

# **Processing water level data in HOBOWare so that it can be run through the ContDataQC HOBOWare Reformat function without manipulation**

## **HOBO U20 water level loggers**

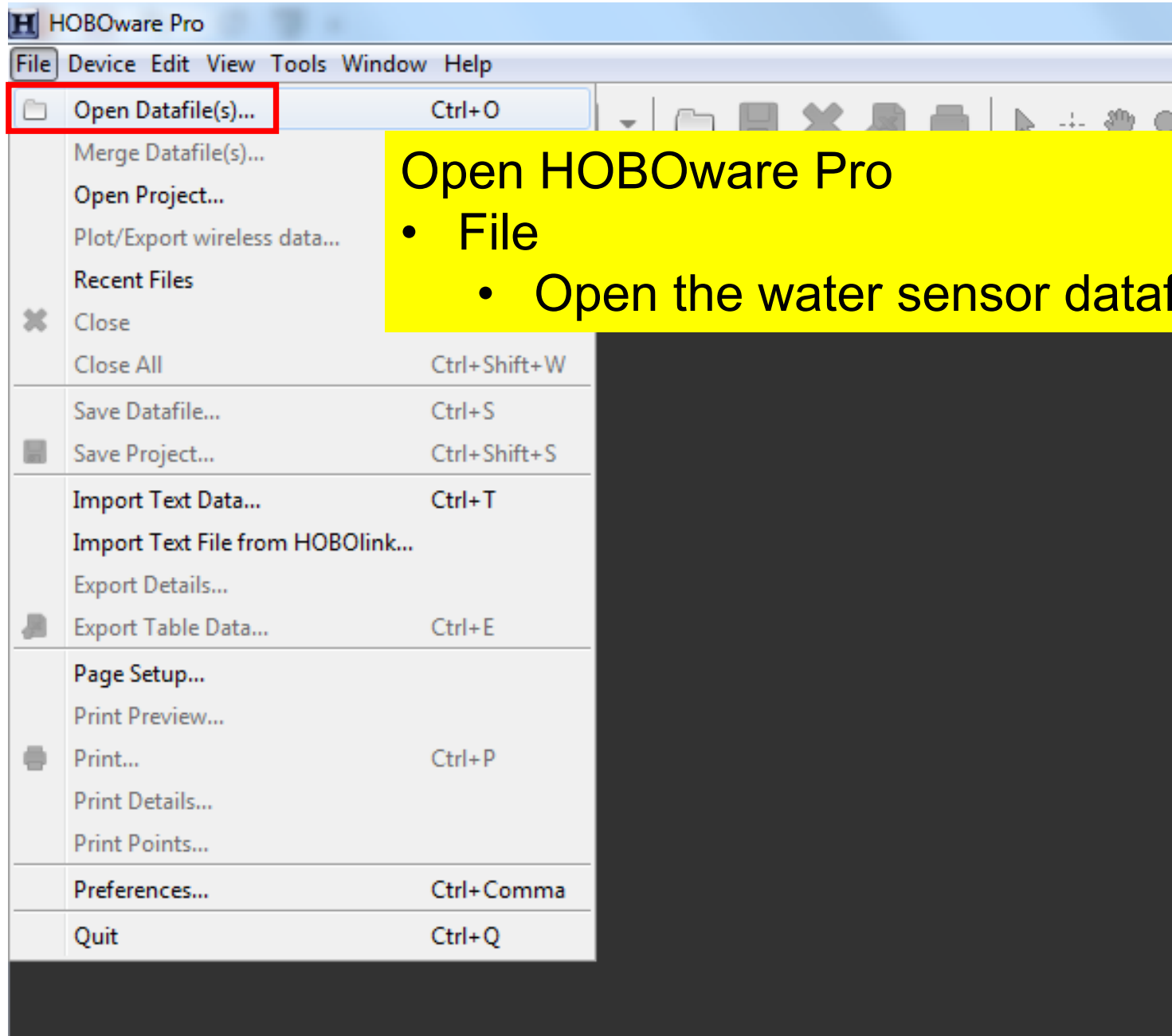
(Requires the Pro version with the Barometric Compensation Assistant)

