

NOUS41 KWBC 122150 AAA  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-32 Updated  
NOAA's 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 NOS and NWS Partners 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)  
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](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
```

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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