

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*December 21, 2021*

Portland Waterfront Gets a New Observational Tide Station, Giving Planners, Researchers, and Public Access to Real-time Water Level Data

The City of Portland joins US Harbors' tide station pilot program.

Rockland, ME – On Wednesday last week (12/15/2021), a small team gathered at the Coast Guard wharf in Portland Harbor to install the newest addition to US Harbors' coastal tide station network. While small, and humble in appearance the sensor will provide important data on the changing coastal water levels in Portland harbor, giving city planners, researchers, and the public access to the critical information they need to monitor the local impacts of sea level rise and storm surge trends.

NOAA has been maintaining a sophisticated tide station at the Ocean Gateway Pier in Portland harbor since March 4th, 1910. There are roughly 200 stations like this around the country which, with their advanced technology, are expensive to both implement and maintain. While Portland is lucky to have such a station, providing over 100 years of historical data, other locations have neither the financial nor human resources to get this level of data for their communities; making it impossible for them to fully understand—and plan effectively for—changes in storm surge trends and sea-level rise. Small scale, affordable tide monitoring solutions, like those being tested in US Harbor's pilot programs, can be easily deployed in flood-prone areas, giving municipal leaders, planners, and emergency managers, access to previously unavailable data and flood alerts.

The new Portland station is a collaboration between the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (the station is hosted on their property), US Harbors (an online resource for coastal tide and weather information), Hohonu (the sensor technology and data provider), and the City of Portland. During the pilot period US Harbors will be including stakeholders from these organizations in feedback sessions to evaluate the accuracy and effectiveness of the new station and discuss other ways—and locations—where this technology may be helpful. Hohonu, a Hawaii-based company, has generously contributed their sensor for this pilot effort.

US Harbors, a national company based in Rockland, Maine, started their tide station pilot program in September with 5 stations in Penobscot Bay. Various 3rd party technologies are being tested during the program; each with their own location optimization needs. The next planned installations are for tow public marinas in New York City, and San Francisco, as well as at over 35 other locations around the country. The Portland tide sensor is an important addition to the project, as the collaboration with GMRI scientists, and Portland City planners will add new levels of expertise to the evaluation.

CONTACT INFO:

Anastasia Fischer -- *President*, US Harbors

EMAIL: anastasia@usharbors.com

TEL: 207-318-9482

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About US Harbors - <https://usharbors.com>

US Harbors provides hyperlocal tide information, coastal and marine weather, and coastal news on over 1,400 harbors in the U.S. Used by over 10 million people each year, the service is free and supports itself through advertising. The company sponsors two national events every year: National Harbormaster Appreciation Day (www.harbormasterday.com) and the annual “Best Harbor in the US” contest (<https://usharbors.com/best-harbor>) where users vote for their favorite harbor. The mission of the company is to promote the sustainability and resilience of coastal communities, both economically and environmentally. More info on US Harbors Coastal Network is at <https://usharbors.com/coastal-waters>

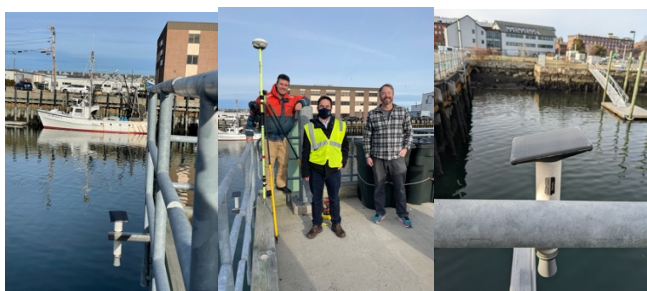
About Hohonu – <https://hohonu.io>

Hohonu, Inc, provides water level monitoring that helps to quantify how tides, floods, and sea level rise are impacting coastal communities. Its founders are oceanographers and engineers whose mission is to make real-time water data accessible for underserved communities. Hohonu’s hardware measures water level in real-time and its public software dashboard provides data access for entire communities. It has already partnered with 54 Southeast US communities to improve flood risk management and is excited to be partnering with US Harbors to continue expanding its water level network.

About Gulf of Maine Research Institute – <https://gmri.org>

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) pioneers collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges. Located in Portland, ME, GMRI is dedicated to the resilience of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

PHOTOS:



For images, as well as additional editorial requests, please contact:

Anastasia Fischer
US Harbors
anastasia@usharbors.com