U20 water level

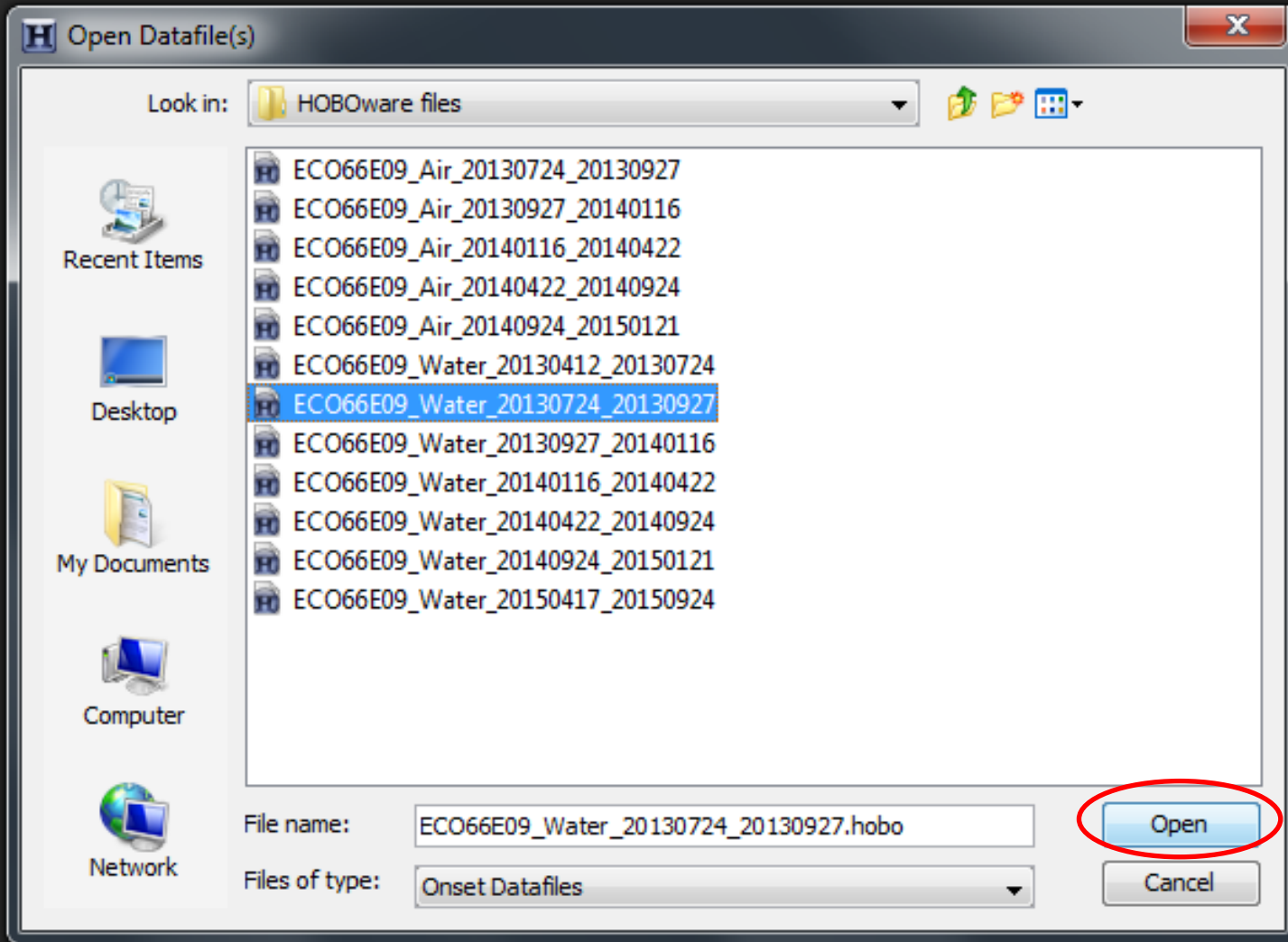


# Steps

- Set up your **default settings** (see 'HOBOWare\_DefaultSettings' file); you should only have to do this once
- **Open the water sensor file** in HOBOWare Pro
- **Barometric Compensation Assistant**
  - Check 'Derived from Temp.Channel, assuming fresh water'
  - 'Use Barometric Datafile' – browse/select the matching air sensor file
  - Reference level measurement – if applicable
  - Create New Series
- **Change the Temp series name** to 'Water Temp'
- **Open air sensor file – change the Temp series name** to 'Air Temp'; then **copy the temperature data series and paste into the first file**; both air and water temperature data are now in one file
- **Export as .csv**
- **Save as an Onset Project File**; retain original Onset HOBOWare Data files too!



**1. Open the  
HOBO Datafile  
for the **water**  
**sensor****



**Browse/select the appropriate water sensor file**

**Click 'Open'**

# Plot Setup

The screenshot shows the 'Plot Setup' dialog box with several elements highlighted by red boxes and arrows pointing to explanatory text blocks. The 'Description' field contains 'ECO66G12'. In the 'Select Series to Plot' section, the 'Units' for 'Temp' is set to '°C'. In the 'Select Internal Logger Events to Plot' section, the 'None' button is selected. The 'Offset from GMT' is set to '-4'. In the 'Data Assistants' list, 'Barometric Compensation Assistant' is selected. The 'Process...' button is also highlighted.

Series	Measurement	Units	Label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Abs Pres	psi	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Temp	°C	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	Batt	V	

Event	Event Type	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coupler Detached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Coupler Attached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Stopped	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	End Of File	

Offset from GMT: -4 ( +/- 18.0 hours, 0 = GMT)

Data Assistants:

- ☒ Barometric Compensation Assistant
- ☐ Growing Degree Days Assistant

Buttons: Help, Cancel, Plot, Process..., What's This?, Manage..., Load...

