

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

JANUARY 2023 UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of updates and announcements relevant to flooding, coastal hazards, and coastal planning intended to be shared with Hampton boards, commissions, committees, departments, and the public. Visit <http://shea4nh.org/coastal-hazards-adaptation-team-chat/> for information about CHAT.

- Town Planner Jason Bachand shared two project updates:
 - The Town of Hampton Master Plan Steering Committee will meet on January 18th to review the latest draft. A public hearing is scheduled for February 15, 2023.
 - The Flood Smart Steering Committee will convene its first kick-off meeting on January 19, 2022. The main objectives are to review the project scope, the PREPA Grant floodplain ordinance findings, and the draft sea-level rise flood design elevation options.
- Resident representative Tom Bassett shared photos of major flooding in the Greene St/Gentian Rd/Meadow Pond neighborhood on December 23-24, 2022 (attached). High tide was predicted to be 10.3 ft but ended up at 13.25 ft, accompanied by 1.4" of rainfall. Meadow Pond breached its banks and flooded the backyards of adjacent homes. Some street fire hydrants were $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way underwater. On December 24th cold weather caused roads to ice over. Several neighbors were unable to leave their homes. More neighborhoods shared photos with Tom and collectively, they captured impacts from Meadow Pond up to King's Highway. Increased number of neighbors sending photos, able to capture impacts from Meadow Pond up to King's Highway
- Resident representative Stephen LaBranche shared that the 3ft tide height compares to the major flooding event in 1978. Based on flooding images and updates from neighbors regarding the December storm, ocean water breached the Ocean Blvd seawall at Rocky Bend, came up through various seawall stairwells, and crossed the four lanes of Ocean Blvd. There were no snowbanks to slow water down. Homes near his had flooding in garages and lower-level apartment units. There was flooding at the intersection of Island Path and Ashworth Aves. High winds up to 65 mph and rain heightened the flooding and increased property damage. Mutual aid from nearby Towns was requested to help handle car and building fires. He expressed concerned that Towns will be resistant to offer future mutual aid if their experience expensive emergency response equipment experience saltwater damage (i.e., ladder truck).
- Conservation Coordinator Brianna O'Brien shared her personal experience trying to reach her home at the end of King's Highway during the flood event. She was unable to reach her home and needed to wait for Department of Public Works staff to bring her home when a vehicle became available. Her garage was substantially flooded. Ms. O'Brien noted that the inability to come or go from her house was an inconvenience and asked what would have happened in the event an elderly neighbor or visitor had a medical emergency? but highlighted the issue of what would have happened if there had been a medical emergency.
- NHDES Coastal Program staff Kirsten Howard asked whether Town staff had heard any reports on the aftermath regarding those with and without flood insurance. Several people had called about post-storm event repairs for seawalls (six repairs), decks (one floated away), and one potential home elevation.
- Hampton Beach Village District representative Bob Ladd shared that an insurance agent presented at Beach Village District's January meeting. He noted that flood damage is not covered under homeowner's insurance and that a separate policy is required.
- Conservation Commission representative Jay Diener shared that Saturday, February 4th is the Town's deliberative session at the Hampton Academy beginning at 8:30 am. He noted a conflict with NHDOT's open house (same day) regarding Route 1A from High St to the Bridge and had requested that NHDOT consider rescheduling.
- Hampton Beach Area Commission representative Barbara Kravitz shared that there is a public hearing on NHDOT 10-year plan in early February. A copy of this plan can be found on the Rockingham Planning Commission's [website](#).

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- NHDES Coastal Program staff Lucy Perkins shared that the Rising Tide Photo Contest period begins January 20th through Jan 24th, 2023. The site visit planned for Hampton (Manchester/Hobson Ave) is scheduled for Monday morning (Jan 24th, 11:30 to 12:30).
- Ms. Howard asked for an update on the status of DPW's National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and 2023 warrant article for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant match.
- Department of Public Works Director Jen Hale shared project and funding updates:
 - The final National Fish and Wildlife Foundation reports and accounting were submitted on Nov 29th, 2022. About \$6,000 of grant funds were not expended. Grant will close once the last reimbursement is received.
 - The \$2M American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant is for the King's Highway drainage project. This will be a request on the 2023 Town meeting ballot to allocate \$800,000 from the undesignated fund as grant match.

