

# 53479 When is it low tide?

It seems also from reports that the Doodsakker must be travelled at NEAP LOW tides.

**From:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** David Le Roux  
**Sent:** 2008 June 16 10:49  
**To:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [T4A] Re: Spring low at the Doodsakker (Angola)

Spring tide is definitely at full and new moon, not at first and last quarter. The table (below) attached also shows the lowest lows at that time. Francois Rossouw probably did not go through at the best time, although there is a case to be made for driving at neap tide (at the quarters) as the tide will not come up as high as otherwise and could be a benefit if trouble is encountered along the route.

Regards

David

## Tide Table from www.mobilegeographics.com:81 for Mocamedes (Now Tombua)

**Doodsakker must be passed at 'NEAP LOW' tide.. and NEAP LOW happens at First and Last Moon qua**

May 2008						
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon
Thu 1		6:04 AM WAT / 0.65 m	12:32 PM WAT / 1.56 m	6:41 PM WAT / 0.71 m		
Fri 2	12:42 AM WAT / 1.51 m	6:53 AM WAT / 0.56 m	1:20 PM WAT / 1.66 m	7:28 PM WAT / 0.62 m		
Sat 3	1:31 AM WAT / 1.59 m	7:39 AM WAT / 0.48 m	2:04 PM WAT / 1.74 m	8:11 PM WAT / 0.55 m		
Sun 4	2:18 AM WAT / 1.66 m	8:23 AM WAT / 0.43 m	2:48 PM WAT / 1.79 m	8:55 PM WAT / 0.49 m		
Mon 5	3:04 AM WAT / 1.70 m	9:08 AM WAT / 0.41 m	3:32 PM WAT / 1.81 m	9:39 PM WAT / 0.46 m		New Mo
Tue 6	3:50 AM WAT / 1.72 m	9:53 AM WAT / 0.43 m	4:15 PM WAT / 1.80 m	10:25 PM WAT / 0.46 m		
Wed 7	4:38 AM WAT / 1.70 m	10:40 AM WAT / 0.48 m	5:01 PM WAT / 1.75 m	11:13 PM WAT / 0.49 m		
Thu 8	5:29 AM WAT / 1.65 m	11:30 AM WAT / 0.57 m	5:49 PM WAT / 1.68 m			
Fri 9		12:04 AM WAT / 0.54 m	6:24 AM WAT / 1.59 m	12:26 PM WAT / 0.67 m	6:40 PM WAT / 1.59 m	
Sat 10		1:02 AM WAT / 0.60 m	7:25 AM WAT / 1.52 m	1:32 PM WAT / 0.76 m	7:37 PM WAT / 1.50 m	
Sun 11		2:08 AM WAT / 0.65 m	8:34 AM WAT / 1.47 m	2:49 PM WAT / 0.83 m	8:43 PM WAT / 1.42 m	
Mon 12		3:21 AM WAT / 0.68 m	9:50 AM WAT / 1.45 m	4:10 PM WAT / 0.85 m	9:55 PM WAT / 1.39 m	First Qu
Tue 13		4:31 AM WAT / 0.68 m	11:03 AM WAT / 1.47 m	5:20 PM WAT / 0.83 m	11:07 PM WAT / 1.39 m	
Wed 14		5:33 AM WAT / 0.66 m	12:05 PM WAT / 1.50 m	6:17 PM WAT / 0.79 m		
Thu 15	12:08 AM WAT / 1.41 m	6:24 AM WAT / 0.64 m	12:53 PM WAT / 1.54 m	7:03 PM WAT / 0.75 m		
Fri 16	12:58 AM WAT / 1.44 m	7:07 AM WAT / 0.62 m	1:34 PM WAT / 1.57 m	7:43 PM WAT / 0.70 m		
Sat 17	1:41 AM WAT / 1.47 m	7:46 AM WAT / 0.60 m	2:10 PM WAT / 1.60 m	8:18 PM WAT / 0.66 m		
Sun 18	2:20 AM WAT / 1.50 m	8:21 AM WAT / 0.60 m	2:43 PM WAT / 1.62 m	8:52 PM WAT / 0.63 m		
Mon 19	2:58 AM WAT / 1.51 m	8:54 AM WAT / 0.60 m	3:16 PM WAT / 1.63 m	9:25 PM WAT / 0.61 m		
Tue 20	3:34 AM WAT / 1.52 m	9:27 AM WAT / 0.62 m	3:48 PM WAT / 1.62 m	9:59 PM WAT / 0.59 m		Full Mo
Wed 21	4:10 AM WAT / 1.51 m	10:01 AM WAT / 0.64 m	4:21 PM WAT / 1.61 m	10:33 PM WAT / 0.60 m		
Thu 22	4:48 AM WAT / 1.49 m	10:35 AM WAT / 0.68 m	4:56 PM WAT / 1.58 m	11:08 PM WAT / 0.61 m		
Fri 23	5:27 AM WAT / 1.47 m	11:12 AM WAT / 0.72 m	5:32 PM WAT / 1.54 m	11:46 PM WAT / 0.63 m		
Sat 24	6:08 AM WAT / 1.44 m	11:53 AM WAT / 0.76 m	6:11 PM WAT / 1.49 m			
Sun 25		12:27 AM WAT / 0.66 m	6:54 AM WAT / 1.42 m	12:41 PM WAT / 0.80 m	6:55 PM WAT / 1.45 m	
Mon 26		1:15 AM WAT / 0.68 m	7:45 AM WAT / 1.41 m	1:39 PM WAT / 0.84 m	7:46 PM WAT / 1.41 m	
Tue 27		2:11 AM WAT / 0.69 m	8:43 AM WAT / 1.41 m	2:47 PM WAT / 0.85 m	8:45 PM WAT / 1.39 m	
Wed 28		3:14 AM WAT / 0.68 m	9:46 AM WAT / 1.44 m	3:59 PM WAT / 0.83 m	9:50 PM WAT / 1.39 m	Last Qu
Thu 29		4:17 AM WAT / 0.65 m	10:49 AM WAT / 1.49 m	5:04 PM WAT / 0.78 m	10:57 PM WAT / 1.41 m	
Fri 30		5:18 AM WAT / 0.61 m	11:49 AM WAT / 1.55 m	6:03 PM WAT / 0.71 m		
Sat 31	12:00 AM WAT / 1.46 m	6:14 AM WAT / 0.55 m	12:44 PM WAT / 1.62 m	6:57 PM WAT / 0.63 m		

