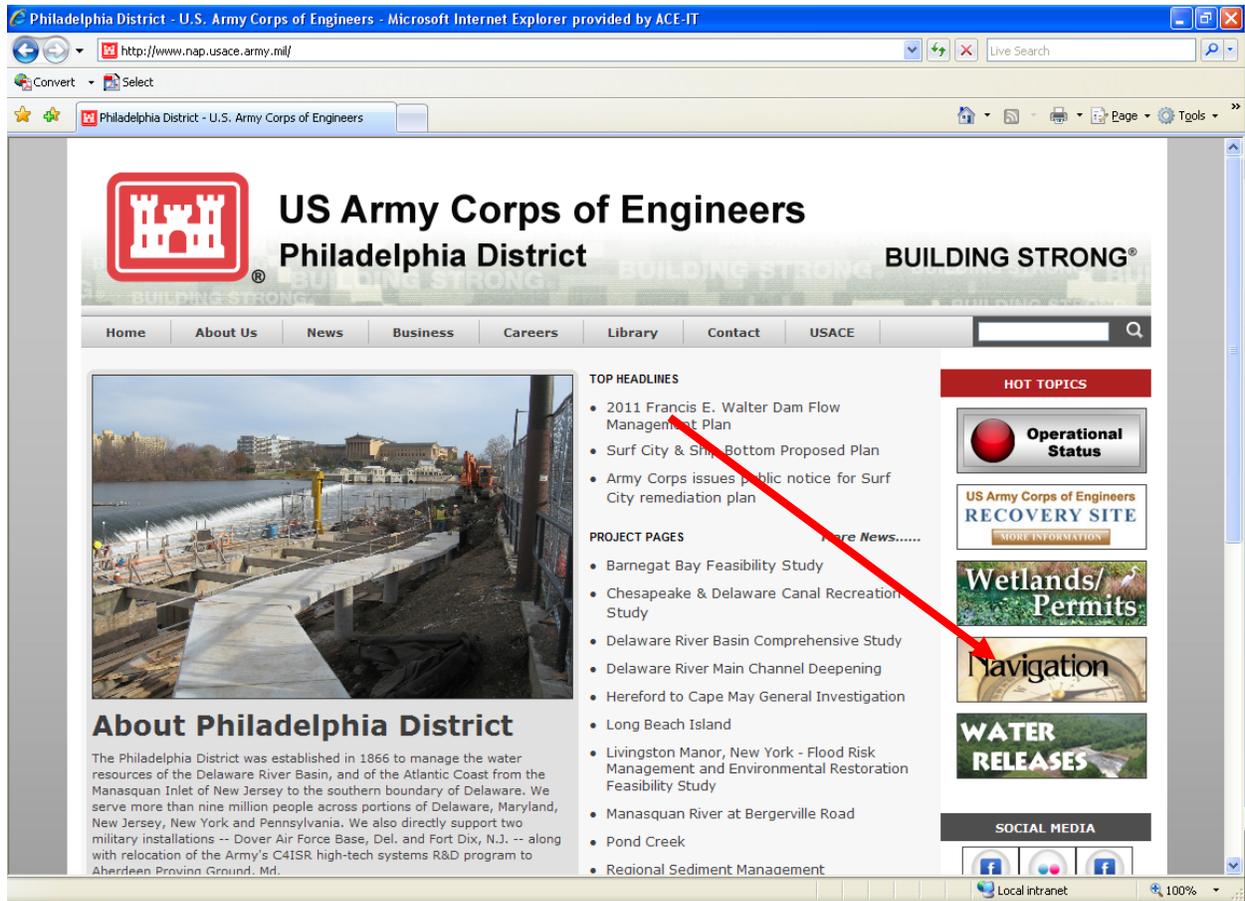
The text interface has been added to the website for users who prefer to download data from an alphabetical listing of project and range names. Users who do not have access to Google Earth™ or do not need a spatial reference may find this option useful. The data files that

are accessed through the text interface are the same as the files the Google Earth™ interface accesses.

Our Public Webpage

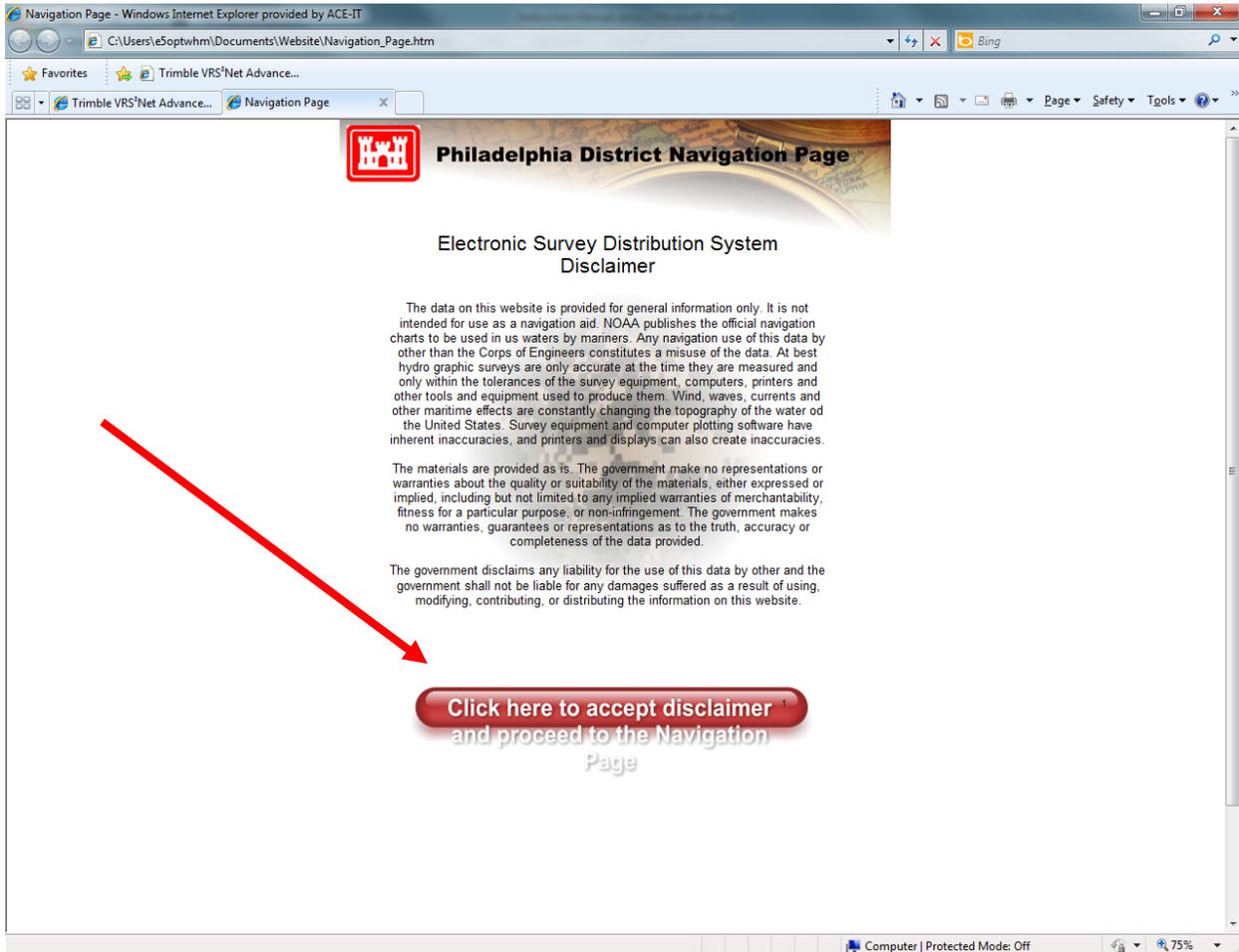
The Philadelphia District distributes hydrographic survey data through its public website at www.nap.usace.army.mil. There is a “Navigation” radio button on the home page. Once you click the Navigation tab, you will be directed to the disclaimer which you must accept in order to proceed.

