



NOAA's National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ



Issued: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Next Briefing Package: by 4 PM Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Changes with this Briefing:

The threat of Coastal Flooding has INCREASED. Major coastal flooding is now expected on the Atlantic Coast with moderate to major especially along the Delaware coast of Delaware Bay.

Hazards and Impacts:

Wintry Precipitation: The potential exists for a significant winter storm late Friday through Saturday. This will be the strongest storm of the winter, so far. Precipitation is currently likely across all of the region late Friday through Saturday night. Snow is expected across all of the area for the second half of Friday. From Philadelphia south and east, there is the potential for snow to change to rain on Saturday which would lower any accumulations. **It is important to note that the position of any rain/snow line is ultimately dependent on the track and strength of the storm, which is difficult to pin down this far out.**

Wind: Strong and gusty wind is possible through the same period which could lead to blowing and drifting snow, as well as beach erosion. The strongest gusts will be along the coast. Depending on the track and intensity of the storm, wind speeds of 25 to 40 MPH with higher gusts are possible.

Tidal/Coastal Flooding: With the strong onshore flow, and a full moon on Saturday, major flooding is anticipated along the coasts of New Jersey and Delaware and moderate to Major Flooding along Delaware Bay. Back bay flooding is also likely in these areas. At this time, no tidal flooding is expected along the Delaware River or Chesapeake Bay.

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Other notes:

Uncertainty level: Right now this storm is still several days away. A track closer to the coast would result in more rain and a track further south or east would lessen the overall impacts. Computer models continue to differ on the ultimate solution, and these differences are very important to the final forecast.

Snow accumulation forecast: A very significant snowfall is forecast for portions of the area. The heaviest snowfall of the winter, so far, by a wide margin, is expected in many areas. Official accumulations will begin to be published on Wednesday.

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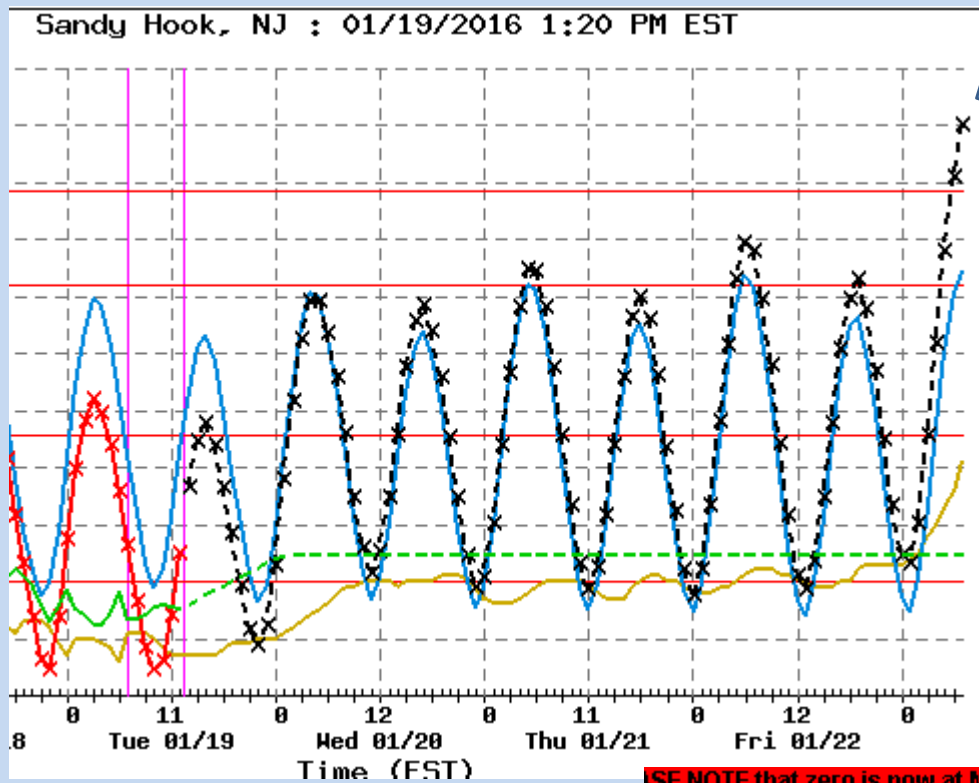


