



TIDE BASICS

Terms & Definitions

Rule of Twelfths

Terms and Definitions 1

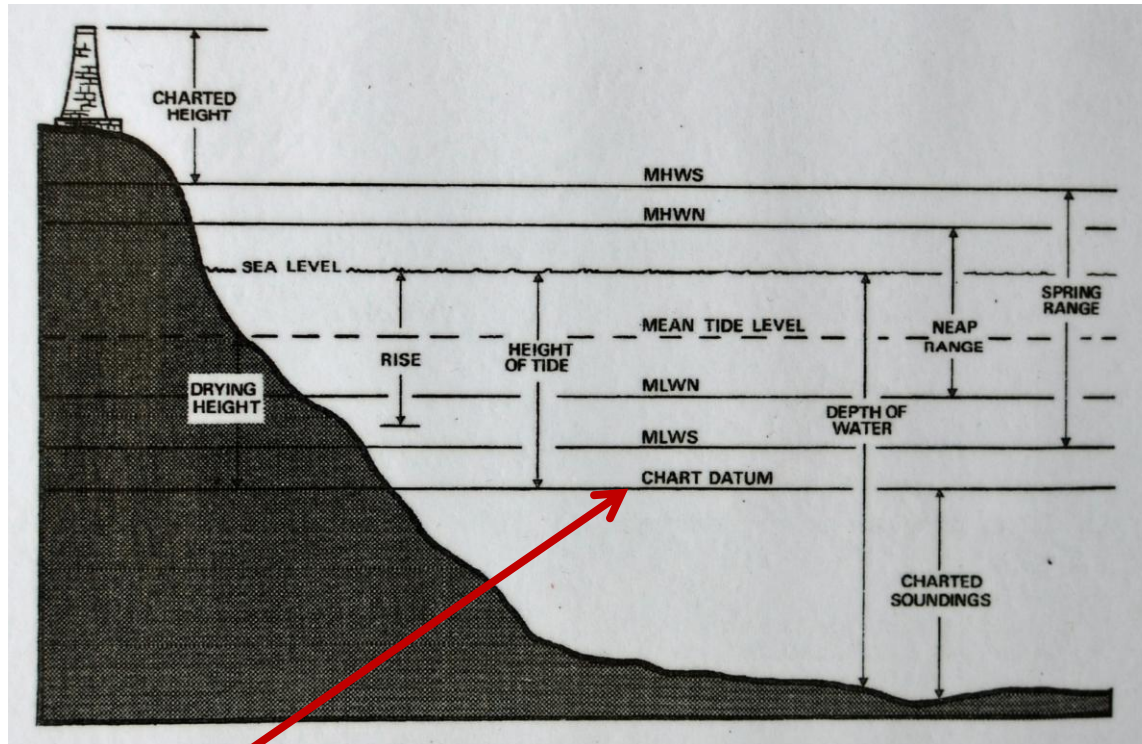
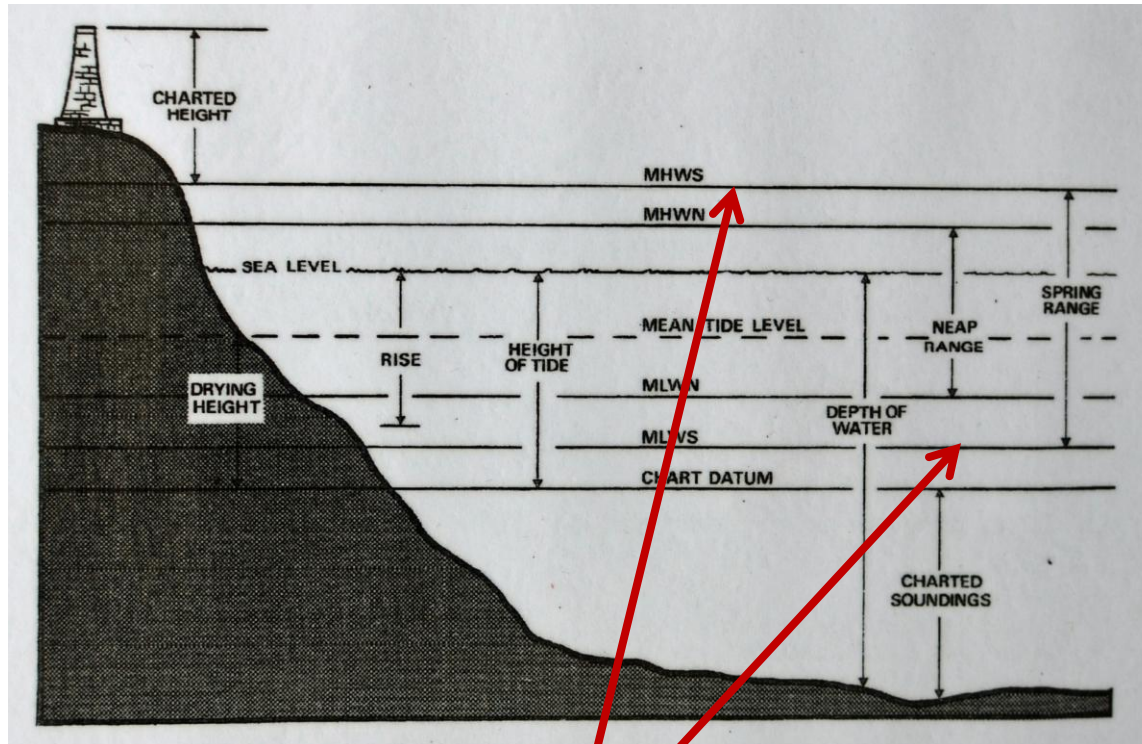


