



Dossier du BHI No S3/2705

LETTRE CIRCULAIRE 04/2012
9 janvier 2012

**NECESSITE DE SAUVEGARDER LES DONNEES HISTORIQUES DES MAREGRAPHES
SOUS FORME NON NUMERIQUE**

Référence: LC 48/2009 en date du 7 juillet 2009

Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur,

1. Le groupe de travail sur les marées et les niveaux des eaux (TWLWG) coopère étroitement avec le système mondial d'observation du niveau des mers (GLOSS) de la Commission océanographique intergouvernementale (COI) de l'UNESCO par une représentation mutuelle aux réunions de l'une ou l'autre organisation.

2. L'étude des changements du niveau des mers est un domaine d'intérêt commun. Un élément essentiel de ce type d'étude est la disponibilité des enregistrements de marégraphes à long terme. La plupart de ces enregistrements historiques se présentent sous forme papier et peuvent se trouver tout à fait oubliés dans des bureaux. En 2001, le GLOSS a pris l'initiative d'une demande en vue de récupérer ces enregistrements. Cette initiative a été couronnée de succès comme on peut le constater dans l'annexe, cependant le GLOSS est d'avis qu'un grand nombre d'enregistrements ne sont pas encore inclus dans sa base de données et il a demandé l'appui de l'OHI en vue de récupérer ces données lorsque cela est possible. Cette question a été précédemment portée à l'attention des Etats membres au paragraphe 3 de la référence qui a rendu compte des résultats de la 11^{ème} réunion du groupe d'experts du GLOSS.

3 A sa 12^{ème} réunion en novembre 2011, le GLOSS a décidé de faire un autre essai en vue de récupérer plus de données manquantes et a publié la lettre en annexe A. Les Etats membres seront informés de l'importance de l'étude des changements du niveau des mers et il leur est demandé d'aider le GLOSS à récupérer ces données lorsque cela est possible.

Veuillez agréer, Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Pour le Comité de direction,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice-amiral Alexandros MARATOS
Président

Annexe A: Demande du groupe d'experts du GLOSS de la COI (*en anglais seulement*).

December 2011
From: GLOSS Group of Experts
To: GLOSS country contacts
Subject: Request for Information:
Inventory of Sea Level Data in Need of Rescue



Dear GLOSS colleague,

In 2001, the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) and the International Data and Information Exchange program (IODE) developed an inventory by means of a questionnaire to GLOSS and IODE contacts for information about historic tide gauge data in non-digital form and in need of rescue. Reports from the 2001 endeavor are given at www.gloss-sealevel.org/data. In total, rescued hourly data since 2001 have extended 91 tide gauge series backwards in time for 1,411 years, and subsequently, the quality-controlled versions have been ingested into GLOSS data centers.

At the 12th session of the GLOSS Group of Experts (GLOSS GE XII, 7-11 November, 2011, Paris), the topic of rescue of tide gauge data in non-computer form (charts, tabulations, etc.) was discussed. It was noted that a large amount of historic data remain in paper form and have been identified in non-oceanographic facilities such as the US National Archives and the French Prefecture Archives. The mostly paper-based tide gauge data sets are of potential great value to the sea level community in a range of applications including the extension of existing sea level time series as far back as possible in order to understand more completely the time scales of sea level change. The GLOSS GE XII recommended an update to the 2001 inventory. The goal is to seek support from funding agencies for rescue by detailing the vast amount of known non-electronic data. Greater exposure of the inventory will be possible through the GLOSS collaboration with the Data At Risk Task Group of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

On behalf of the GLOSS GE, we would like to ask for your support in furthering the inventory of historic, non-digital tide gauge data. If your agency/institute/facility holds historic sea level data in non-computer form, could you please fill in this questionnaire? If you are aware of other facilities in your country that have such non-digital tide gauge records, could you please give us contact information? We are most thankful to those who responded to the 2001 questionnaire. If select questions of the new questionnaire have already been answered, please reply by stating "see 2001".

Please send comments, questions, contacts for additional historic data, and/or the completed new questionnaire by May 1, 2012 to Mr. Patrick Caldwell, University of Hawaii Sea Level Center (UHSLC). See contact information below.

It is preferred to receive an electronic copy of your responses to this questionnaire. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

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Request of Information: Inventory of Sea Level Data in Need of Rescue

Please complete the following questionnaire and return the electronic document to Mr. Patrick Caldwell, University of Hawaii Sea Level Center, caldwell@hawaii.edu by **May 1, 2012**.

General Questions

1. Please provide the name of facility/agency/institute/office/department/organization/etc. (referred to as “agency” below) where non-computerized data reside. Include a contact name and email address. For multiple choice questions below, please place an X in front of the letter(s) as your response and/or describe.
2. Please indicate what media the data are stored on?
 - a. Paper
 - b. Microfiche
 - c. Film
 - d. Other, please explain?
3. What is the overall condition of the media?
 - a. All are in good condition
 - b. All are near non-readability
 - c. Other, please describe:
4. Are there multiple copies?
 - a. No, only one copy and it resides here
 - b. Yes, copies also reside at (name of location):
 - c. In the past, are you aware if copies were sent to a hydrographic agency or other tide facility in order to produce tidal predictions, if so, where?
5. For each tide gauge station (option A: cut and paste this section for each site, or option B: do this section once if most answers are the same for all stations, though please give time spans specifically for each station, and point out where there are different answers depending on the station)
 - a. Station name and location? Are maps of station location in harbor available?
 - b. Time span of non-digital data and list of major missing data periods (~years)?
 - c. Form of tide data (analog pen trace on charts, tabulated hourly values, high and low tides, etc.)? (For charts, please give chart manufacturer, size, scale factor, and replacement frequency)

- d. Clearness of pen ink, height markings, scale factor, calibration points, date/time stamps? - good or bad, explain
 - e. Type, make, and model of tide gauge?
 - f. Why were the data collected (hydrography, tide predictions, etc.)?
 - g. Are tide staff (pole) readings available, if so, how often made?
 - h. Are other notes on station maintenance available (clock checks, etc.)?
 - i. Were ancillary parameters recorded, such as water temperature or salinity?
 - j. Are historic geodetic surveys available?
 - k. Are or can the benchmarks be linked to the existing benchmark network?
6. What is the overall volume of the holdings? (number of boxes, number of rolls each X by Y dimension, etc.)
7. Are there any plans by your agency or other (please name) to rescue these data into computer ready form, if so, on what time line?
8. If funding were available for photocopying (or making digital camera images) and postal charges, would your agency allow observations to be made available through a GLOSS data center?