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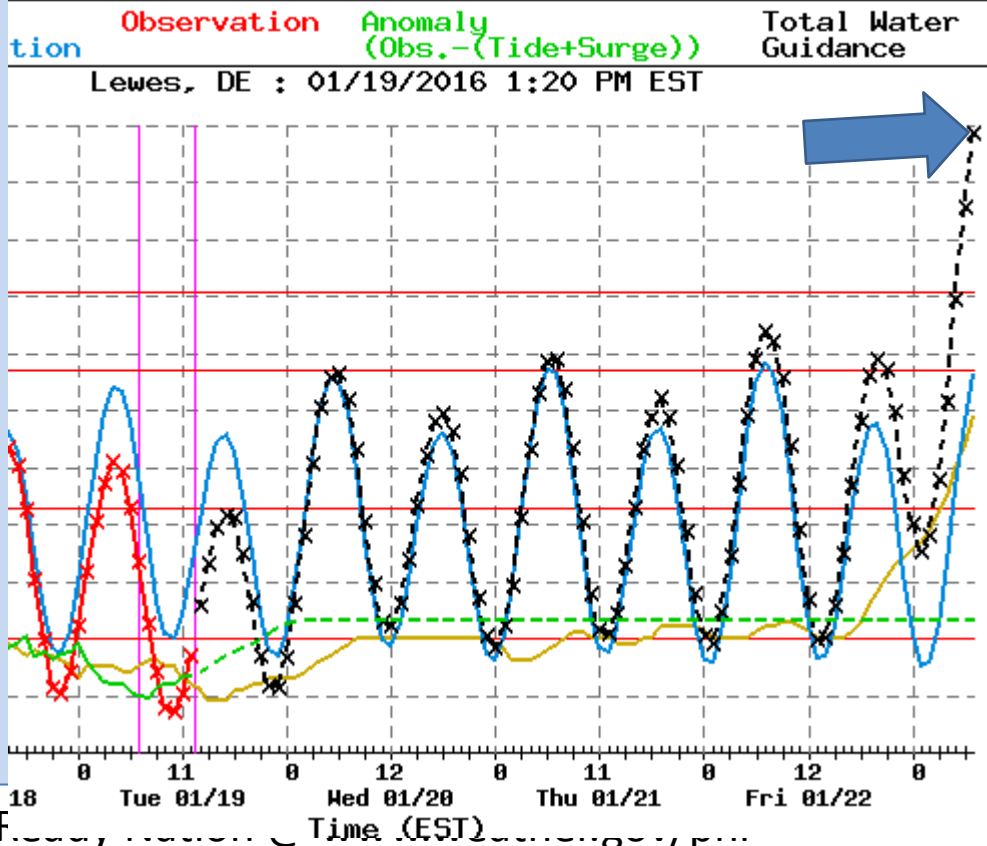
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These charts only go through early Saturday, show the rise, including the effects of the storm, but do not capture the peak of the system.

PLEASE NOTE that zero is now at Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). This is the old default datum.



Building a Weather Forecast



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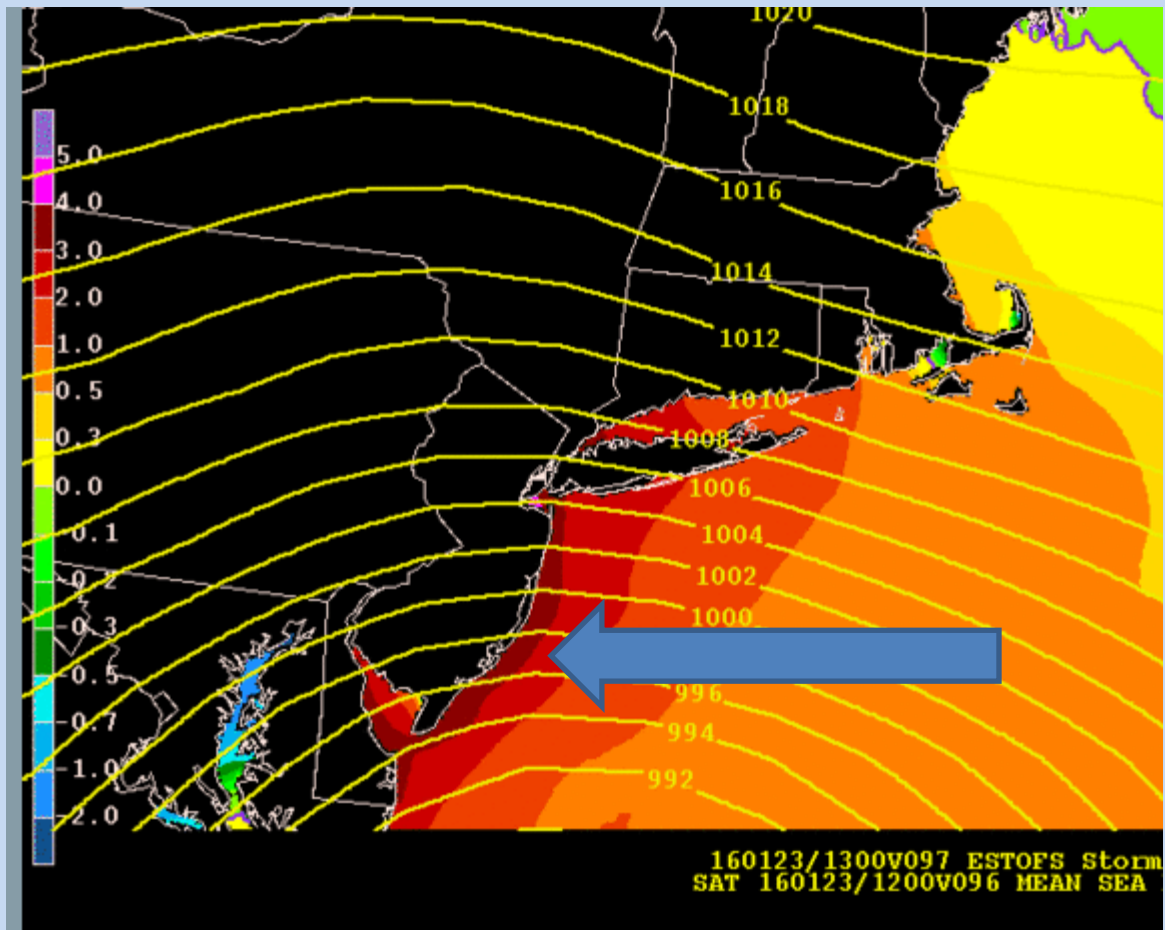


