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Defining the High-high Tide

Ideal for Saltwater anglers in anticipating the arrival and departure of migrating fish...

Also Known as Flood Stage
(Flood, incoming, Tide)

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identify a High-high tide as one that exceeds twelve feet in water volume occurring rarely more than a few times every year-and-a-half. This kind of tide is important to surfcasting because they happen during the same months of the year that salmon make their inland migrations during late summer and early fall months. Salmon will ride these high-high tides and cover a lot of territory within the span of the flood tide and then hold as the ebb begins. These notoriously high tides bring in the first runs of salmon during daylight hours of their inland migration making the perfect for monitoring purposes. Scouting out water in advance can be done with binoculars and looking for jumping fish, seals, birds, and large schools of baitfish. During the first phases of the season these are great tides to watch for salmon trickling into hatcheries and estuaries that virtually sit along the coastline. Depending on when these tides occur salmon runs can begin earlier or later by as much as a month, which makes recon trips early an essential tool for monitoring early fish that “could” start without you knowing it.