

B-496 TIDAL AND WATER LEVEL INDICATOR SIGNALS

The following features, all connected with showing or recording the height of the tide or strength of tidal stream, may be found on some large scale charts:

- a. A visual scale which directly shows the height of the water above a datum. They are often found at lock entrances indicating the depth of water over the sill. A variation is found near some bridges, indicating the headroom as the water level rises and falls.
- b. Signals, visible from some distance, which indicate the height of tide or strength of tidal stream.
- c. Automatically recording tide gauges which do not normally have a facility for direct reading by the mariner.
- d. Tidal ‘stations’ (that is: places for which predicted heights are available in published tide tables).

Any of the above may be found together at the same location.

B-496.1 **Visual scales** (measuring tidal and other water levels) and **recording tide gauges** are minor features which may be charted on the largest scale charts if space permits.

The location of visual scales should be shown by the symbol.

⚓ **T32.1**

The location of a recording tide gauge may be indicated by a legend, if thought useful.

⊙Tide gauge **T32.2**

B-496.2 **Tide signals** are prominently displayed at some ports and range from a simple system which merely shows whether there is enough water to enter a drying harbour (or whether the level is rising or falling) to an elaborate coded system of shapes and lights which, when totalled, give a fairly accurate guide to the depth of water. They should be charted on the larger scale charts by means of a position circle with the legend ‘SS(Tide)’ or equivalent. Traffic signals, see B-495, should take precedence over tide signals if there is insufficient space to chart both.

⊙SS(Tide) **T33**

B-496.3 **Tidal stream signals** giving both speed and direction of the tidal flow, are displayed in a similar manner to other tidal information. They are usually sited in the approaches to narrow channels where the rate of the tidal stream is strong, and can be read from some distance off, thus enabling the mariner to plan, or time, his approach. They should be charted similarly to tide signals, using the legend ‘SS(Stream)’ or equivalent. In some areas maritime traffic control is dependent on tidal streams; in such cases the regulations may be explained in a note.

⊙SS(Stream) **T34**

B-497 OTHER SIGNAL STATIONS

B-497.1 **Storm, weather and ice signal stations**, if considered of sufficient importance to the mariner either as a source of warning signals or as a landmark, should be shown on the largest scale charts by a position circle and legend, for example ‘SS(Storm)’ or equivalent. Traffic signals should take precedence over storm signals if there is insufficient space to chart both.

⊙SS(Storm) **T28**

⊙SS(Weather) **T29**

⊙SS(Ice) **T30**