Description: whatever is entered here becomes the Plot title but the R code doesn't pay attention to the plot title so you should be able to leave this as is. What's key is getting the file name correct because the R code reads the first part of the file name (whatever comes before the first underscore) and creates a SiteID column based on that.

**Change temperature units to °C**  
(you won't need to change the default units for the other parameters)

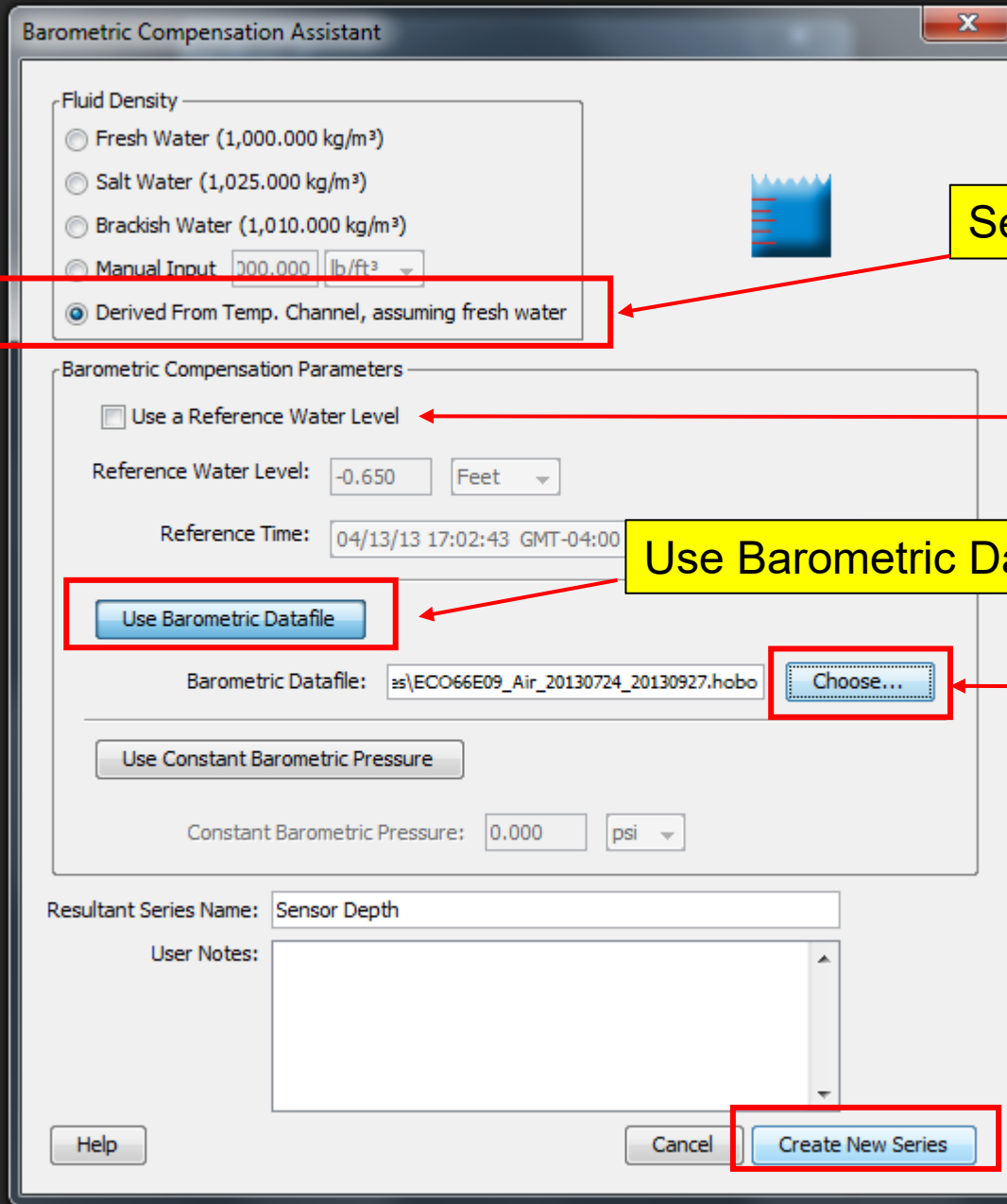
Click '**None**' (otherwise you'll get unwanted 'logged' entries in the .csv file that you'll need to delete later)

If the time zone for the site is incorrect, you can change that here (when you open the file, it goes to the default, which is the time zone of the computer that launched the sensor). But going with the default usually works fine.

