

Analysis Method Name: SalNet WLE Median Monthly
Procedure for calculating water level above a sea level datum.

1. Water level above a sea level datum (discrete measurement).

For the Salinity Network Workgroup ground water level index project, it is necessary to obtain measurements of the distance, usually upward, from a sea level datum to the ground water level.

- 1.1. Obtain a depth to water measurement by the electronic probe or chalked line methods, according to [DEP SOP FS 2211 Sec. 3](#). This measurement results in a distance from the measuring point. Distances below the measuring point are reported as positive numbers. Distances above the measuring point are reported as negative numbers.
- 1.2. Document the elevation of the measuring point, in reference to a sea level datum. The sea level datum must be specified, and is usually found in the corresponding well station file.
- 1.3. To obtain the groundwater level relative to the specified sea level datum, subtract the depth to water measurement obtained in Step 1, from the measuring point elevation documented in Step 2. Record the result.
- 1.4. If the observation frequency is less than or equal to once per month, the data must be reported as discrete measurements. For discrete measurements, the activity start date time must be the time that the observation being reported was taken. If the start time is unknown, then 12:00 pm must be entered for the time portion of the activity start date time, and the associated activity comment must indicate that the start time is unknown. The activity end date time should not be reported.

2. Water level above a sea level datum based on a statistical computation.

Occasionally the data provided for the Salinity Network Workgroup ground water level index project are measurements of water level above a specified sea level datum (see SALNET WLE Section 1) that have undergone a statistical-based computation. These types of computations are often associated with data obtained from wells that have continuous water level recorders installed in them. This method uses the following computation:

- 2.1. Median Monthly Value: The median value of all observations obtained during a month. The activity start date time must be the date time that the first observation was taken in the month. If the start time is unknown, then 12:00 pm must be entered for the time portion of the activity start date time, and the associated activity comment must indicate that the start time is unknown. The activity end date time must be the date time that the last observation was taken in the month. If the end time is unknown, then 12:00 pm must be entered for the time portion of the activity end date time, and the associated activity comment must indicate that the end time is unknown.