Below is the homepage of our public website:

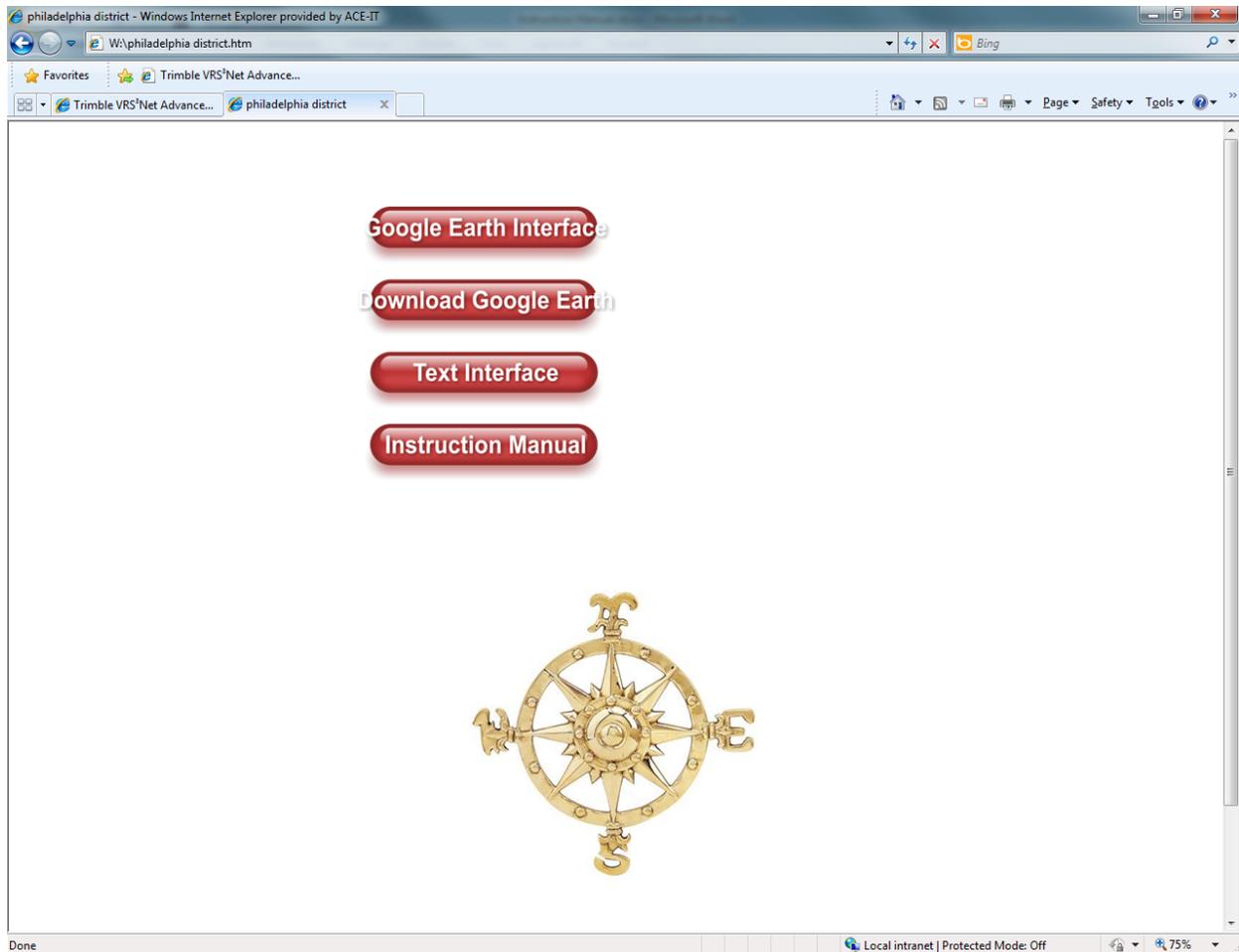


The articles featured on the front will change from time to time but the array of buttons on the right hand side of the screen will remain the same. The button labeled “Navigation” will direct the user to the hydrographic survey data interface. This button is highlighted by the arrow in the graphic above.