CHART DATUM

- Level of which soundings and drying heights are referred on the chart and above which heights of tide are given in the tide tables.
- Chart Datum level generally coincides with the level of the lowest astronomical tide (LAT)

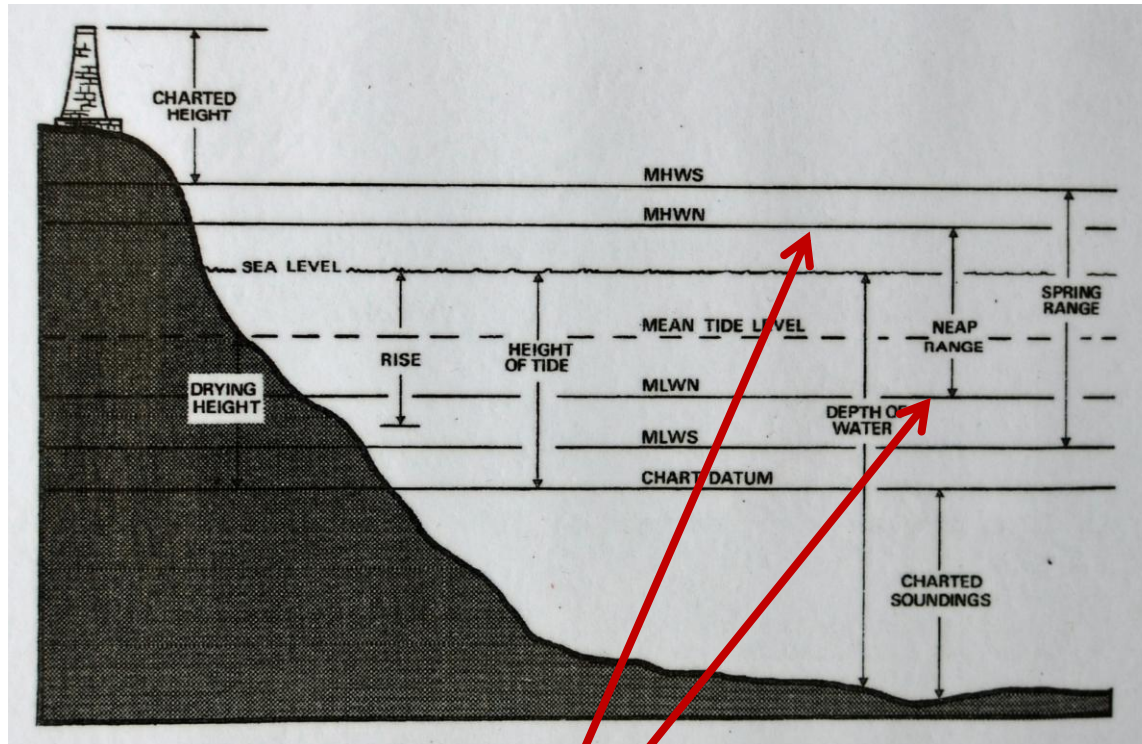
Terms and Definitions 2