Select Barometric Compensation Assistant

Click 'Process'

# Barometric Compensation Assistant



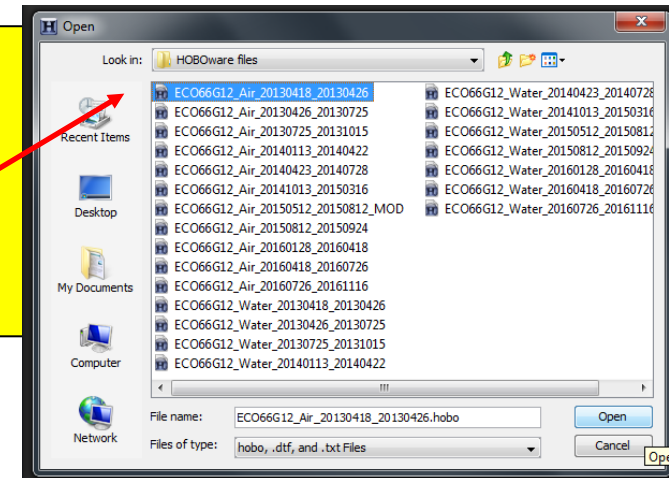
The dialog box is titled "Barometric Compensation Assistant". It contains several sections: "Fluid Density" with radio buttons for "Fresh Water (1,000.000 kg/m³)", "Salt Water (1,025.000 kg/m³)", "Brackish Water (1,010.000 kg/m³)", "Manual Input" (with a text box containing "100.000" and a unit dropdown set to "lb/ft³"), and "Derived From Temp. Channel, assuming fresh water" (which is selected and highlighted with a red box). Below this is the "Barometric Compensation Parameters" section, which includes a checkbox for "Use a Reference Water Level" (unchecked), a "Reference Water Level" text box containing "-0.650" and a unit dropdown set to "Feet", and a "Reference Time" text box containing "04/13/13 17:02:43 GMT-04:00". A red box highlights the "Use Barometric Datafile" button. Below this is a "Barometric Datafile" text box containing "zs\ECO66E09\_Air\_20130724\_20130927.hobo" and a "Choose..." button (highlighted with a red box). There is also a "Use Constant Barometric Pressure" button and a "Constant Barometric Pressure" text box containing "0.000" and a unit dropdown set to "psi". At the bottom, there is a "Resultant Series Name" text box containing "Sensor Depth", a "User Notes" text area, and three buttons: "Help", "Cancel", and "Create New Series" (highlighted with a red box).

Select 'Derived from Temp.Channel, assuming fresh water'

If appropriate, check 'Use a reference water level' and enter the value (only one entry at a time); if no measurement was taken, leave box unchecked

Use Barometric Datafile

- Click on 'Choose'
- Browse to the appropriate folder
- Select the matching air sensor file



Click 'Create New Series'

Side note: if you *don't* enter a Reference Water Level, the Resultant Series Name will say 'Sensor Depth'; if you *do* make an entry, it will say 'Water Level' (like in the screenshot above)

You may or may not see this message...

## Barometric Datafile Offset

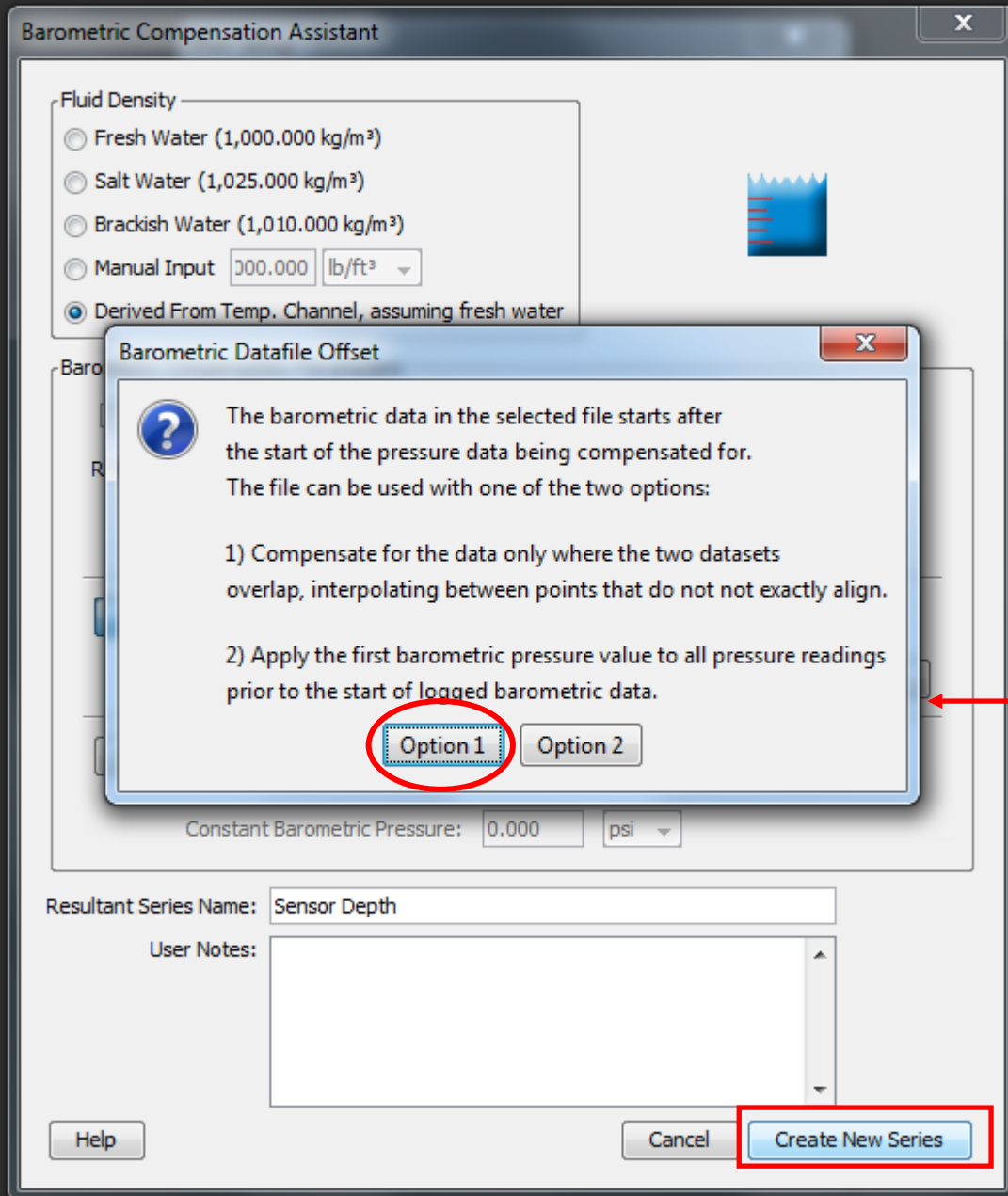
With some files, air and water sensors are out of sync (e.g., one records at 11:03 and the other records at 11:18). This happens when the user selects 'Start Logging: Now' and then deploys one sensor and then the other (at that point, recording times are usually spaced about 10-15 minutes apart).