Click on this button and it will lead you to the disclaimer page shown below:



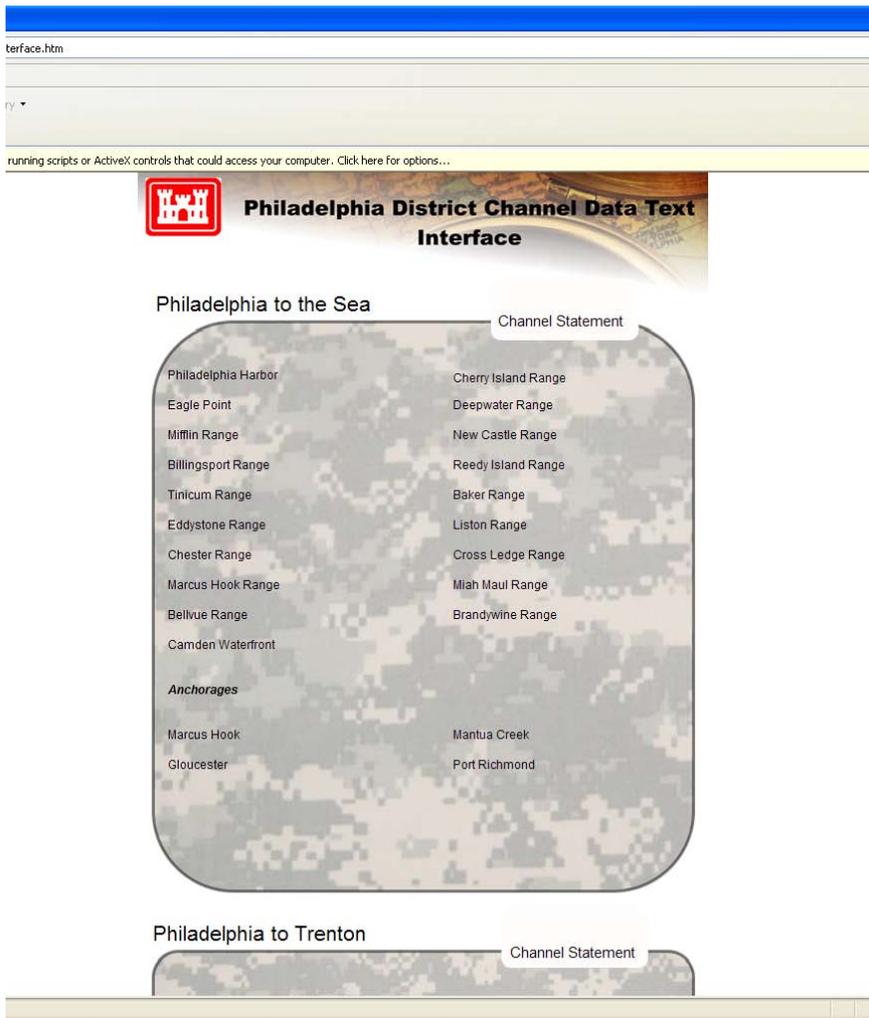
Accepting the disclaimer as shown by the red arrow will brings you the navigation page main menu:



At the top of the page are four choices. The first is the Google Earth™ interface which allows you to access our drawings, channel statements and processed data through the Google Earth™ imagery browser.

The second is a link to the Google Earth™ web site where you can download you free edition of Google Earth™. The instructions for doing so are on the Google Earth™ website. *Google Earth™ must be installed on your computer in order for the Google Earth interface utility to work.*

The third option is the new text interface shown below:

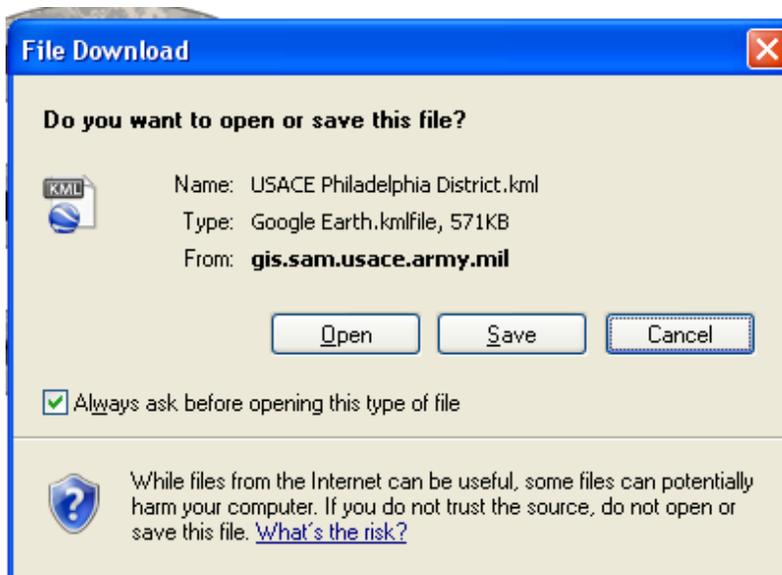


This is a user friendly simple version of our navigation interface which does not use Google Earth™. There is no spatial reference, maps or diagrams just basic text hyperlinks. These links are basic and self explanatory. Each project is divided up into its own area where the drawings and the associated channel statement are available. For Example, Philadelphia to the Sea is a project. Likewise C&D Canal is a separate project.