MEAN HIGH WATER SPRINGS (MHWS) **MEAN LOW WATER SPRINGS (MLWS)**

- Average heights of high water and low water at spring tides
- Charted heights of terrestrial bodies (lights, peaks, bridges, etc) are referred to the level of MHW

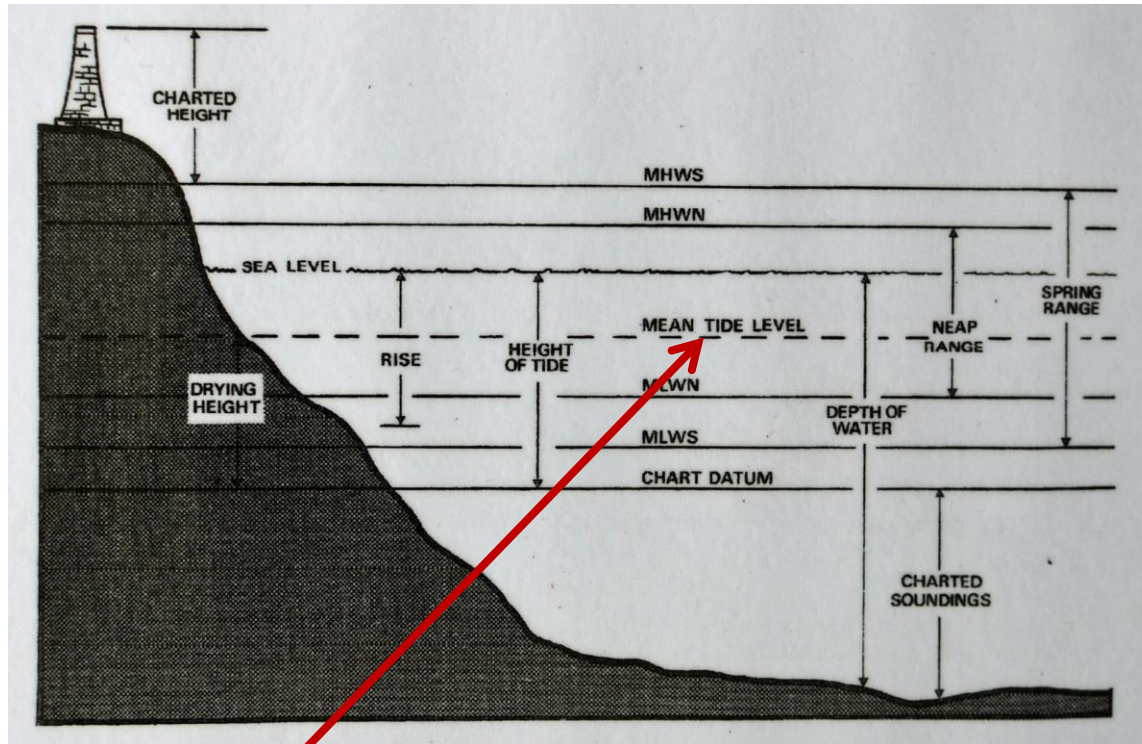
Terms and Definitions 3



MEAN HIGH WATER NEAPS (MHWN)
MEAN LOW WATER NEAPS (MLWN)

