

NOUS41 KWBC 171845
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-83
NOAA's National Ocean Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
Relayed by National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
245 PM EDT Thu Aug 17 2018

To: Subscribers:
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From: Patrick Burke
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 Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
 (CO-OPS), Oceanographic Division

Subject: Availability of Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format
(SHEF) for NOS Water Level Data Relative to Mean Higher High Water
(MHHW): Effective Immediately

Effective immediately, SHEF encoded water level data for NOS/CO-OPS
coastal water level stations will include observed heights above Mean
Higher High Water (MHHW) in addition to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).
This change affects the following SHEF products:

WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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SOUS41 KWBC	TIDNT
SOUS42 KWBC	TIDGX
SOUS43 KWBC	TIDPZ
SOKA45 KWBC	TIDAK
SOPA46 KWBC	TIDHW

The products are also available on the NWS file transfer protocol (FTP)
site at:

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/so/?C=M;O=D>

Water level observations in feet relative to MHHW will be transmitted
using the HC SHEF code. There is no change to water level observations
relative to MLLW, which will continue to use the HM SHEF code.

This change was made following requests from multiple Weather Forecast
Offices (WFOs) to provide water level observations relative to MHHW to
better monitor potential coastal flooding. Providing the data relative
to MHHW ensures that the most up-to-date tidal datum conversion is used
and eliminates the need for forecasters to manually translate observed
water level data between MLLW and MHHW.

An example of the SHEF formatted data for the NOS/CO-OPS water level
station at The Battery, NY (BATN6) is provided below:

.E BATN6 20180815 Z DH1500/HMIRP/DIN06/ 5.19
.E BATN6 20180815 Z DH1500/HCIRP/DIN06/ 0.14

In this example, observed water level data at this station is 5.19 feet relative to MLLW (SHEF code HMIRP) and 0.14 feet relative to MHHW (SHEF code HCIRP).

The NWS policy and procedures regarding referencing water levels to height above ground and Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) for coastal flooding can be found in NWS Instructions 10-320, Surf Zone Forecast and Coastal/Lakeshore Hazard Services, and 10-601, Weather Forecast Office Tropical Cyclone Products. The instructions can be found at:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/010.php>

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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For general questions on CO-OPS products and services, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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