If the air and water times are out of sync, you will receive this prompt. For our purposes -

**Select Option 1**— compensate for the data only where the two datasets overlap, interpolating between points that do not exactly align.

Click '**Create New Series**'

See 'ConfigLaunch\_HOBO\_20170803' file under the 'Main Function – QC tips' tab for ways to avoid this!



Plot Setup

Description: ECO66G12

Select Series to Plot

☒ All ☐ None

Series	Measurement	Units	Label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Abs Pres	psi	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Temp	°C	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	Abs Pres Barom.	psi	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	Sensor Depth	feet	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Batt	V	

Select Internal Logger Events to Plot

☒ All ☐ None

Event	Event Type	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coupler Detached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Coupler Attached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Stopped	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	End Of File	

Offset from GMT -4 (+/- 18.0 hours, 0 = GMT)

▼ Data Assistants

Barometric Compensation Assistant

Growing Degree Days Assistant

Process...

What's This?

Manage...

Load...

Help Cancel Plot

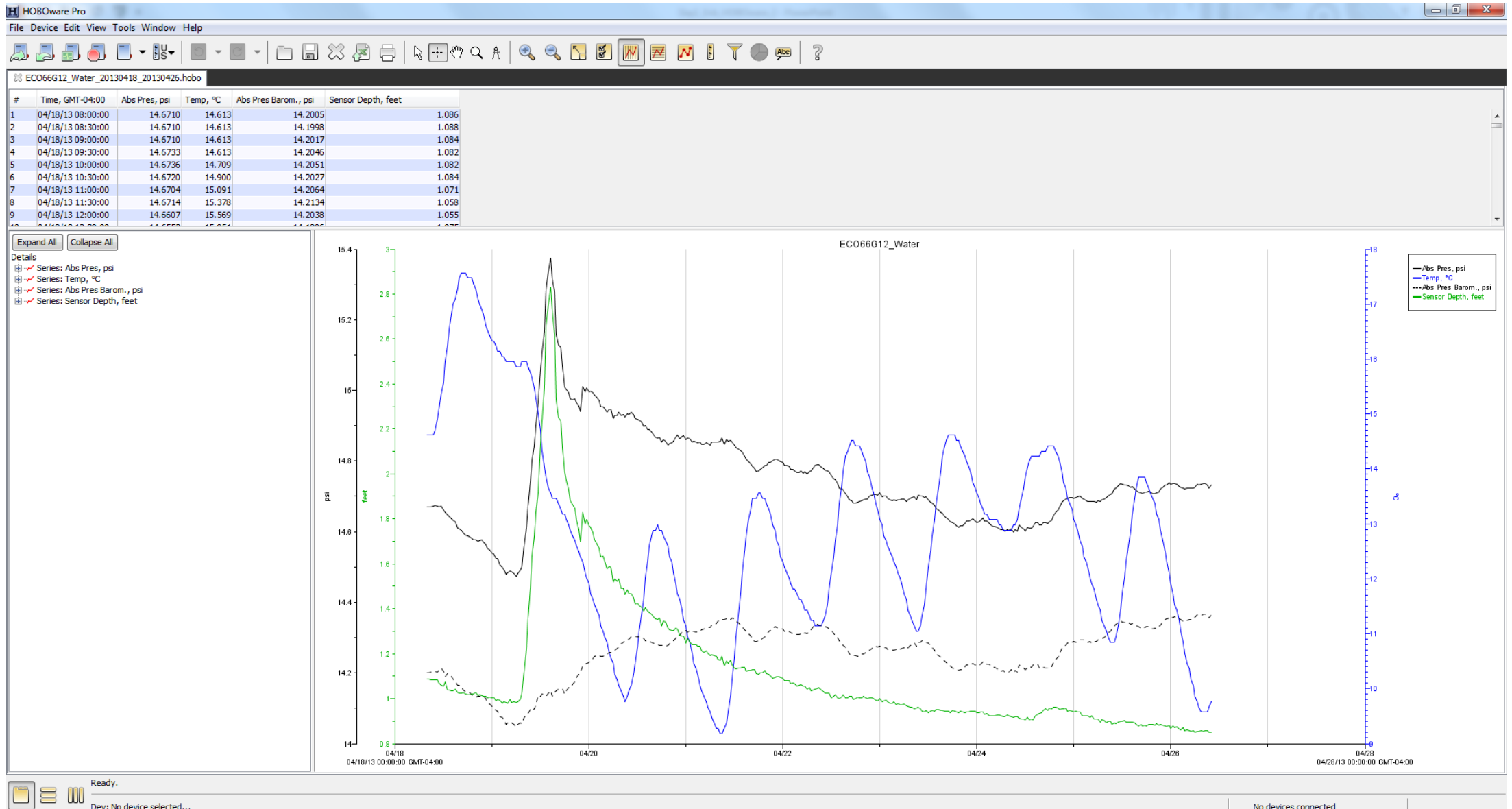
This screen will then appear

Sensor Depth has been added to the parameter list

Click 'Plot'



# A time series plot will then appear



# Change the Temp series name to 'Water Temp'

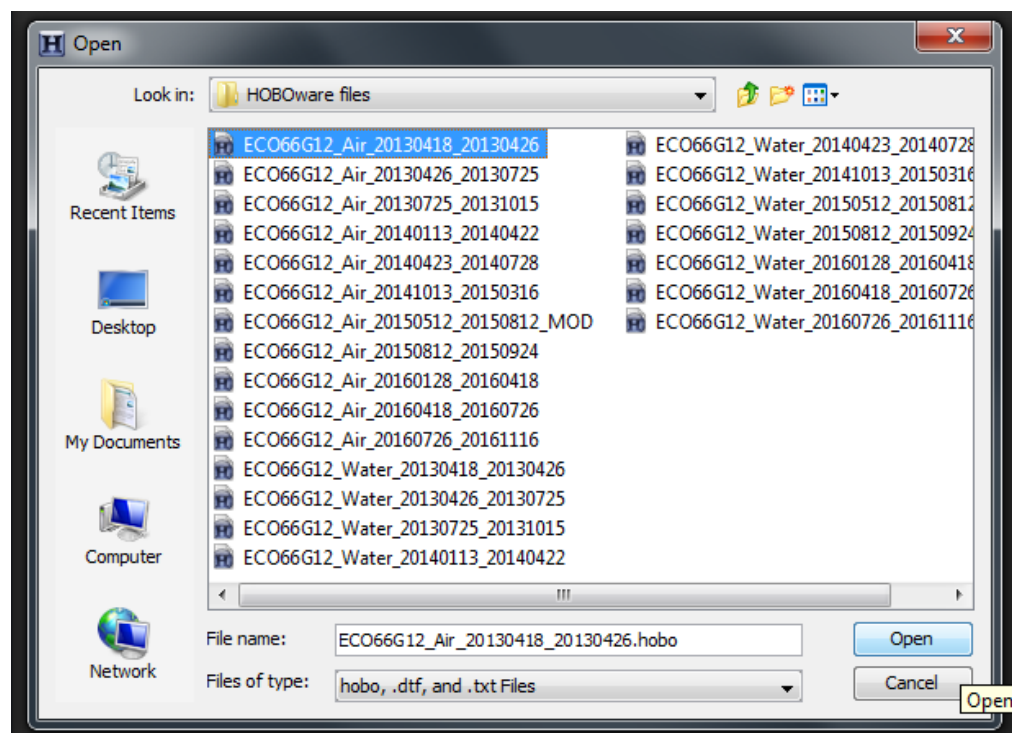
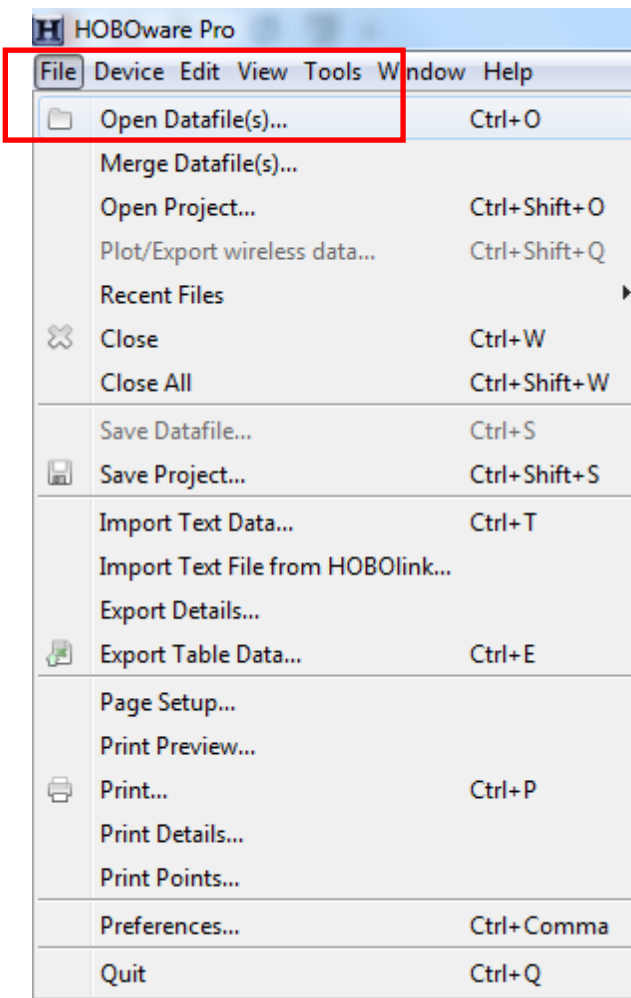
The screenshot shows the HOBOWare Pro interface. On the left, the 'Details' pane lists several series: 'Series: Abs Pres, psi', 'Series: Temp, °C', 'Series: Abs Pres Barom., psi', and 'Series: Sensor Depth, feet'. A red arrow points to 'Series: Temp, °C'. The 'Edit' menu is open, and 'Graph Properties' is selected, with a red arrow pointing to it. The 'Series Properties' dialog box is open on the right. The 'Description' field contains 'Water Temp', which is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from the 'Temp' in the details pane to this field. The 'Units' field contains '°C'. At the bottom right of the dialog, the 'Done' button is circled in red. A yellow box with four numbered steps is overlaid on the bottom left of the screenshot.

