

NOUS41 KWBC 171845  
PNSWSH

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

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

From:       Patrick Burke  
              Chief, National Ocean Service (NOS) 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 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 (WFO) 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
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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:

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

If you have questions or comments please contact:

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NOS/CO-OPS  
Silver Spring, MD  
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For general questions on CO-OPS products and services, please contact:

Todd Ehret  
NOS/CO-OPS/User Services Team  
Silver Spring, MD  
Email: [tide.predictions@noaa.gov](mailto:tide.predictions@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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