- Average heights of high and low water at neap tides

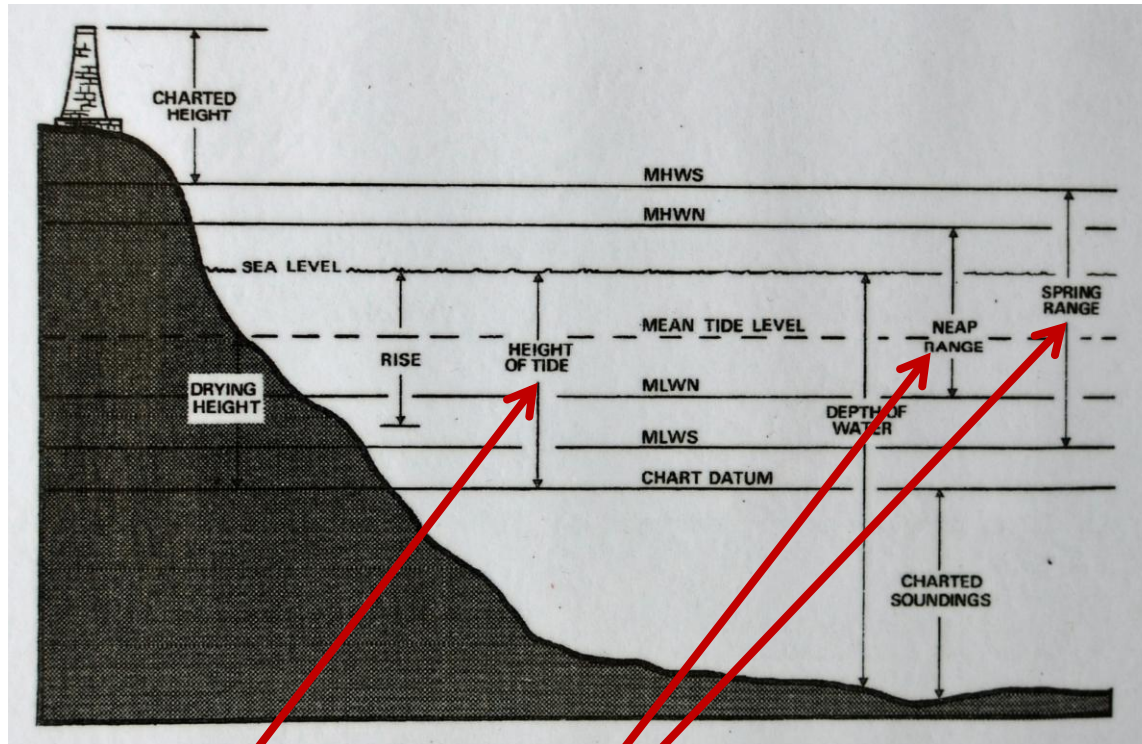
Terms and Definitions 4



MEAN TIDE LEVEL

- Average value of all heights of high and low water of a period.
- Level does not always coincide with mean sea level but both terms are referred to as mean level

