

Fredericksburg Flood of June 2018

Old Mill Park Gate



River Rock Deck



Sophia Street Parking Lot

(former elks lodge, future downtown park)



Floodwaters move into a parking lot along Sophia Street on Saturday. The city warned owners to move their cars and eventually closed part of the street.

Railroad Bridge



Debris flows down the Rappahannock River. The flooding was the worst the city has seen since Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

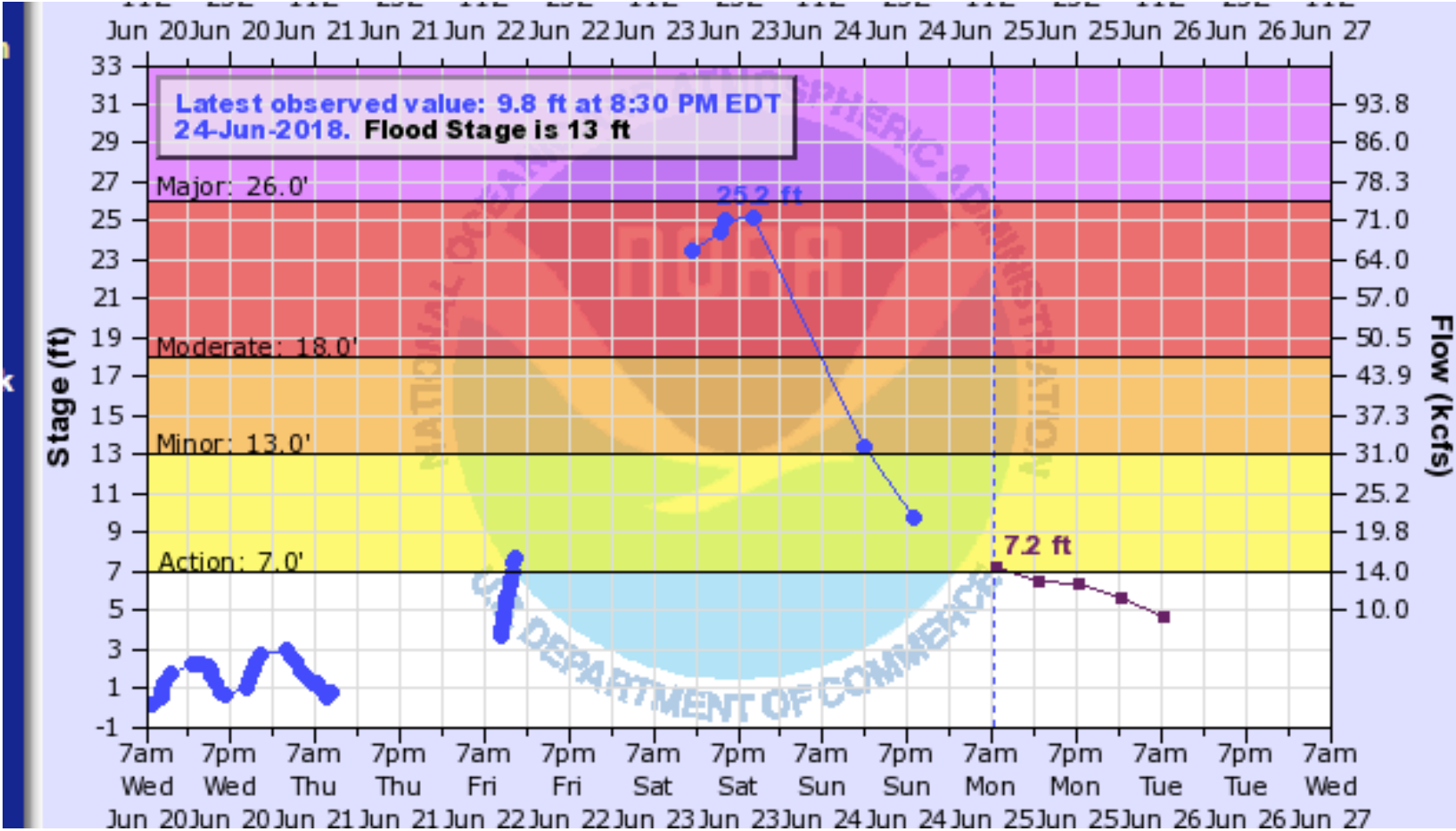
Chatham Bridge





Flood waters rise around homes along River Road in Falmouth on Saturday, June 23, 2018.