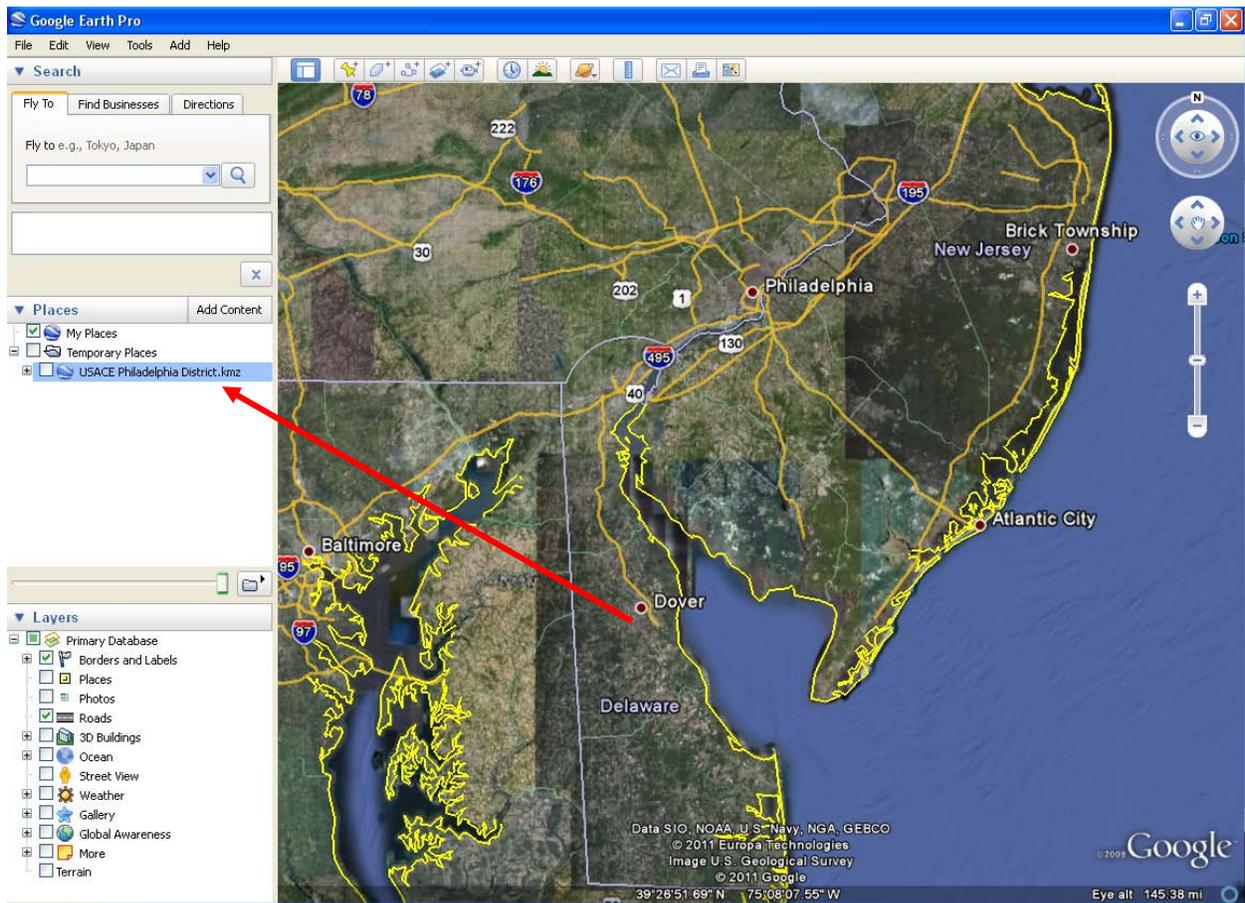
The last option is a link directly to this instruction manual. As this website is constantly improved, this instruction manual will be updated to reflect any changes.

The Google Earth Interface

This section provides a further explanation of the Google Earth™ interface. After selecting this option a window prompt will appear asking you if you want to save or open the file USACE Philadelphia District.kml. This file is the Google Earth™ format file that contains all of the links to our maps, data and channel statements. Select “open” and provided that Google Earth™ is already installed on your computer, Google Earth™ will automatically open. *Again, this utility will not work if you do not have Google Earth™ installed on your computer.*



Once you click open, the Google Earth software that is installed on your computer will activate and the frame will automatically zoom and pan to the Philadelphia District region.



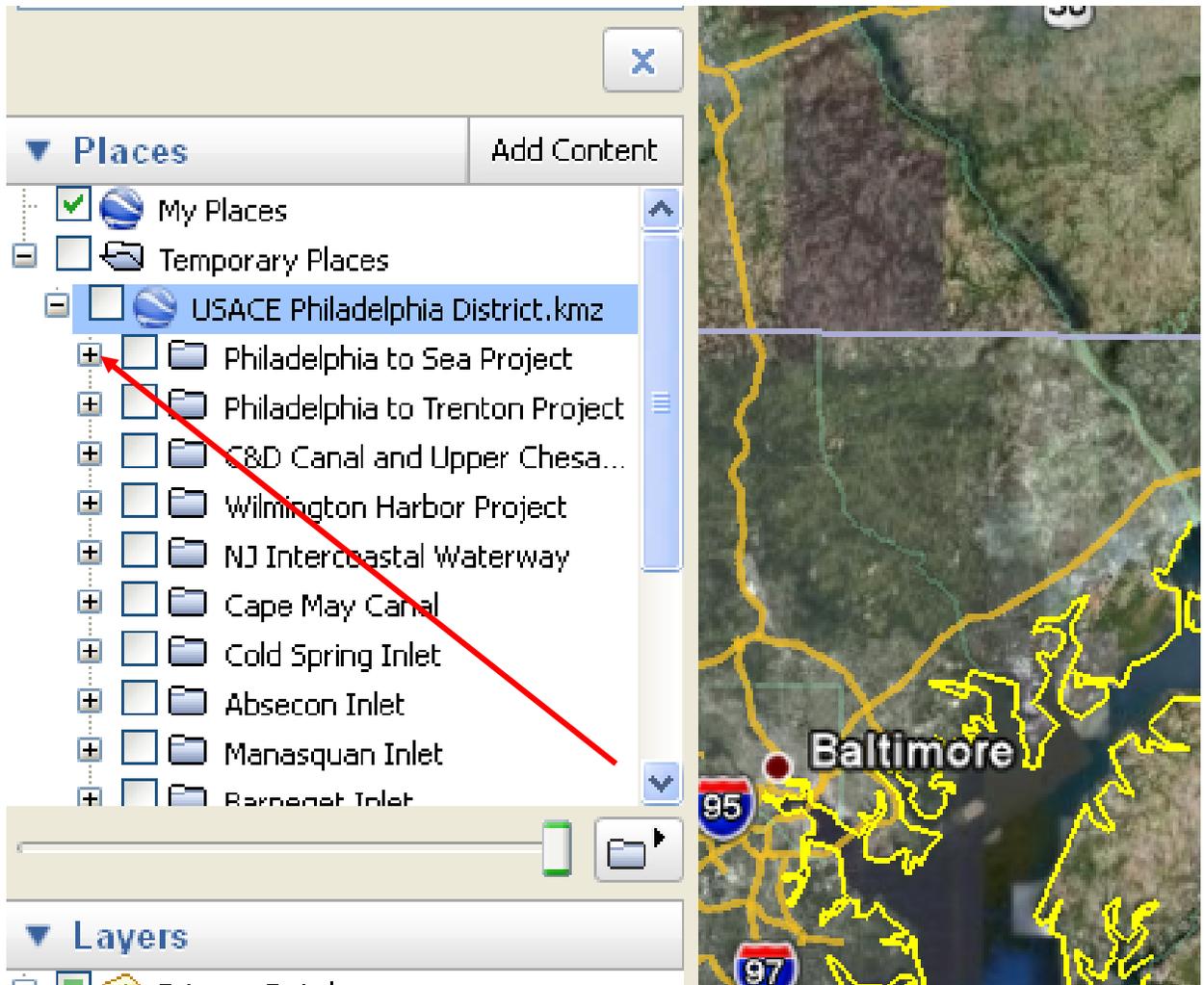
Listed below are some of the basic operations of Google Earth™.