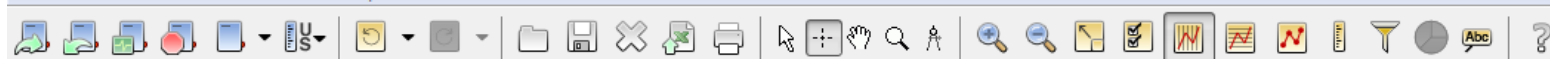
1. Left click on Series: Temp  
2. Edit – Graph Properties  
3. Enter 'Water Temp'  
4. Click 'Done'

Barom., psi	Sensor Depth, feet
14.2005	1.086
14.1998	1.088
14.2017	1.084
14.2046	1.082
14.2051	1.082
14.2027	1.084
14.2064	1.071
14.2134	1.058
14.2038	1.055

Now bring in the air temperature data.

While keeping the water sensor file open in HOBOWare, **open the air sensor file (File – Open Datafile).**

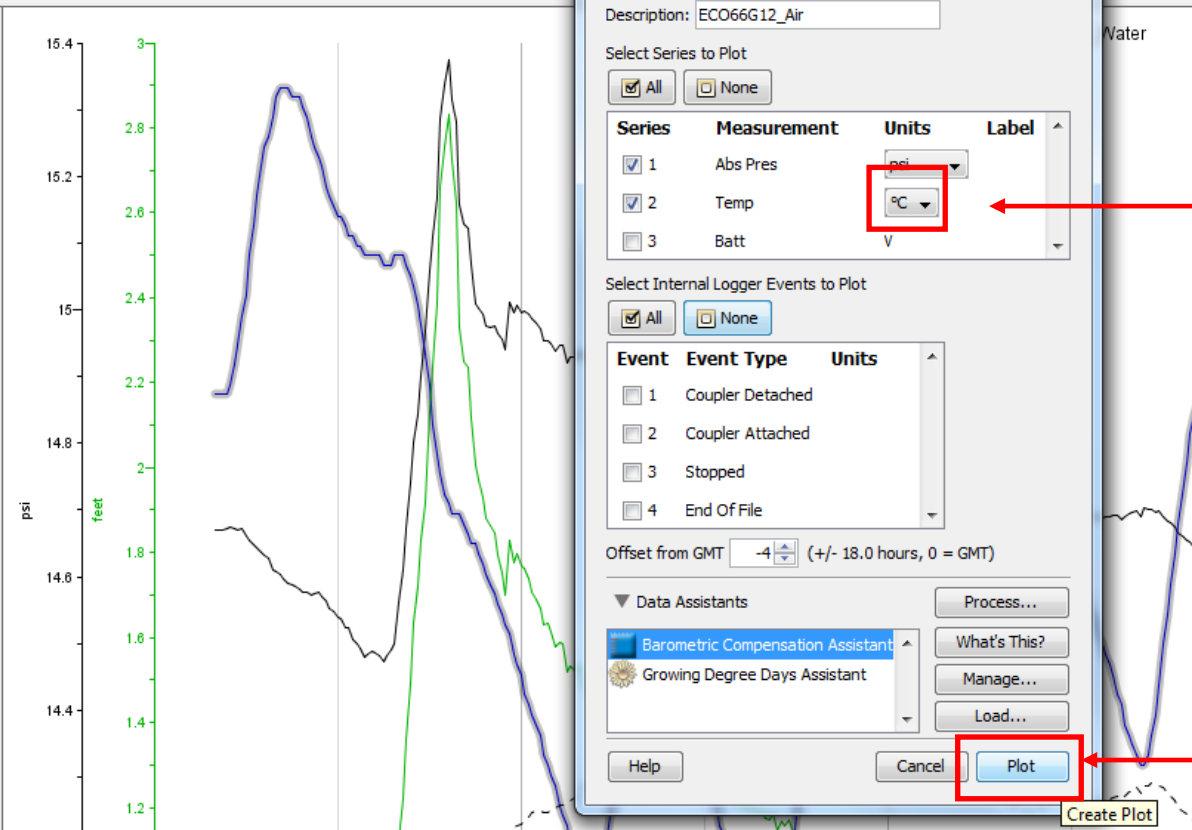




ECO66G12\_Water\_20130418\_20130426.hobo

#	Time, GMT-04:00	Abs Pres, psi	Water T...	Abs Pres Barom., psi	Sensor Depth, feet
1	04/18/13 08:00:00	14.6710	14.613	14.2005	1.086
2	04/18/13 08:30:00	14.6710	14.613	14.1998	1.088
3	04/18/13 09:00:00	14.6710	14.613	14.2017	1.084
4	04/18/13 09:30:00	14.6733	14.613	14.2046	1.082
5	04/18/13 10:00:00	14.6736	14.709	14.2051	1.082
6	04/18/13 10:30:00	14.6720	14.900	14.2027	1.084
7	04/18/13 11:00:00	14.6704	15.091	14.2064	1.071
8	04/18/13 11:30:00	14.6714	15.378	14.2134	1.058
9	04/18/13 12:00:00	14.6607	15.569	14.2038	1.055

- Expand All Collapse All
- Details
- Series: Abs Pres, psi
  - Series: Water Temp, °C
  - Series: Abs Pres Barom., psi
  - Series: Sensor Depth, feet



Plot Setup

Description: ECO66G12\_Air

Select Series to Plot

☒ All ☐ None

Series	Measurement	Units	Label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Abs Pres	psi	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Temp	°C	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Batt	V	

Select Internal Logger Events to Plot

☒ All ☐ None

Event	Event Type	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coupler Detached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Coupler Attached	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Stopped	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	End Of File	