Flood Severity



Source: NOAA, NWS, Advanced Hydrolic Prediction Service

Top Eleven Rappahannock River Crests

- 42.6 feet: Oct 16, 1942
- 39.1 feet: June 22, 1972, Hurricane Agnes
- 39.1 feet: April 26, 1937
- 32.2 feet: June 1 1889
- 27.2 feet: May 23, 1901
- 26.9 feet: Aug19, 1955, Hurricane Connie
- 26.9 feet: Sept 8, 1996, Hurricane Fran
- **25.2 feet: June 23, 2018**
- 25.1 feet: May 13, 1924
- 25.1 feet: June 29, 1995
- 22.8 feet: Oct 1 1924

River Gage

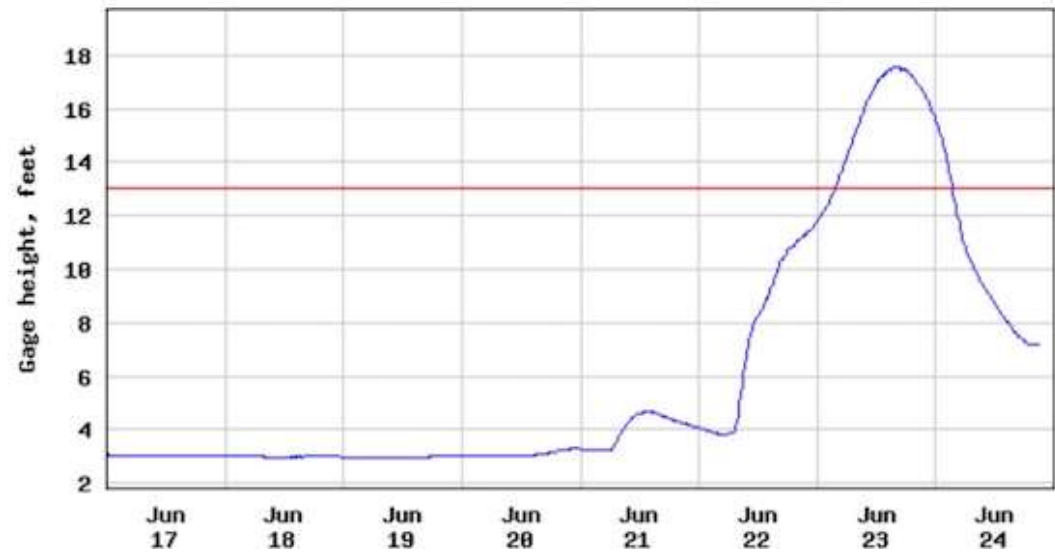


Gauge Location 

[Disclaimer](#)

Latitude/Longitude Disclaimer: The gauge location shown in the above map is the approximate location based on the latitude/longitude coordinates provided to the NWS by the gauge owner.