1. To pan the screen simply left drag the mouse and release when the desired pan is achieved.
2. To zoom the screen use the scroll wheel on the mouse until the desired zoom is achieved.
3. Double clicking anywhere on the map screen will zoom and pan the screen to the area that you double clicked on.

Although there is much more to Google Earth™ than what has been explained above, the aforementioned basic operations are all that is necessary to access the Philadelphia District's hydrographic survey products.

Once a user is familiar with the controls of Google Earth™, you may notice, on the left hand side of the screen, in the temporary places section, a file called "USACE Philadelphia District.kmz". This file contains all of the links associated with retrieving our data and map products. The file is pointed to by the red arrow in the previous graphic. At the left side of the file is a standard plus sign denoting that this file is a directory which contains various other files.

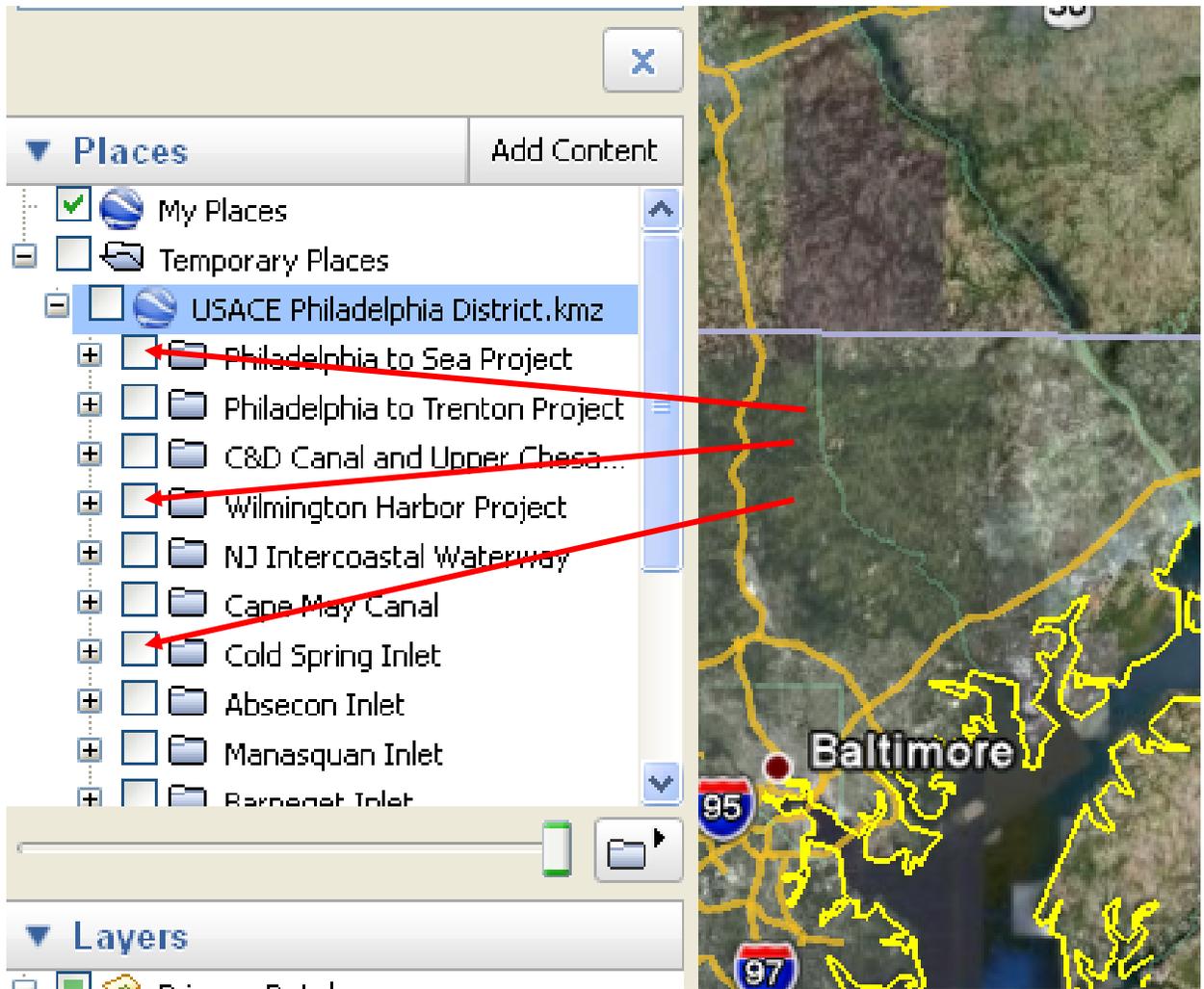
Clicking on the plus sign, as in a normal file manager, expands the directory to reveal the various projects located within the Philadelphia District.