CHAT's mission is to evaluate, assist, support, educate, and advise on current and future coastal flooding adaptation strategies for the Town.

CHAT is comprised of representatives from boards and commissions in Hampton, Town of Hampton staff, Hampton Beach Area Commission, Hampton Beach Village District, the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA), and resident representatives. CHAT is supported by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program and a meeting coordinator and administered by SHEA.



Major Flooding

December 23-24, 2022

Greene St-Gentian Rd-Meadow Pond
Neighborhood

Photos by Becca Bassett
except where noted

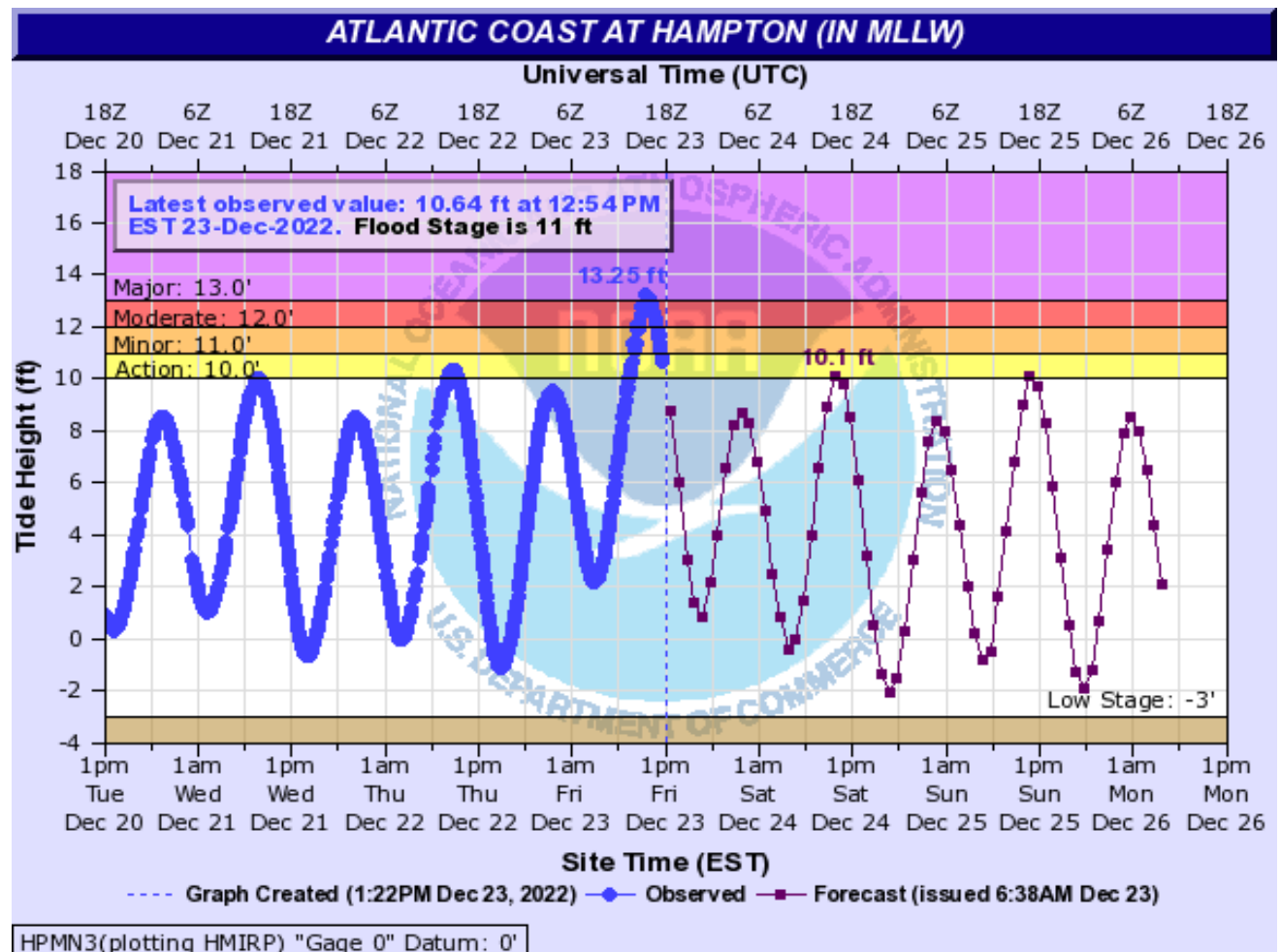
National Weather Service
Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

water.weather.gov/ahps/

Predicted high tide
(MLLW): 10.3 ft

Recorded high tide
(MLLW): 13.25 ft

Rainfall: Dec 22-23: 1.4"