Francois Rossouw (Radio RSG 4x4 club) with 25 vehicles passed successfully

### Angola time zone

- EAT (Africa/Kampala)
- EAT (Africa/Khartoum)
- CAT (Africa/Kinshasa)
- WAT (Africa/Lagos)
- WAT (Africa/Libreville)
- GMT (Africa/Lome)
- WAT (Africa/Luanda)
- CAT (Africa/Lubumbashi)
- CAT (Africa/Lusaka)
- WAT (Africa/Malabo)
- CAT (Africa/Maputo)
- SAST (Africa/Maseru)
- SAST (Africa/Mbabane)
- EAT (Africa/Mogadishu)

AM = After midnight PM = After midday

Voetspore team = Near disaster

**From:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Jens Viëtor  
**Sent:** 2008 June 14 12:08  
**To:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [T4A] Re: Spring low at the Doodsakker (Angola)

I found another interesting site for Tide Tables with a lot of links for Software on Tide tables.

With their "free" Software you can actually get the Tide Data for Baia dos Tigres, which is at your requested location.

<http://wxtide32.com/>

<http://wxtide32.com/links.html>

Regards

Jens Viëtor

Namibia Weather Network

[www.namibiaweather.info](http://www.namibiaweather.info)

**From:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Jens Viëtor  
**Sent:** 2008 June 14 10:43  
**To:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [T4A] Re: Spring low at the Doodsakker (Angola)

Unfortunately I don't have a calculator to give me these stats. I do however have a site you can look at and go through all the days to find the lowest tide in meters.