Similarly, clicking on the plus sign next to the individual projects expands those project directories. This same task can also be accomplished by double clicking on the project name, for example, Philadelphia to Sea Project as indicated by the red arrow above. Not only will the project directory expand but you will also notice that the view window will automatically zoom and pan. Each project has its own view snapshot associated with it, so if you are ever lost and don't want to go through the process of zooming and panning your way back to a particular project site, double clicking on the project name in the temporary places area will automatically set the zoom and pan to that location.

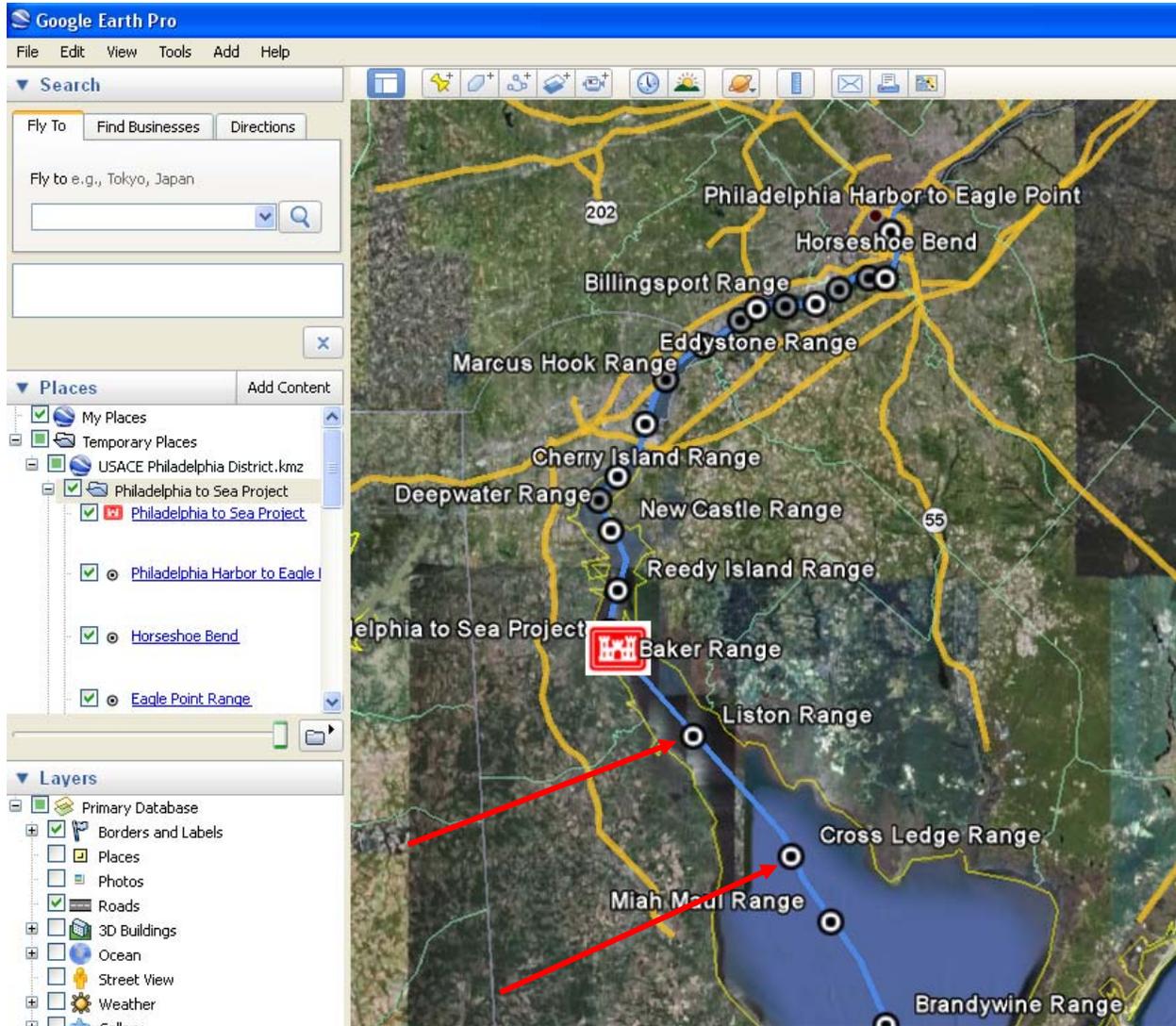
Double clicking on a project name will reveal the individual components of that particular project. In the case of the Philadelphia to Sea project, the various navigation ranges will be listed. The range headings pictured below also have their own snap shots stored making it possible to zoom and pan the specific ranges by simply double clicking on the range name.

In addition to the file manager plus and minus signs there are also an array of check boxes next to each of the headings in the kmz file listed in the temporary places area.