Terms and Definitions 5



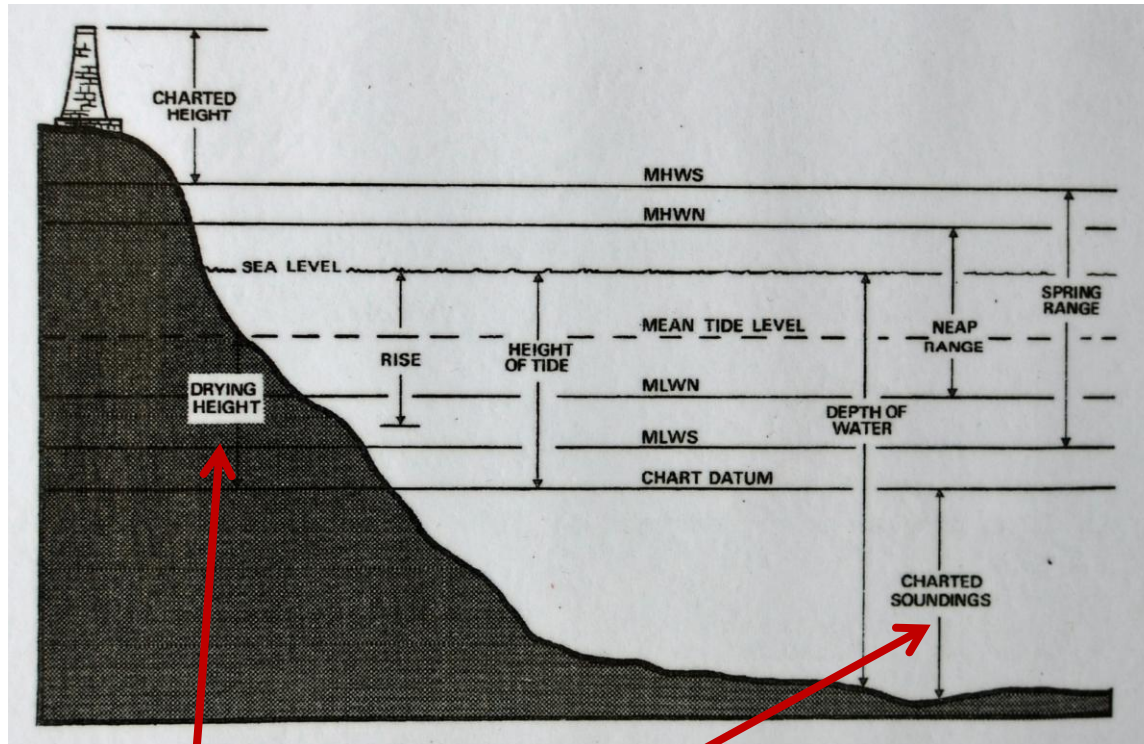
HEIGHT OF TIDE

- Vertical distance between chart datum and the sea level

SPRING RANGE : NEAP RANGE

- Difference in height between MHW and MLWS or MHWN and MLWN

Terms and Definitions 6



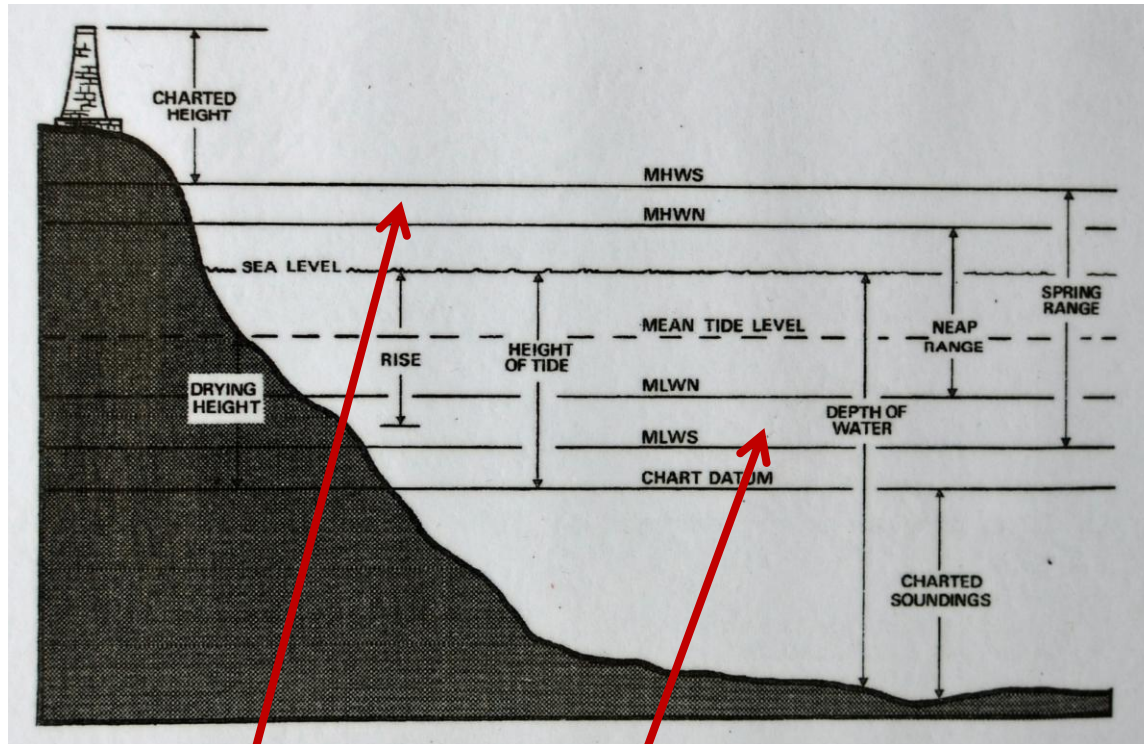
