

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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