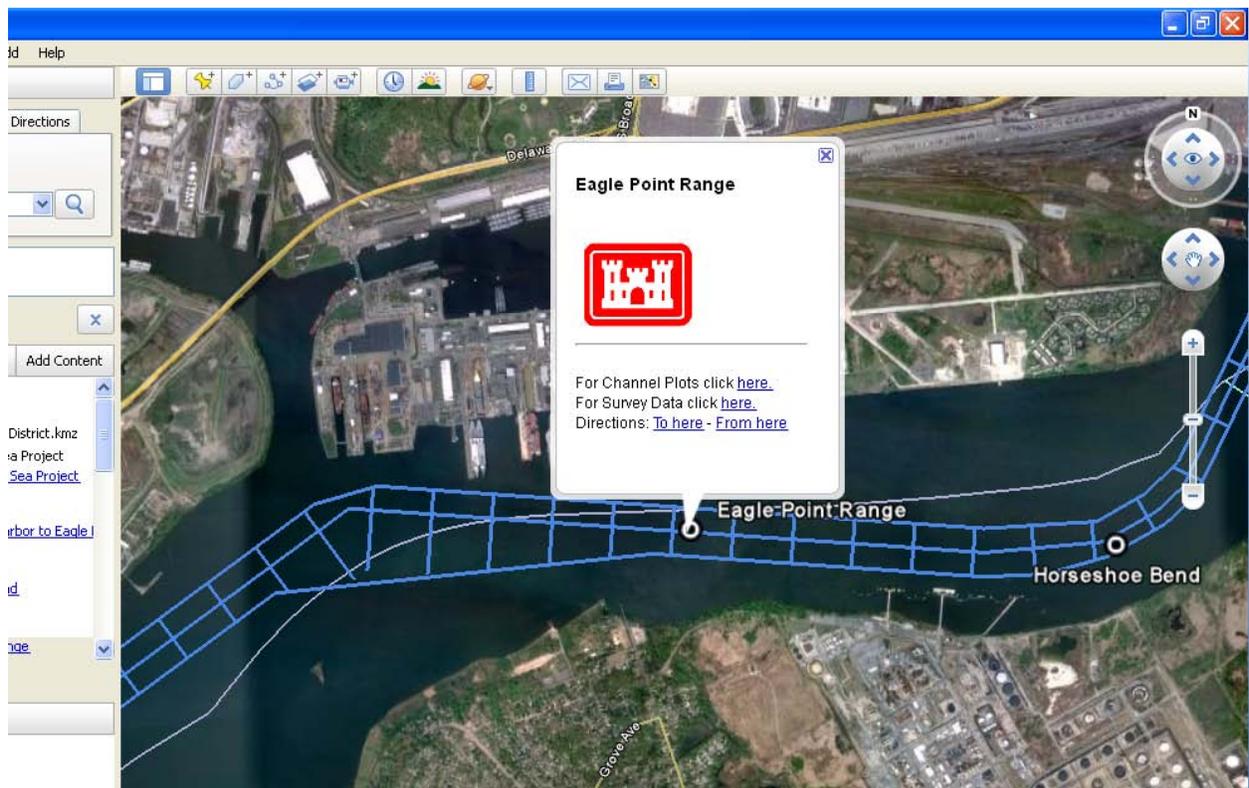
These check boxes activate the various items in the viewer. The check boxes are organized in such a way that checking one check box will subsequently check every other box in the levels below it. For example, in the graphic above, checking the USACE Philadelphia District.kmz box would subsequently check every other box in the projects below it. Checking any one of the boxes next to the project headings will subsequently check every box stored within that project only.

In order to access our drawings, channel statements, and processed data, you must first select the project you are interested in the temporary places are and check the box next to its heading. For example, checking the Philadelphia to Sea project reveals a blue channel framework, a series of round place marks, and one place mark which looks like the USACE logo.



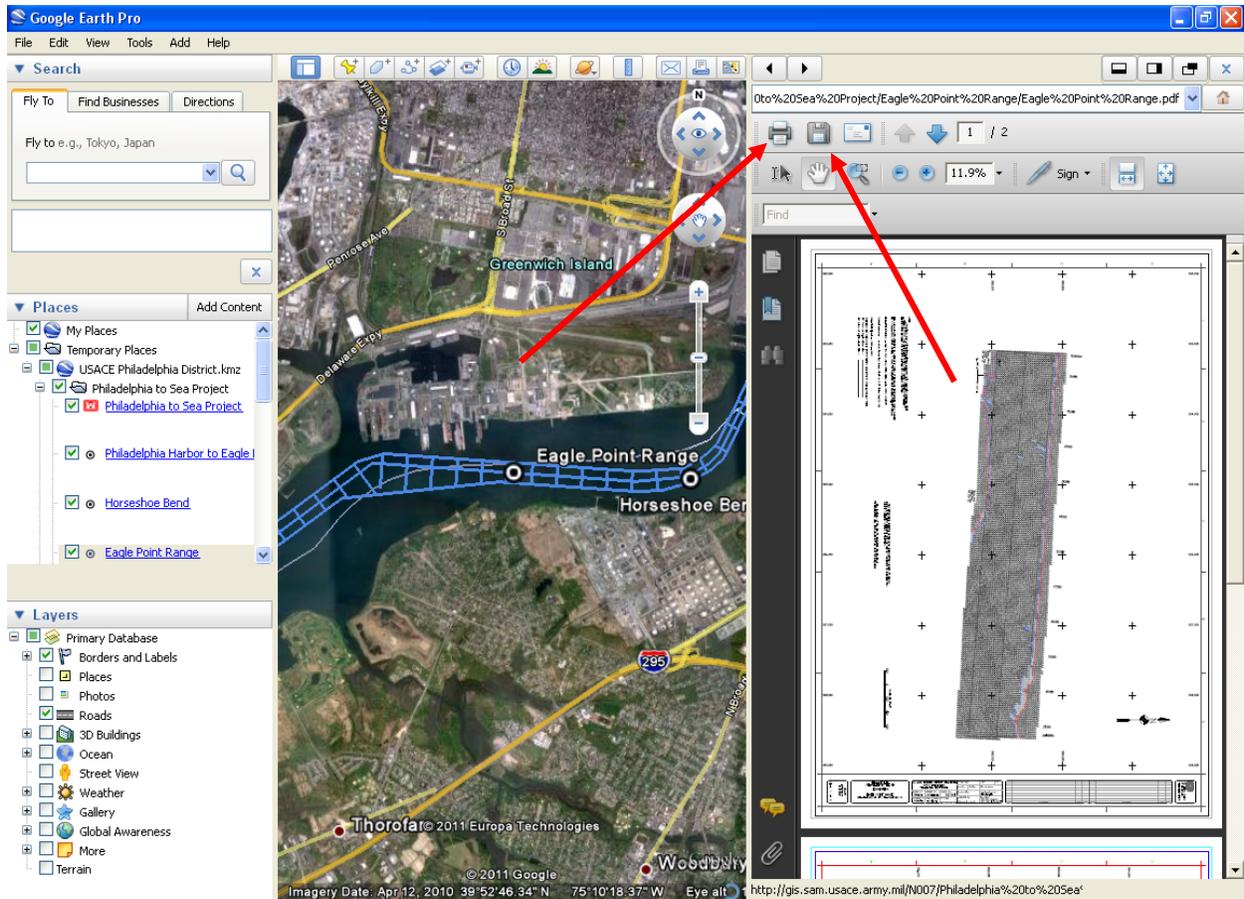
The place marks pertain to the individual ranges and each place mark contains the access point to receive the drawings and processed data for that particular range. This is done simply by clicking on the place mark regarding the specific navigation range of the channel you are interested in. A pop up box will appear giving you the option to download the survey plots or download the survey data with its associated metadata.