DRYING HEIGHT

- Height above chart datum of features covered and uncovered by the tide

CHARTED SOUNDING

- Depth to the sea bed below chart datum

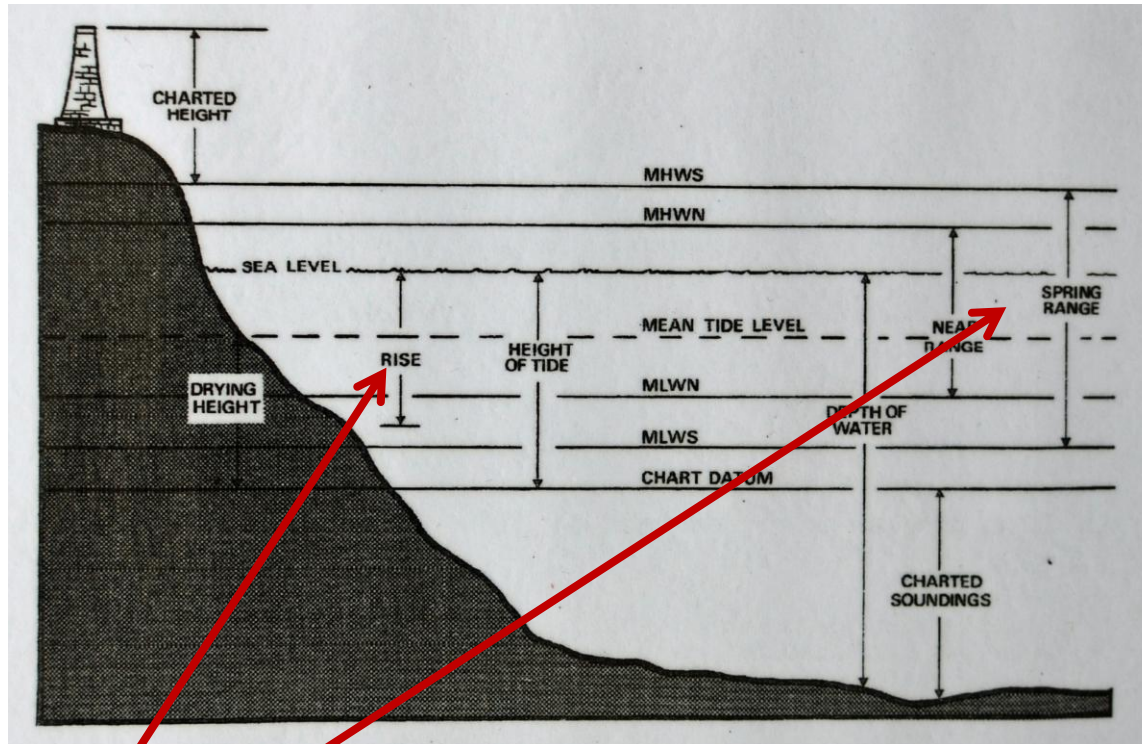
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HIGH WATER (HW) **LOW WATER (LW)**