The closest point of official measured Tide Table is Mocamedes, Angola (about 185 km to the North).

You can have a look this site (also features on my weather site) and get the year in advance or exactly the day you want the tide for.

<http://www.mobilegeographics.com:81/locations/3845.html>

As you scroll down on the page you will find the year in advance as well as the input for the specific day.

I hope this helps you.

Regards

Jens Viëtor

Namibia Weather Network

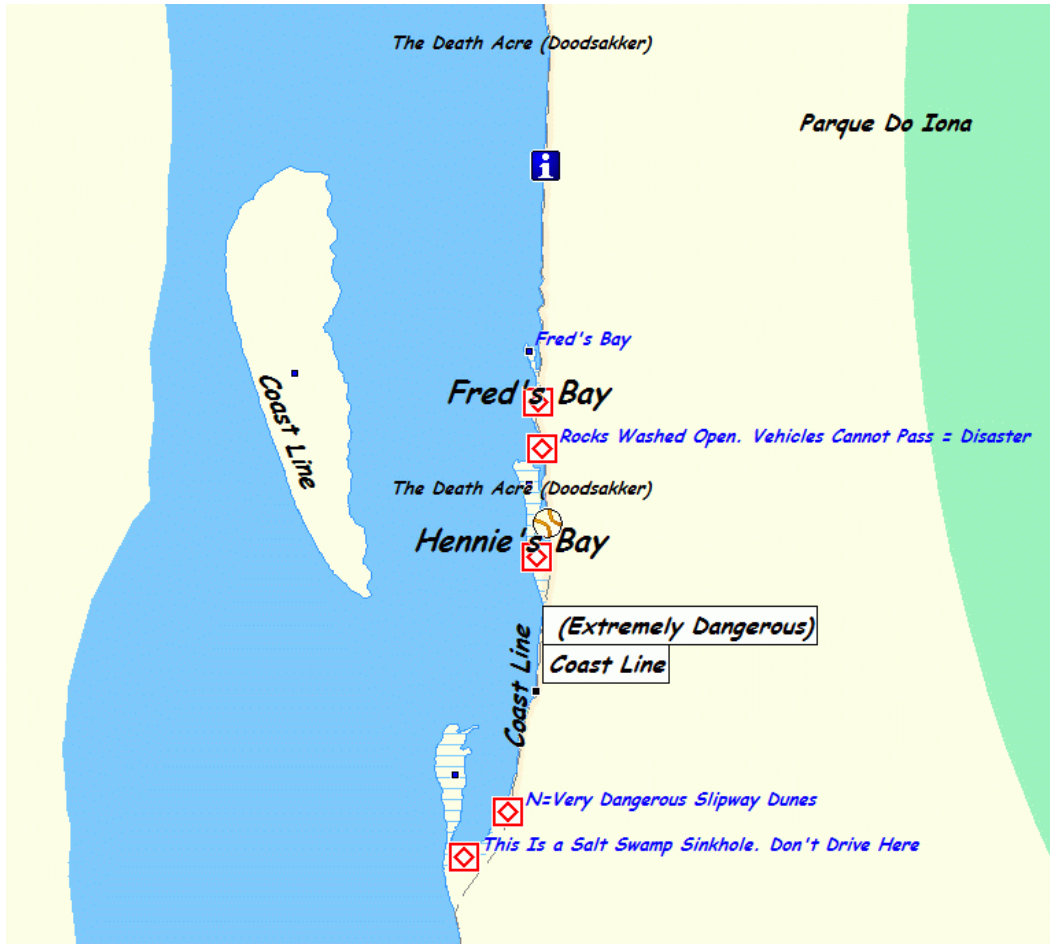
[www.namibiaweather.info](http://www.namibiaweather.info)

**From:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Wouter Brand  
**Sent:** 2008 June 14 08:49  
**To:** tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [T4A] Spring low at the Doodsakker (Angola)

Jens,

Big time big favour pls man... because I know you have a calculator that can spit out the answers... or you may know an expert or a website who can do this.

