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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-98
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
120 PM EST Mon Nov 2 2026

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
-Other NWS Partners and Employees

From: Corey Allen
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NOS/Office of Coast Survey

Subject: Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS) Version 3.1 Bug Fix: Effective November 2, 2026

Effective on November 2, 2026, beginning with the 1200 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) cycle, the National Weather Service Central Operations (NCO) will implement a bug fix upgrade for the Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS) to address errors discovered in v3.1.

This upgrade addresses the following error in v3.1:
- The units for water levels in STOFS-3D-Pacific SHEF files, i.e. stofs_3d_pac.t12z.points.cwl.shef, have been corrected to feet above Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

Full details on STOFS v3.1 are available in the original notice at:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2026/SCN26-51_STOFS.v3.1_Updated.aaa.pdf

In the event that the implementation date is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD), an Enhanced Caution Event (ECE), or other significant weather is occurring or is anticipated to occur, implementation of this change will take place at 1200 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD and when no significant weather is occurring.

NWS encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the Gridded Binary (GRIB) files, and any volume changes which may be forthcoming. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

Any questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below.

For questions concerning science changes, please contact:
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For questions about the data flow aspects, please contact:
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National Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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