1. I am investigating a way to make draft measurements in a safer way than current practice. No research was found into this problem.
2. Yes. There was a clear gap between theoretical predictions of ship motion and squat and practical measurements of draft without relying on visual inspection. There was no widely available way to take this measurement without visual inspection.
3. The research question I answer is, “How do I obtain a value for the ship draft without visual inspection?”
4. The purpose served by my research question is to eliminate a person having to look at the side of a ship or use a measuring device at the side of the ship, making the process safer.
5. I care about this topic because I am a mariner and a public safety officer. Being able to eliminate danger for fellow sailors is a worthy effort in my opinion.
6. My audience are my instructor and my sponsor. My instructor cares about my project because she needs to assign a grade that determines my graduation from the engineering program. My sponsor cares about this project because they are making an investment into a product and expect a return.