Meadow Pond at
major flood stage



Backyard flooding
from
Meadow Pond



Backyard
flooding,
Gentian Rd



Photo: Ron Desrosiers

Gentian Rd



Intersection of
Greene St &
Gentian Rd



Gentian Rd



Photo: Sven Doerge

Corner of
Greene St &
Gentian Rd



Looking
towards
Meadow Pond
Rd from Greene
St & Gentic Rd
intersection

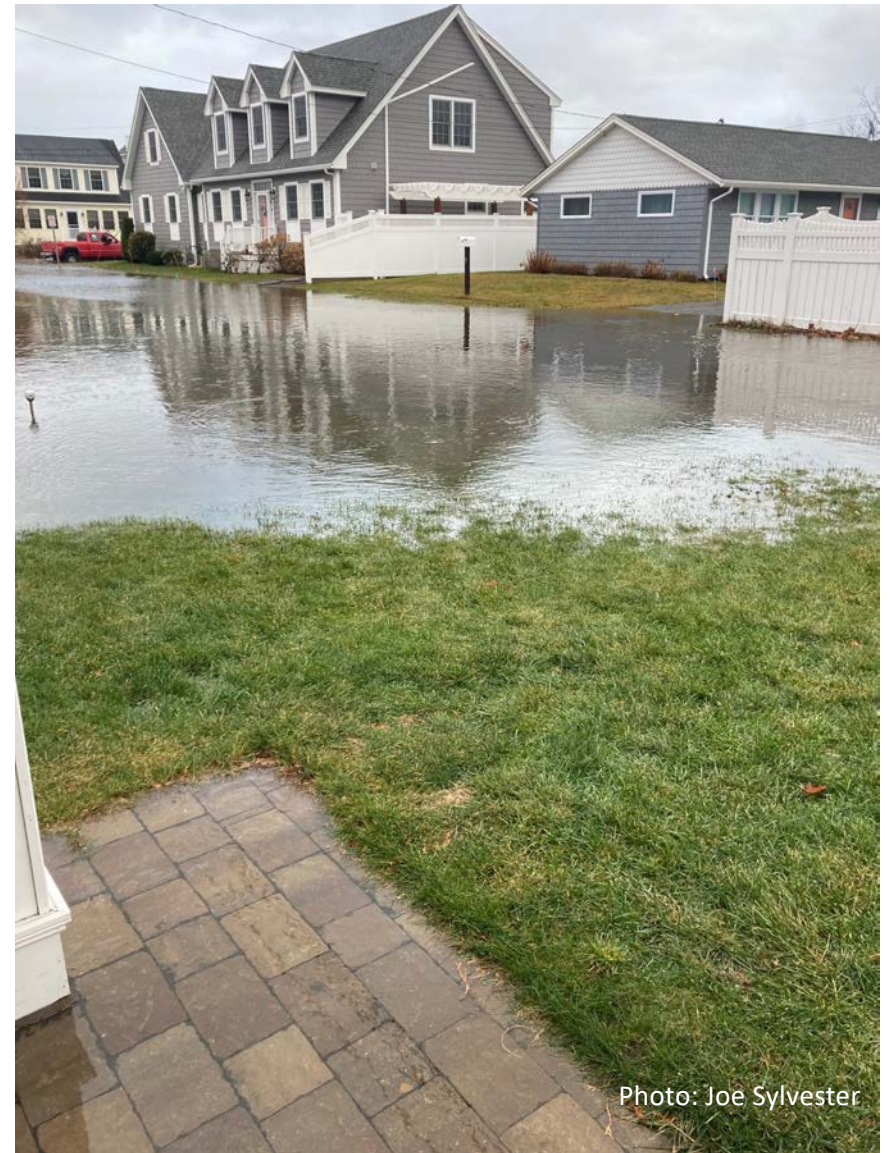


Greene St
& Meadow
Pond Rd



