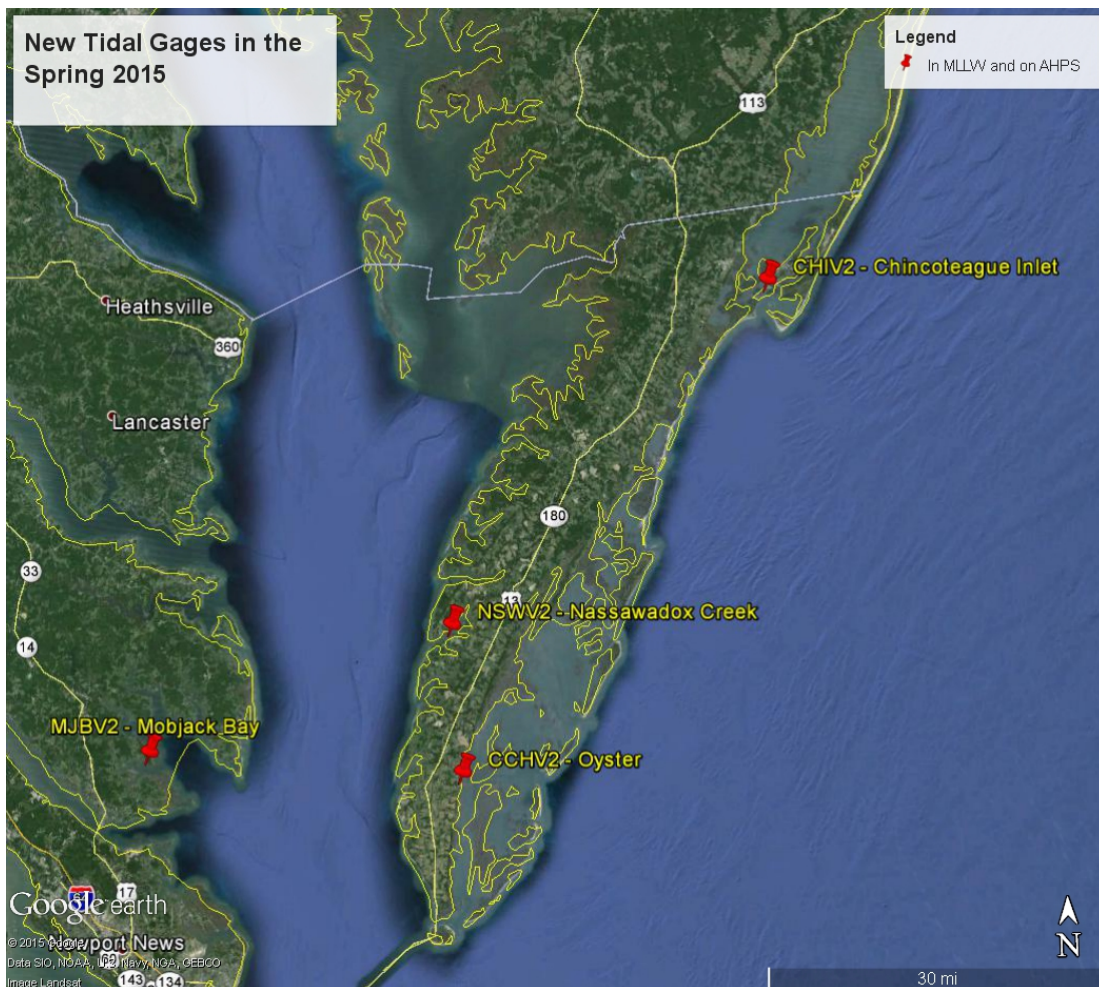


Tidal Observations Expand In Virginia

Through a cooperative effort between the US Geological Society (USGS), local municipalities and governments numerous tide gages have been added to the observational tide network across the lower Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads and coast. The National Weather Service (NWS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) have been working with the USGS on the expansion of tide gages helping to identify critical locations and establish data flows for use by decision makers and the public. The new tide gages are located in Suffolk, VA, Portsmouth, VA, Hampton, VA, Mobjack Bay, Oyster, VA, Chincoteague, VA and Nassawadox Creek in Silver Beach, VA.

The NWS has added the observed data for all of the new tide gages to the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System (AHPS) in addition to previous tide gages across the region. The maps below highlight the locations of the seven new tide gages. Tidal data is provided in Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) consistent with other tide gages. As of this moment the NWS is not providing water level forecasts for the tide gages, but plans to do so for several of the gages by the fall. The NWS does provide tide forecasts for other tide gages via AHPS. All tide gages can be accessed via AHPS online at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=akq> in addition to NOAA NOS tides and currents.

The new tide gages have been installed by the USGS as a result of funding from Hurricane Sandy. These tide gages will help give some additional information as these areas are in holes between our current forecast locations. Later this spring, more tide observing stations are expected to come on line. The USGS will be putting in a gage at the Jamestown/Scotland Ferry and NOS will be installing a gage in Dahlgren, near Colonial Beach.





Tidal references for Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System - <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=akq>

NWS Tide Briefing & Forecasts - <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/akq/brief/tides.php>

NOAA Tides and Currents - <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/map/>

NOAA PORTS (Chesapeake Bay) - <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.html?port=cs>