

CECIL COUNTY

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

REFERENCE TIDE GAUGE - TOLCHESTER BEACH

The Tolchester Beach tide gauge is located in western Kent County.

High tide at Charlestown (Cecil County) occurs about 3¼ hours later than the high tide at Tolchester Beach. Low tide is around 3½ hours later.

The high and low tides at the Kent Island Narrows (Queen Anne's County) occur about 2 hours earlier than the high and low tides at Tolchester Beach.

Cecil County

The banks of the upper reaches of Chesapeake Bay are generally steep. As a result, there are no known tidal flooding problem areas in Cecil County. However, an incoming tide in combination with a heavy rain event will likely have an impact on river flooding in the county.

Kent County

There are no known tidal flooding problem areas in the county along the bay north of Tolchester Beach or along the Sassafras River. The banks of the bay and the river are generally steep in those areas. However, an incoming tide in combination with a heavy rain event will likely have an impact on river flooding in the county.

In Kent County, along the bay from Tolchester Beach southward and along the Chester River, the following problem areas exist:

In the upper part of the minor range:

Flooding begins in Rock Hall, Skinners Neck, Piney Neck, McKinleyville and Cliffs City.

Flooding occurs along the Chester River in Chestertown and also south of Chestertown along Quaker Neck Road.

Queen Anne's County

In the lower part of the minor range:

Flooding occurs along MD Route 18 around the Kent Island Narrows from Chester to Grasonville.

Flooding occurs along MD Route 552 near Dominion (the public landing).

In the upper part of the minor range:

Flooding occurs along MD Route 18 near Queenstown.

In the moderate range:

Southeast Creek floods around Church Hill (MD Route 213 and Main Street).

Flooding occurs along the Corsica River around Centreville (the Three Bridges Branch and the Mill Stream Branch).

Flooding occurs in the Cloverfields section of Kent Island.

Data Acquisition

In order to access data from the Tolchester Beach gauge, use the National Ocean Service web site at <http://storms.nos.noaa.gov/>.

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The tide heights from actual events referenced in the following table are those that were verified by the National Ocean Service. They may vary slightly from figures found in National Weather Service publications.

ALL HEIGHTS ARE IN MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW).

- 7.9 FT — September 19, 2003 (Hurricane Isabel).
- 5.5 FT — SEVERE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
- 4.9 FT — September 7, 1996 (Hurricane Fran).
- 4.6 FT — March 19, 1983.
- 4.5 FT — MODERATE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
- 3.5 FT — MINOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**

- 1.8 FT — BLOWOUT TIDE.**
- 3.1 FT — April 1, 1997.

UPDATED AUGUST 2009