Photo: Joe Sylvester

Meadow Pond Rd



Meadow Pond Rd



Photo: Kristine Santacroce

Meadow Pond Rd



Photo: Kristine Santacroce

Meadow
Pond Rd &
Greene St



Photo: Janice Phillips

Greene St



Photo: Janice Phillips

King's Highway
near 18th St

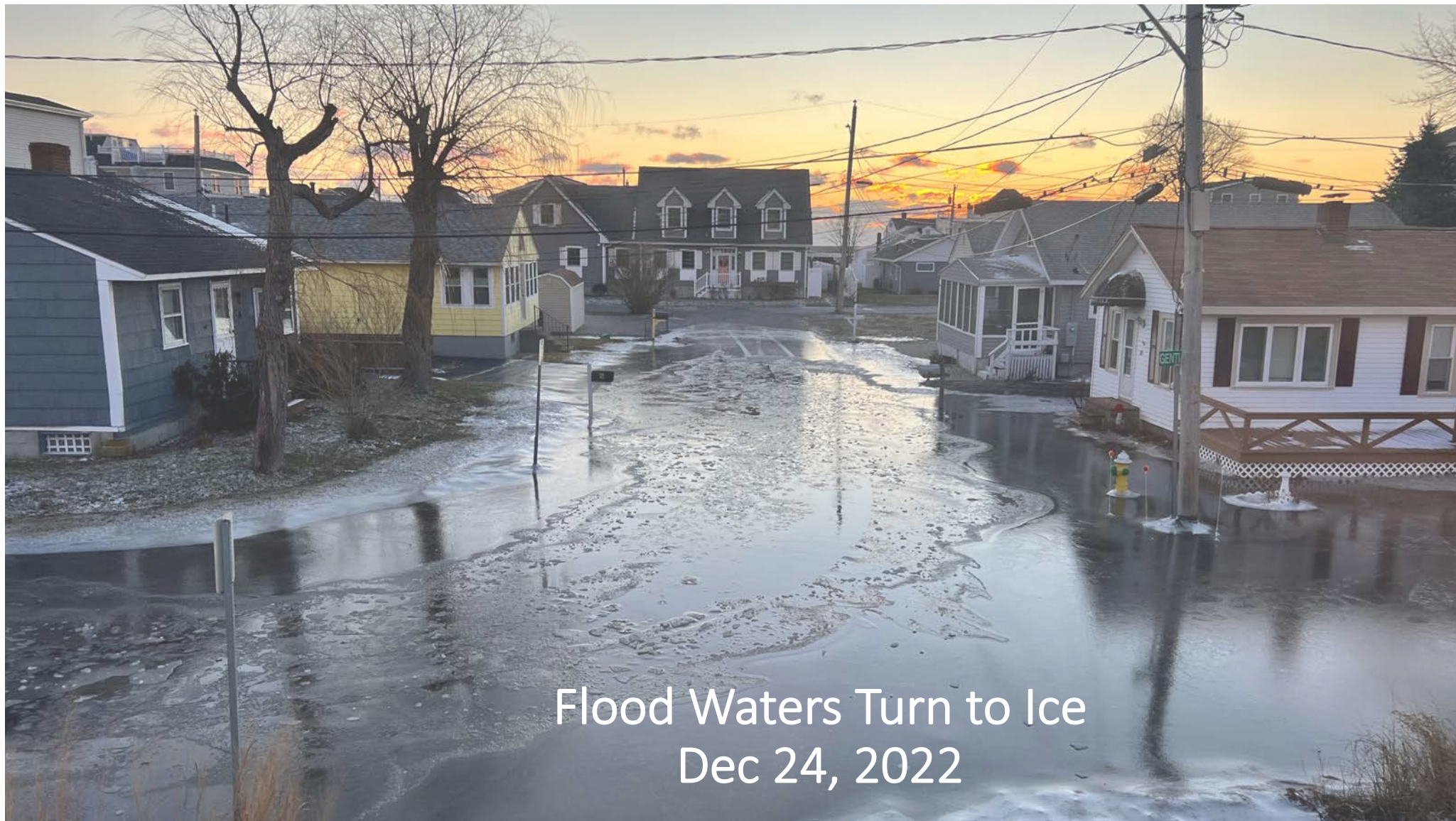


Photo: Michael DuBois

King's Highway
near 18th St



Photo: Michael DuBois



Flood Waters Turn to Ice
Dec 24, 2022

