

NOUS41 KWBC 122150 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-32 Updated
National Ocean Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
Relayed by National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
550 PM EDT Tue Apr 12 2022

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

From: Patrick Burke
 Chief, National Ocean Service (NOS) Center for Operational
 Oceanographic Products and Services
 (CO-OPS) Oceanographic Division

Subject: Updated: Availability of Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange
Format (SHEF) Encoded NOAA/National Ocean Service (NOS) Visibility Data:
Effective May 3, 2022

Updated to reflect that the units for how this information will be
provided were changed from Nautical Miles (NM) to Statute Miles (SM).
The listed values were adjusted to SM as well.

Effective Tuesday, May 3, 2022, SHEF encoded meteorological data for
National Ocean Service (NOS) Center for Operational Oceanographic
Products and Services (CO-OPS) coastal water level stations will include
observed visibility data, where available. This change affects the
following SHEF products:

WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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SXUS51 KWBC	OSONT
SXUS52 KWBC	OSOGX
SXUS53 KWBC	OSOPZ

The products are also available on the National Weather Service (NWS)
File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site at:

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

Visibility observations in statute miles (SM) will be transmitted using
the XV SHEF code.

This change was made due to availability of visibility data at several
new observation locations as part of the NOAA Physical Oceanographic Real
Time System (PORTS) managed by NOS/CO-OPS:

https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports_info.html

The visibility range provided by the sensor, more correctly known as Meteorological Optical Range (MOR), is a measurement made at a single point. Publicly available NOS visibility data is capped at the MOR of 6.2 statute miles / 10 kilometers:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/VisibilityUserGuide.pdf>

An example of the SHEF formatted data for the NOS/CO-OPS meteorological station at UTMSI Visibility, TX (UTVT2) is provided below:

```
.E UTVT2 20220314 Z DH1230/XVIRG/DIN06/5.81/5.12
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In this example, observed visibility data at this station is 5.81 statute miles observed at 1230 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and 5.12 statute miles at 1236 UTC (SHEF code XVIRG).

For more information on SHEF, see:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/mdl/SHEF CodeManual 5July2012.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/mdl/SHEF%20CodeManual%205July2012.pdf)

If you have questions or comments regarding this product, please contact:

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

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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