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Tidal Departures at 7 AM Saturday (around high tide). Note 2-3 FT departures along the coast and portions of Delaware Bay.

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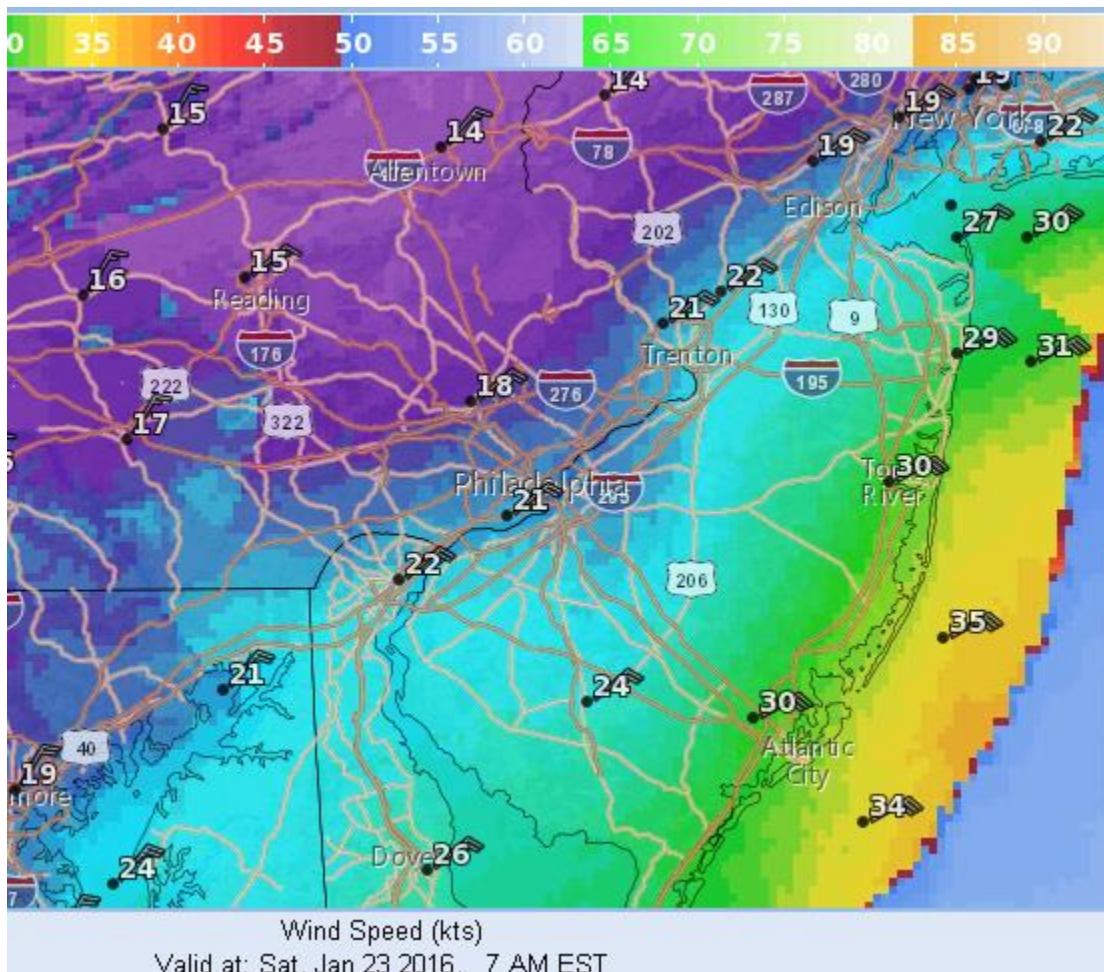


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Sustained wind speed (gusts will be higher) at 7 AM Saturday.

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