Gentian Rd



Icy conditions
Gentian Rd &
Greene St



Gentian Rd
& Greene St
ice

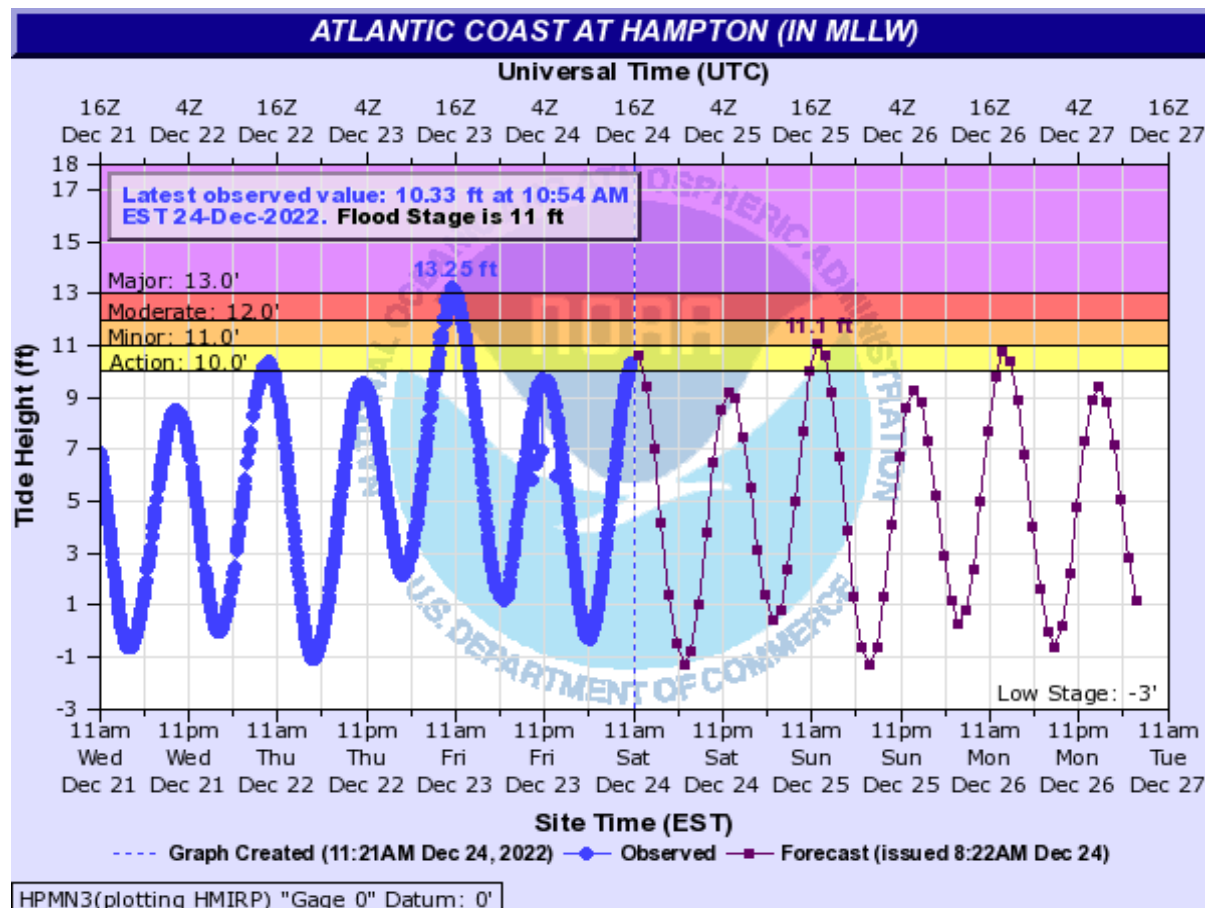


Gentian Rd
iced over



Hampton tide gauge predicts more high tides (> 10 ft) through Dec 26

National Weather Service
Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service
water.weather.gov/ahps/



Navigating the flood
waters, Gentian &
Greene



Photo: Peg Desrosiers