Is it possible to create a tide table showing exactly in GMT (Greenwich mean Time) when SPRING LOW at this location S16.67169 E11.82496 happens... running from Jan 2008 for a year or two to 2010 or so ?



-----Original Message-----

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of van Vuuren, Francois  
Sent: 2008 May 30 20:13  
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
Subject: [T4A] Re: Data Corrections.. Angola Death Acre.

Spring Low will give you more space to drive on,

Other thing to remember is that spring high-tide is much more violent and this will open up the normally buried rocks

The driving space might be enough but there will be 3 unknowns you will be dealing with, and these you will only know once you get there

1. Rocks can be open or buried
2. Slope of the beach you need to drive on

3. Composition of the beach sand (when the color is a dark red/brown and has a slope you best stay away with a vehicle)

These can also be sampled just north of the Omaruru river mouth, you can drive up the beach at low-tide today but a week/month later you can forget it Sand composition can be seen in Erik's photos where they make deep mud-like tracks on the beach, also the bikes laboring and suffering to get grip, also why the big bike suffered more than the light ones

You can plan as much as you like but it will stay a gamble

Groete

Francois van Vuuren

-----Original Message-----

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of Johan P Strumpfer

Sent: 2008 May 30 13:37

To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

Subject: [T4A] Re: Data Corrections.. Angola Death Acre.

Hi Tony

Your point about the dangers of spring high is very valid. However, even during spring low, there are areas where there is essentially a car width of (side sloping) sand where you can get through. If you look at the published pictures from Darryl's trip report on Overland Forum you will see examples of this. I do not believe you can get through there at anything less than spring low. Our whole trip timing was based on when spring low would occur.

[http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl\\_Lampert/Angola\\_2003/ang220.html](http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl_Lampert/Angola_2003/ang220.html)



[http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl\\_Lampert/Angola\\_2003/beachdrive.avi](http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl_Lampert/Angola_2003/beachdrive.avi)

[http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl\\_Lampert/Angola\\_2003/beachdrive2.avi](http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl_Lampert/Angola_2003/beachdrive2.avi)

The sand covered mud plains near the Kunene mouth, and I suspect around Baia dos Tigres, are almost certainly affected by (normal) tides. Where we got stuck was not near the critical beach area, and happened two days after we passed through there. But you have to cross some of these sand covered mud areas near Baia dos Tigres as well.

In addition, the recent experience of the Voetspore guys shows, that the coast/shore changes, and that in their case, rocks prevented any passing, regardless of the tide status. This is not something we had a problem with, but it means that changeable conditions is another risk factor, over and above tides/space for driving/mud plains.

The valid point for T4A remains to warn and inform: The area will remain as a challenge to people and the risks will almost inevitably catch more people out.

Regards

Johan Strumpfer

-----Original Message-----

From: [tracks4africa@googlegroups.com](mailto:tracks4africa@googlegroups.com) On Behalf Of Peter Tiedt  
Sent: 2008 May 30 12:46  
To: [tracks4africa@googlegroups.com](mailto:tracks4africa@googlegroups.com)  
Subject: [T4A] Re: Data Corrections.. Angola Death Acre.

Tony postulated ...

>Neap High MIGHT ( I have never been there ) leave a small portion of beach  
>and neap low should allow safe passage?

This was my thinking as well. High Springs would leave zippo beach.  
High Neaps would leave some beach ....

But it all depends on the slope on the beach (not the dunes). Too much slope and the difference between high neaps and high springs may only be a meter of beach ...

PT

-----Original Message-----

From: [tracks4africa@googlegroups.com](mailto:tracks4africa@googlegroups.com) On Behalf Of Tony Robertson  
Sent: 2008 May 30 12:23  
To: [tracks4africa@googlegroups.com](mailto:tracks4africa@googlegroups.com)  
Subject: [T4A] Re: Data Corrections.. Angola Death Acre.

