



Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System

PORTS®



CHESAPEAKE BAY

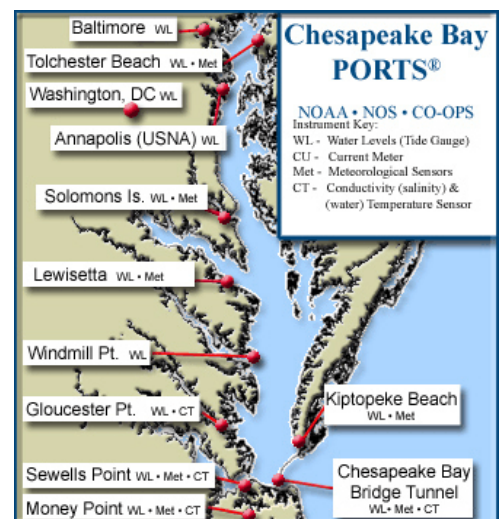


Internet: <http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov> (select PORTS)
Voice Data Response System: 866-CH-PORTS

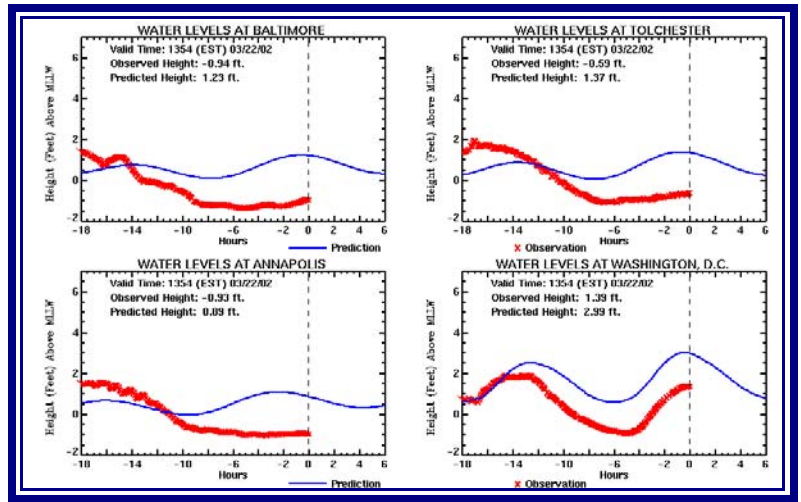
The Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS) partnership program designed to provide the maritime community with high quality, real-time oceanographic and meteorological data. PORTS® is a decision support tool which improves the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce, assists coastal resource management, and aids recreational boaters. Real-time information from the Chesapeake Bay PORTS® System can be obtained via telephone or the internet by accessing the above website or voice data response system.

The present system includes thirteen water level measurement systems of which seven are equipped with meteorological sensors. Information is collected from each measurement system every six minutes by a centralized data acquisition system located in the Chesapeake, Virginia offices of NOS' Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). NOAA's Continuous Operational Real-Time Monitoring System (CORMS), located in Silver Spring, Maryland, provides 24 hours/day, 7 days/week quality control of the data to ensure that only accurate, reliable information is disseminated to users. The real-time information is provided to users via local graphics displays, Internet, and through a telephone voice data response system

A recent enhancement to the Chesapeake Bay PORTS® is the Chesapeake Bay Operational Forecast System (CBOFS) which produces nowcasts and a 24-hour forecast of water levels and winds in the Bay four times each day. CBOFS is an improvement over the standard tide predications which are based solely on astronomical forcing. CBOFS takes into account the often very significant effects of meteorological and other non-tidal forcing such as coastal surges. This product is also available on the Chesapeake Bay PORTS® web site.



The Chesapeake Bay PORTS was officially established in 2001. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) entered into an agreement with NOAA under which they provided funds for a data telemetry system for the automated collection of information from water level stations. The MPA is now funding NOAA for the implementation of numerous enhancements to the Maryland portion of the PORTS[®] and for the operations of this part of the system. Enhancements include the installation of nine water current profilers as well as air gap (bridge clearance) and visibility sensors. In addition, the Naval Station Norfolk is providing operations funding to NOAA for the Virginia portion of the PORTS[®].

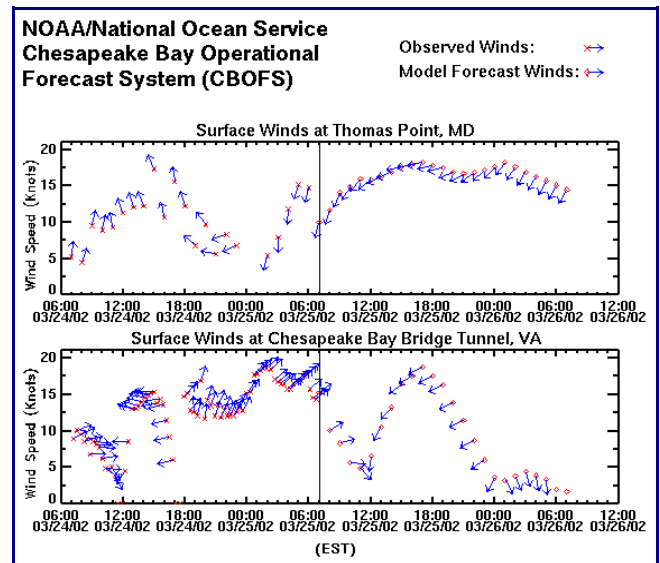


Winds blowing from the north causes the water levels to drop below predicted in the northern part of the Bay.

NOAA's contributions to these partnerships include the development of national PORTS[®] standards, technical support and oversight of the design, installation and operation of PORTS[®], and data quality control. In addition, NOAA continues to develop, test, and evaluate new sensors, data collection, and data telemetry systems that enhance real-time measurement capabilities.

The Chesapeake Bay PORTS[®] is an invaluable tool that supports a wide range of needs, including marine navigation, coastal resource protection, and recreational activities. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay PORTS[®] Internet site receives over 60,000 visits per month.

<p>VALID TIME 0830 (EST) 03/22/02</p> <p>Station: Tolchester WIND SPEED: 24 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 29 KNOTS DIRECTION: 322 T AIR TEMP.: 27.3 F BARO PRESS.: 1022.2 mbar</p> <p>Station: Solomons Island WIND SPEED: 18 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 25 KNOTS DIRECTION: 312 T AIR TEMP.: 30.9 F BARO PRESS.: 1023.0 mbar</p> <p>Station: Lewisetta WIND SPEED: 13 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 19 KNOTS DIRECTION: 310 T AIR TEMP.: 28.6 F BARO PRESS.: 1022.7 mbar</p> <p>Station: Bay Bridge Tunnel WIND SPEED: 27 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 34 KNOTS DIRECTION: 9 T AIR TEMP.: 32.4 F BARO PRESS.: 1021.8 mbar</p> <p>Station: Sewells Point WIND SPEED: 23 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 27 KNOTS DIRECTION: 27 T AIR TEMP.: 30.9 F BARO PRESS.: 1023.1 mbar</p> <p>Station: Money Point WIND SPEED: 11 KNOTS GUSTING TO: 17 KNOTS DIRECTION: 6 T AIR TEMP.: 31.8 F BARO PRESS.: N/A</p>	<p>1-5 Knots: →</p> <p>6-10 Knots: →</p> <p>11-15 Knots: →</p> <p>16-20 Knots: →</p> <p>>20 Knots: →</p>
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For Further Information Contact:
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