- Depth to the sea bed below chart datum

Terms and Definitions 8



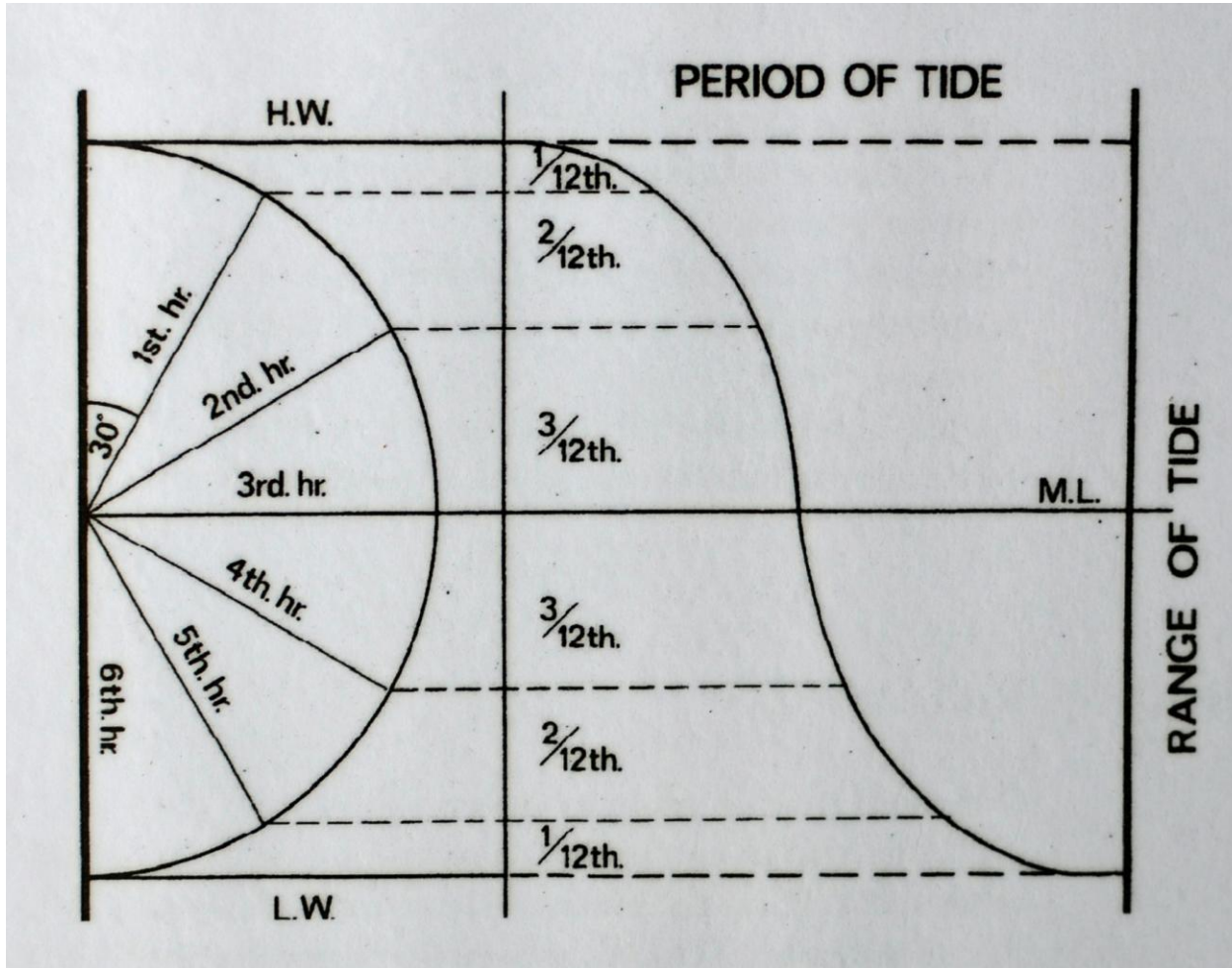
RANGE OF TIDE

- Vertical difference between HW and LW

RISE

- Vertical difference between LW height and actual water height

Rule of Twelfths



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Further Reading



We highly recommend Tim Bartlett's
RYA Navigation Handbook (G6)

You can buy a copy of this book by visiting our on-line shop at
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