I too question the choice of going at Spring. Common sense tells me that Spring Low will give you more space to drive on, but,

If you get into trouble Spring Highs will be SERIOUSLY BAD NEWS. So I too wonder if the T4A map should advise not to go at Springs based only on the fact that Spring high will reduce the beach to nothing and in fact may be actually underwater and each wave actively eroding the base of the sand dune.

Neap High MIGHT (I have never been there ) leave a small portion of beach and neap low should allow safe passage?

Another problem with Spring highs, I suspect that the area where the vehicles sank into mud ( two passed safely and the third got bogged down) could be the result of the underground water table changing with the tides.

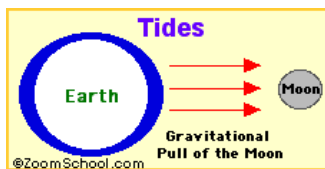
I suspect that as it gets towards high tide, so the water table rises and gets closer to the surface. Again I suspect that this area would be safer to cross at low tide periods.  
Tony R.

-----Original Message-----

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of Peter Tiedt  
Sent: 2008 May 30 11:34  
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com  
Subject: [T4A] Re: Data Corrections.. Angola Death Acre.

>I'm trying to understand the spring and neap tide thing.. and I don't think the documentation  
>in 53479.zip suffices.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/moon/Tides.shtml>



Tides are periodic rises and falls of large bodies of water. Tides are caused by the gravitational interaction between the Earth and the Moon. The gravitational attraction of the moon causes the oceans to bulge out in the direction of the moon. Another bulge occurs on the opposite side, since the Earth is also being pulled toward the moon (and away from the water on the far side). Since the earth is rotating while this is happening, two tides occur

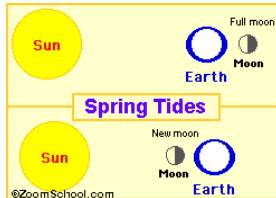
each day.

[Isaac Newton](#) (1642 -1727) was the first person to explain tides scientifically. His explanation of the tides (and many other phenomena) was published in 1686, in the second volume of the Principia.

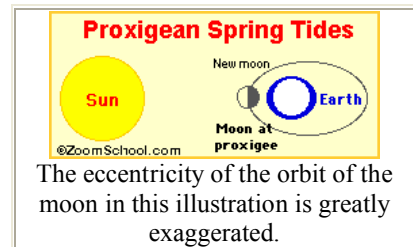
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## The Sun's Interaction with the Tides

### Spring Tides



Spring tides are especially strong tides (they do not have anything to do with the season Spring). They occur when the Earth, the [Sun](#), and the Moon are in a line. The gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun both contribute to the tides. Spring tides occur during the full moon and the new moon.



The eccentricity of the orbit of the moon in this illustration is greatly exaggerated.

The **Proxigeon Spring Tide** is a rare, unusually high tide. This very high tide occurs when the moon is both unusually close to the [Earth](#) (at its closest [perigee](#), called the [proxigee](#)) and in the New Moon phase (when the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth). The proxigeon spring tide occurs at most [once every 1.5 years](#).

## Neap Tides



Neap tides are especially weak tides. They occur when the gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun are perpendicular to one another (with respect to the Earth). Neap tides occur during quarter moons.

