

Healthcare with the Tides: Lessons Learned Working with Fishers

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Disclaimer

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Objectives



- Report the unique healthcare needs of fishers
- Discuss healthcare barriers for fishers
- Identify strategies employed to reach fishers
- Review lessons learned working with fishers

Fisher's Unique Healthcare Needs

- Graying of the fleet
- Skin cancer (15%; Burke et al., 2006)
- Infections
- Injuries
- Mortality

Morbidity & Mortality

According to the CDC

- Commercial fishing is one of the most dangerous occupations in the US.
- Occupational mortality rate of 118 for every 100,000 workers.



Station WCTI Sneads Ferry Onslow County

HEADLINE: Death of local fisherman sheds light
on dangers they encounter

“A beloved local shrimper lost his life earlier this week. His death raises the issues local fishermen face in doing their job.”

Fisher Healthcare Barriers

- No work, no pay
- Seasonal work
- Work based upon the tides
- No insurance, poor insurance
- Limited healthcare providers

Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

Community Organizational Model

Decision-making process that empowers communities to improve health.

-- Rural Communities --

Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

Local stakeholder support

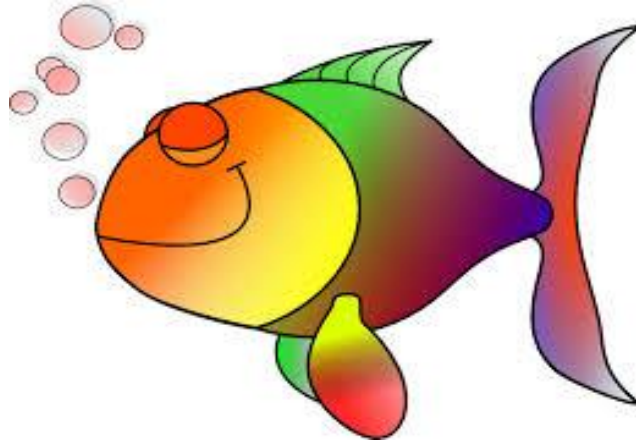
- NC Catch
- NC Extension
- Community leaders
- Elected officials
- Businesses



Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

News Release

- Facebook
- Local papers
- Flyers



News Release ---

ECU College of Nursing Program to Offer Fishers Free Health Screenings

As part of the ECU College of Nursing's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, RN's and ECU clinical faculty will conduct free health screenings for commercial fishers.

Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

Health Screenings

-- Followed by --

Primary Care



Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

Free Flu Vaccines

Engaging local business



Strategies Employed to Reach Fishers

Scheduled clinic days based upon the tides

High Tide = Mobile Medical Unit Day

Clinical care for everyone; all ages, fishers, families



VARNAMTOWN
TOWN HALL

Description of the Tides on the Example of Half a Month

Coastline in both
maps and charts

Tide gauge

Spring tide

Neap tide

Spring tide

HAT = Highest Astronomical Tide
MHWS = Mean High Water Springs
MHW = Mean High Water
MHWN = Mean High Water Neap
MSL = Mean Sea Level
MLWN = Mean Low Water Neap
MLW = Mean Low Water
MLWS = Mean Low Water Springs
LAT = Lowest Astronomical Tide

Limit line of the
foreshore:

