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Public Information Statement 26-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Nicole Kinsman
 Director, Alaska Region

Subject: Soliciting Comments through March 13, 2026 on Proposed Change to Water Level Datum Displayed on the National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) Webpage.

National Weather Service (NWS) Alaska Region Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in Anchorage and Fairbanks, in coordination with the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC), are soliciting public comments through March 13, 2026 on a proposed change to the coastal water level and flood stage reference datum displayed on the National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) webpage (<https://water.noaa.gov/>).

For coastal water level sites in western and northern Alaska, the reference datum would change from Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to Mean Higher High Water (MHHW). The sites proposed for this change are listed below:

Naknek River Tide Gauge (NNKA2)
Dillingham Bay Tide Gauge (DBHA2)
Kwigillingok Tide Gauge (KWGA2)
Kipnuk Tide Gauge (KIPA2)
Tununak Tide Gauge (TNUA2)
St Michael Bay Tide Gauge (SMBA2)
Norton Sound Tide Gauge at Unalakleet (ULRA2)
Bering Sea at Shaktoolik (SHTA2)
Norton Sound Tide Gauge at Nome (NMTA2)
Deering Tide Gauge (DRTA2)
Kotzebue Sound Tide Gauge at Kotzebue (KZTA2)
Red Dog Dock Tide Gauge at Red Dog Mine (RDDA2)
Kivalina Tide Gauge (KVTA2)
Prudhoe Bay Tide Gauge (PRDA2)

Any new gages in western or northern Alaska north of Naknek will be posted in MHHW datum.

This change will not require action by partners or customers. The most noticeable change will be new flood stage level references as these values are converted from MLLW to MHHW.

These sites have been selected to change datums to communicate impacts from coastal flooding. Providing the water level data relative to MHHW supports the NWS Alaska Region goal to provide consistent use of the MHHW datum reference in coastal flooding products and decision support services to partners and the public. For mariner support, coastal data in MLLW can still be found at NOAA Ocean Service's page:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/>

If you have questions or comments please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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