An example of one of these pop up boxes is shown below.



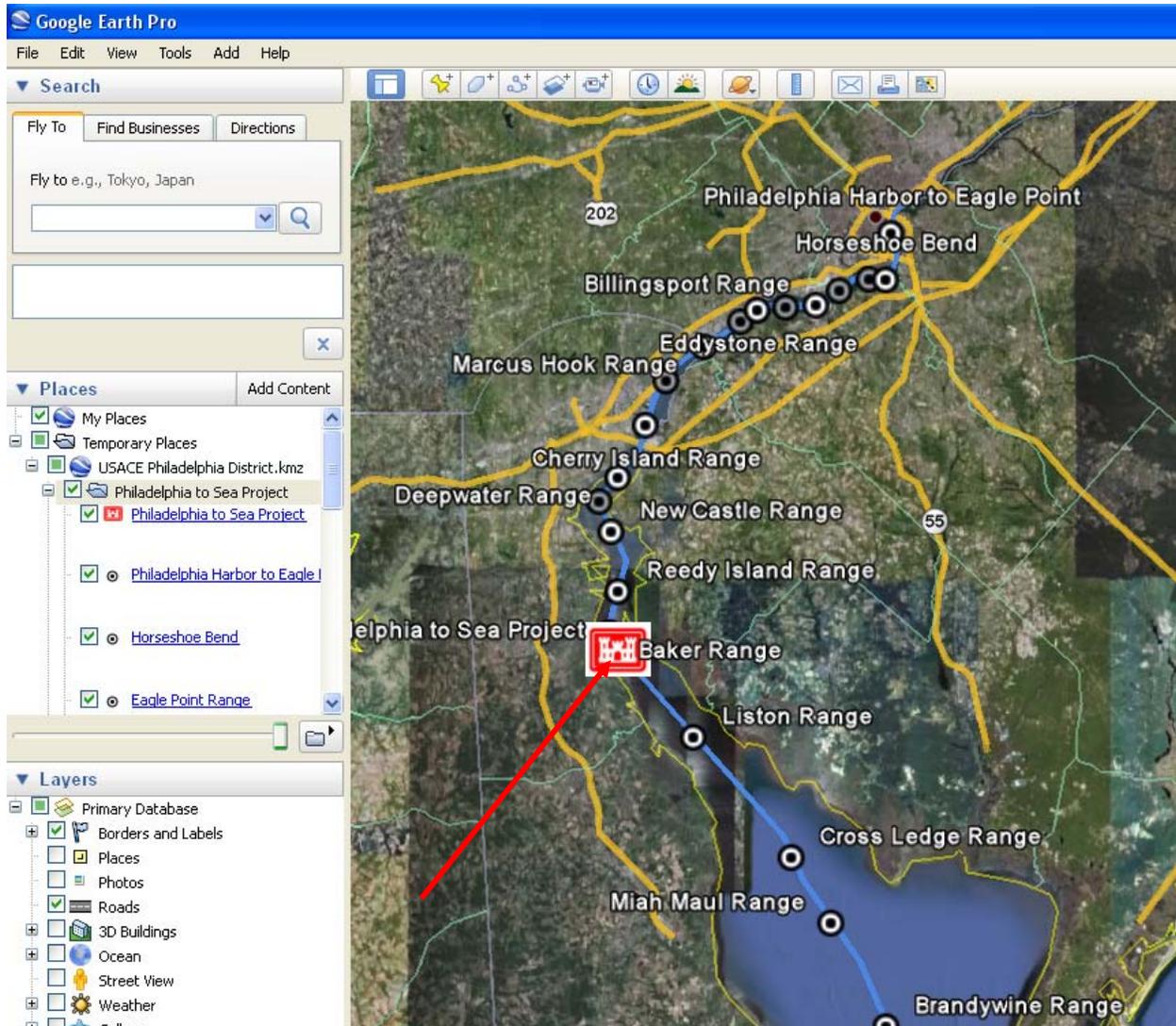
As you can clearly see the options to download the plots and data are presented. Clicking on the hyperlink blue “here” next to the channel plot option will begin the downloading process. On average it takes about fifteen seconds for the download. Some will take longer depending on the number of plots in the range, or if the plots contain any ortho photo imagery.

After selecting the download channel plots option the viewer will give way to the Adobe Acrobat viewer.



In the above diagram, the arrows are referring to the print and save icons which appear in the Adobe viewer. These are the means in which the drawing may be saved as a standard Adobe™ PDF file or printed. Selecting the here next to the data option will reveal an html viewer in the map screen in the same style that the Adobe Acrobat™ viewer was displaced. In this view a list of the various survey files will be presented. The files with the extension “xyz” are the actual survey data. The corresponding files with the extension “txt” are the metadata files which contain information about the survey files such as when it was surveyed, what boat surveyed it, what vertical and sea and horizontal datums and an array of other information.

Finally, as previously mentioned, there is on most every project a USACE logo visible when you select the check box for that project and have the screen zoomed and panned to the specific project area.



The logo referred to is indicated by the red arrow in the graphic above. Clicking on this icon will reveal a pop up box identical to the boxes that appear when you select the round place marks. The only difference is that with the red logos you are offered one choice and that is to download a channel statement. The channel statement will appear in the Acrobat viewer just as the drawings do with all of the same options available, in particular the save and print options.

All of the projects are set up in this format with the blue channel framework, the USACE logo indicating where the channel statements are available and the round place marks indicating where survey drawings and processed data may be downloaded. Not all projects have channel statements however. These projects will simply offer the blue framework and the round place marks.

IMPORTANT!!

To exit Google Earth simply exit it as you would any other software package. You will receive a prompt as pictured in the graphic below.



Select no. This will discard the kmz file from your computer. The reason that this is important is that if you save it to your my places directory and log onto our navigation page again you will now have two USACE Philadelphia District.kmz files operating simultaneously. This will cause you to have difficulties in operating our navigation page. Please note for other versions of Google Earth, the option in the dialog box featured above may ask if you want to discard the kmz file. Select "discard".