Maps

Charts

Depths

Mean Neap Tidal Range

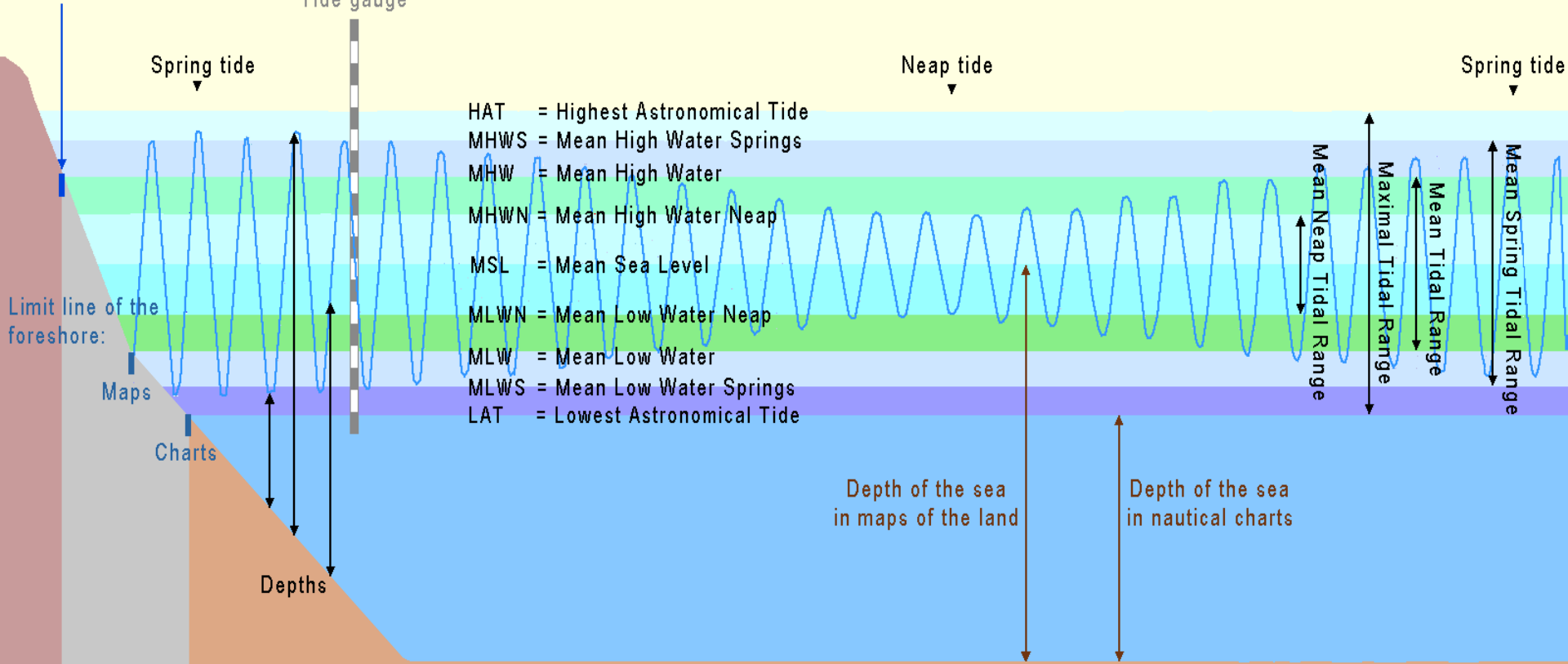
Maximal Tidal Range

Mean Tidal Range

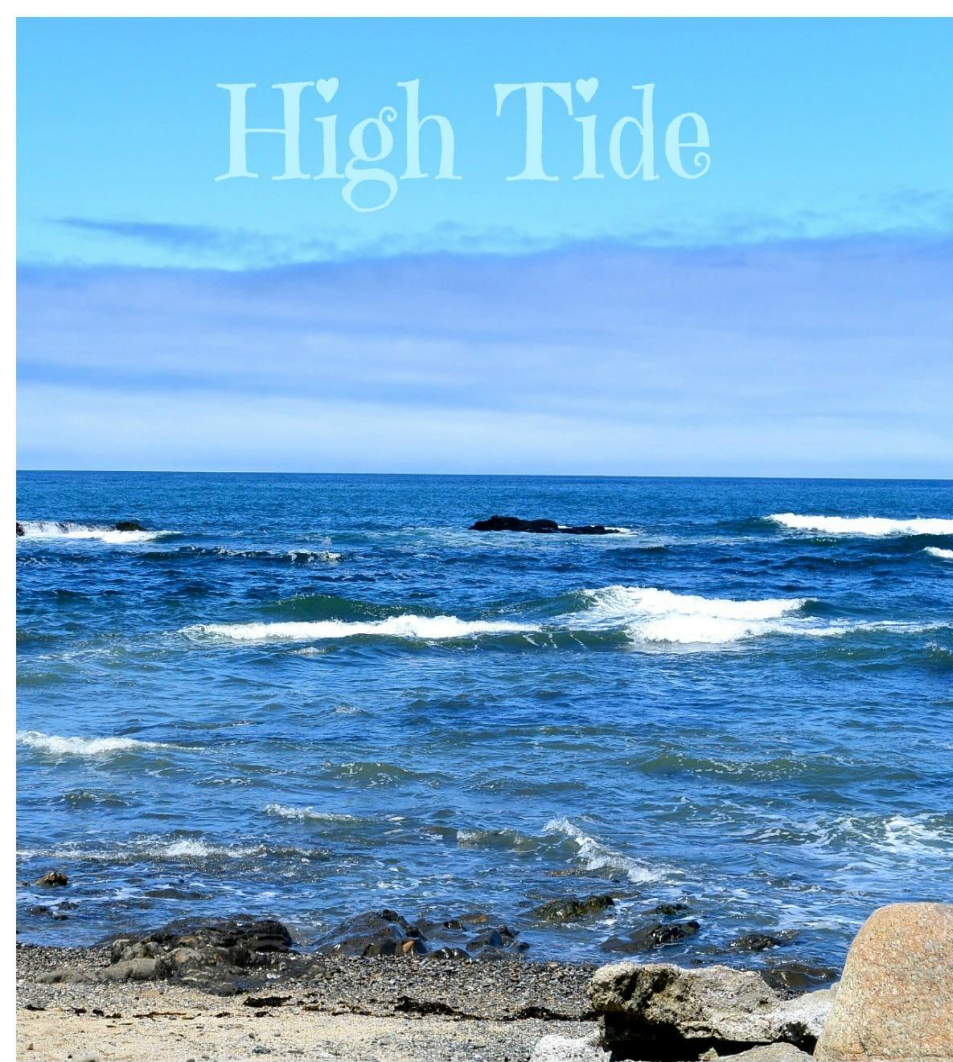
Mean Spring Tidal Range

Depth of the sea
in maps of the land

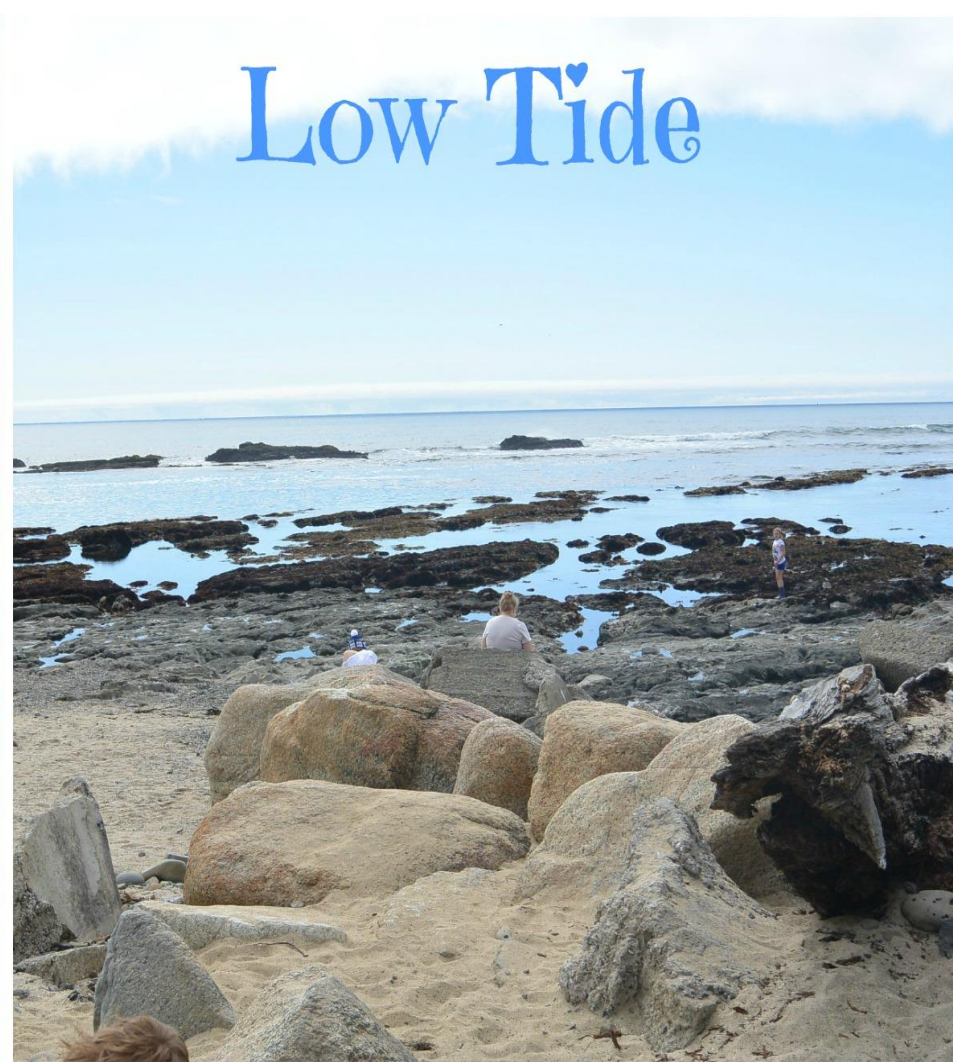
Depth of the sea
in nautical charts



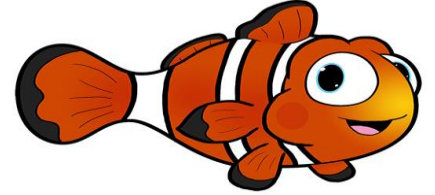
High Tide



Low Tide



Lessons Learned



- Flexibility
- Patience
- Communicate through local churches
- Fishers work despite serious health issues

Next Steps --

- Engage churches
- Business support
- Assessment
- Community feedback
- Sustainability



Thank you!

