

NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

Hydrographic Information¹

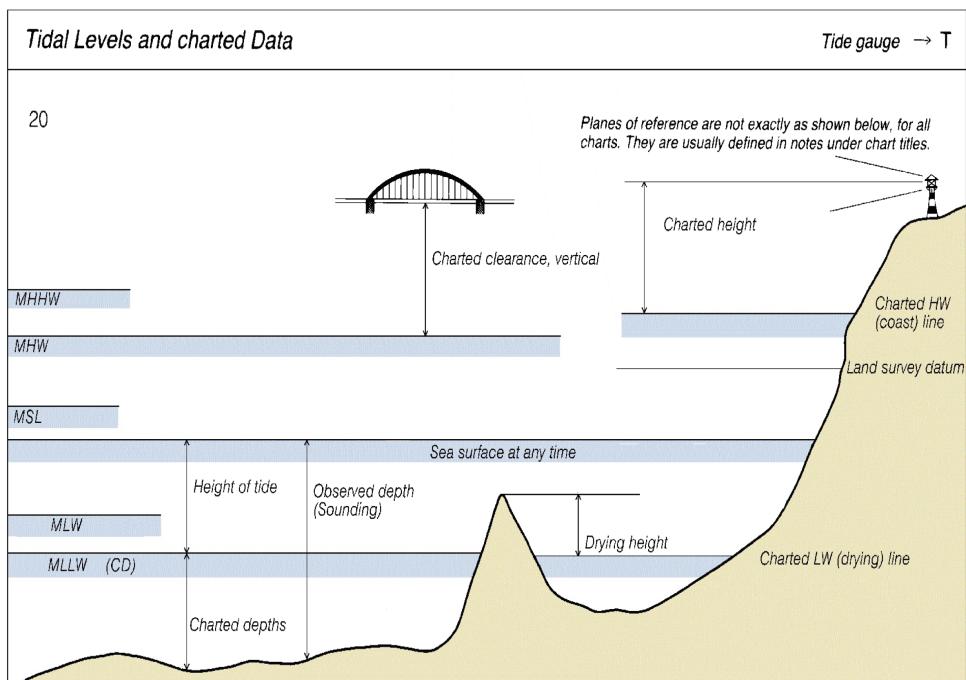


Figure 1 – Diagram taken from Chart No. 1 illustrating conventions used for charting soundings, drying heights, charted clearance of bridges, and the charted height of lights.

Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA,
www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov, 1-301-713-2770

Hydrographic information on the nautical chart consists of depth soundings, depth curves, depth-dependent color areas (blue tints), notes showing the controlling depth of improved channels, and descriptions of the nature of the bottom. Hydrographic surveys are the basic source of soundings. These surveys, conducted by NOAA and other vessels, gather information using single and multi-beam sonar, airborne laser hydrography, and side-scan sonar.

Sounding data from surveys are adjusted to a common vertical plane of reference, mean lower low water (MLLW). MLLW is an average (usually over a 19-year epoch) of all lowest water levels for tidal days. From this perspective charted soundings are conservative. Actual depths are typically greater than charted depths. However, even though the datum is based on low water averages (lower low water where there are two low-water periods in a day), the actual water level may be lower than this average so that the real water depth can be less than the charted depth.

March 2006						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
¹ From "Nautical Chart Users Manual, available for free at http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/staff/ncum/ncum.htm			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	