-----Original Message-----

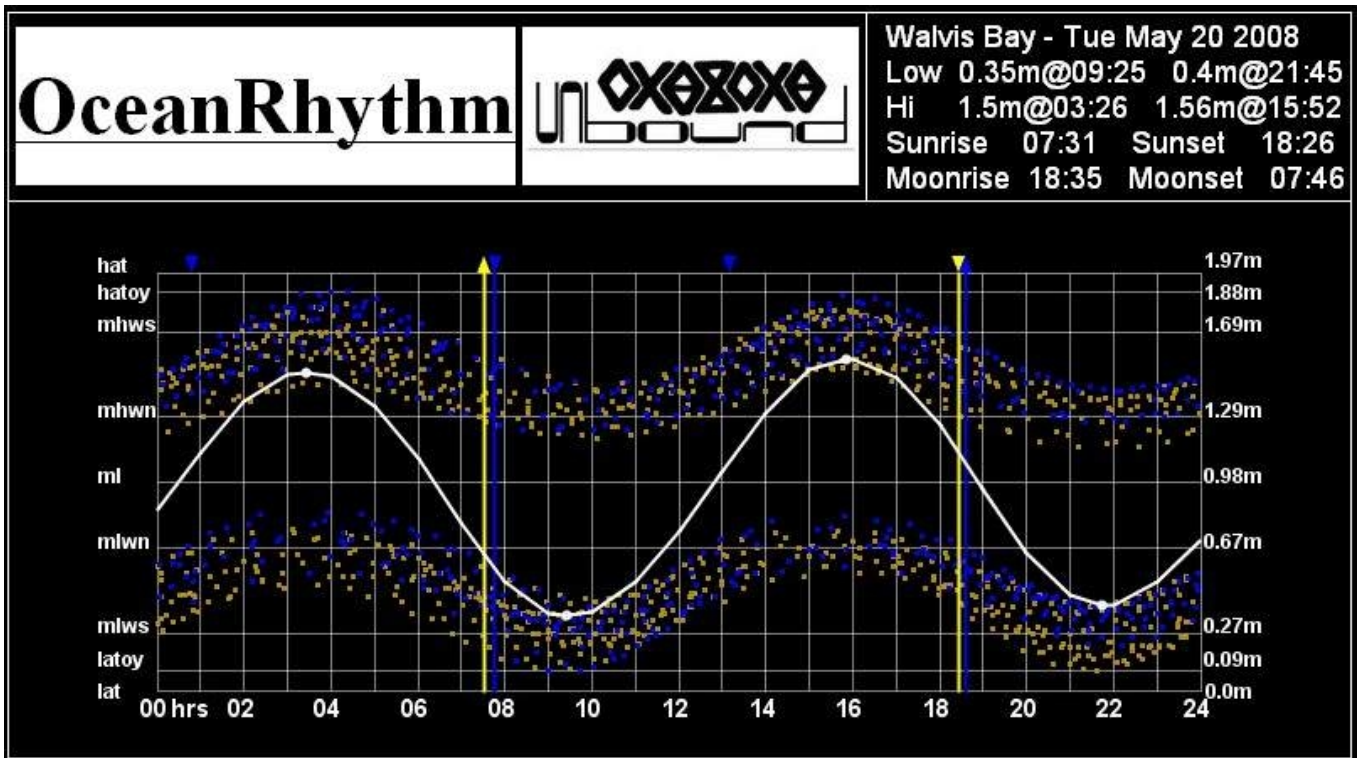
From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of Peter Tiedt

Sent: 2008 May 27 06:21

To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

Subject: [T4A] Re: The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track in Angola = Scary stuff

Thanks Anton



From the graphic, the difference between MHWS (Mean - High water springs) and MHWN (mean - high water neaps) is  $1.69 - 1.29 \text{ m} = 0.4\text{m}$ .

If the beach is not too steep, that could translate into a safety margin in that high water at Neaps will occur  $0.4\text{m}$  (in height) lower down the beach, perhaps leaving some sort of safety margin.

I am not a fundi here, just some coastal navigation experience, so will leave it to an expert, and I am sure there will be one on the forum.

Just a parting shot - at Neaps, your range on the beach is from MLWN (mean - low water neaps)  $0.67\text{m}$  all the way to  $1.69\text{m}$

(MHWS) - over a meter of height to play with.

PT

-----Original Message-----

From: [tracks4africa@googlegroups.com](mailto:tracks4africa@googlegroups.com) On Behalf Of Anton Diedericks

Sent: 2008 May 26 22:58

To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

Subject: [T4A] Re: The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track in Angola = Scary stuff

Tides for Walvis Bay on 20/05

[www.satides.co.za](http://www.satides.co.za)

AntonDd