USGS 01668000 RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA

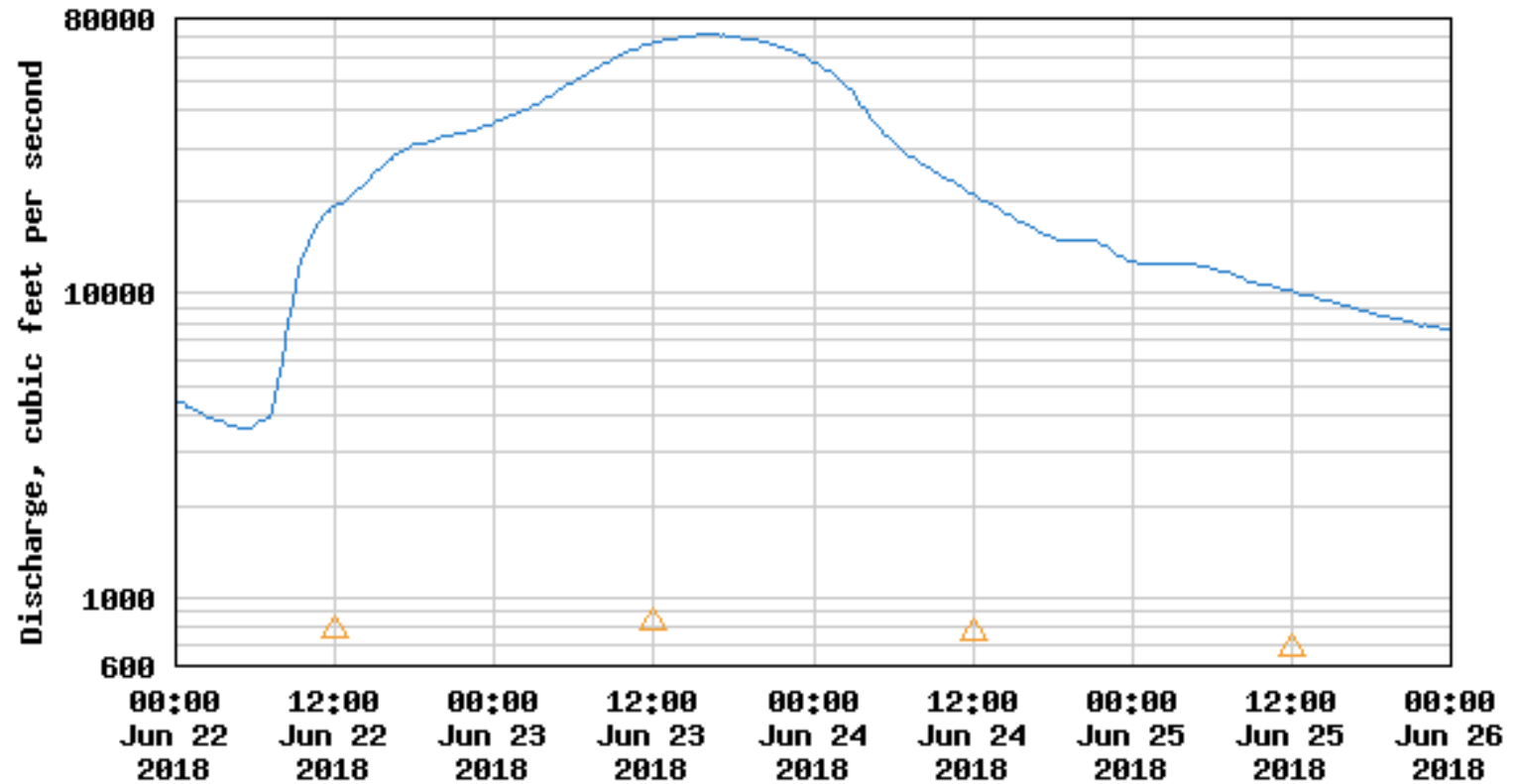


Why did Gage stop at just below 18 ft ??????

River Gage (cont'd)

17000 16000 15000 14000 13000 12000 11000 10000 9000 8000 7000 6000 5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 600

USGS 01668000 RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA



Discharge max of 70900

1942



42.6 FEET: OCT. 16, 1942

HISTORIC FREDERICKSBURG FOUNDATION INC

1972 - Agnus



River Rock



**Three views of
Sophia Street
Hurricane Agnes 1972**

A photograph of a fishing lure, possibly a spinner or crankbait, mounted on a wooden stand. The lure is red and white with a green top. The stand is made of light-colored wood and is positioned in a wooded area with many bare trees. The ground is covered in brown leaves and twigs. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a fishing spot.

**Big Water – What About
the Fish?**

What's Happening in the River?

- Increased velocity and flow
- Increased debris and sediment
- River reaches bankfull or tops banks into the flood plain



A Little River Physics

- Slower along edges, bottom, and other “rough” areas
- During storms:
 - Potential loss/gain in habitat
 - Connections with side channels/braids
 - Change in bottom substrate



Starting at the Bottom

- Benthic macroinvertebrates
 - Live on the bottom
 - Rocks, wood debris, sand
 - Food!
 - Susceptible to flood



www.epa.gov



www.fws.gov



<https://aquaticinsectsofcentralvirginia.blogspot.com>

Flooding and Fish

- Fish move into areas of low flow
 - Behind rocks, log jams
 - In new channels, backwater
 - Floodplain
- Food sources for fish
 - Old sources gone or move
 - New sources temporarily



Fredericksburg.com



Kval.org

Fishing During the Flood

- Find slow, calm water
- Find clear water
- Use bright flies that cause a lot of disturbance
- Stay home or fish lakes!



Starexponent.com



Pat Cohen

Fishing After Floods

- Initially slow?
- Then pretty good?
- Thoughts?



Theminnowbucket.net



Riverfriends.org