Offset from GMT: -4 (+/- 18.0 hours, 0 = GMT)

Data Assistants

- Barometric Compensation Assistant
- Growing Degree Days Assistant

Buttons: Process... What's This? Manage... Load... Help Cancel Plot

Air sensor file

Change temperature units to °C

Click 'Plot'

# Change the Temp series name to 'Air Temp'

The screenshot shows the HOBOWare Pro interface. On the left, the 'Details' pane lists several series: 'Series: Abs Pres, psi', 'Series: Temp, °C', 'Series: Abs Pres Barom., psi', and 'Series: Sensor Depth, feet'. A red arrow points to 'Series: Temp, °C'. The 'Edit' menu is open, and 'Graph Properties' is selected, with a red arrow pointing to it. The 'Series Properties' dialog box is open on the right. The 'Description' field contains 'Air Temp', which is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from the 'Done' button in the dialog box to the 'Series: Temp, °C' entry in the 'Details' pane. A yellow box with four numbered steps is overlaid on the bottom left of the screenshot.

**1. Left click on Series: Temp**  
**2. Edit – Graph Properties**  
**3. Enter 'Air Temp'**  
**4. Click 'Done'**

Barom., psi	Sensor Depth, feet
14.2005	1.086
14.1998	1.088
14.2017	1.084
14.2046	1.082
14.2051	1.082
14.2027	1.084
14.2064	1.071
14.2134	1.058
14.2038	1.055

Series Properties

Description: **Air Temp**

Units: °C

Lines: ☒ Connect Points  
Style: Solid  
Width: 1  
☐ Connect As Steps

Points: ☐ Mark Points  
Marker: Rectangle  
Point Size: 3

Alarms: Max: 50.000  
Min: -20.000  
Enable Alarms:  
☐ High Alarm  
☐ Low Alarm

Misc.: Time Axis: Time Axis  
Value Axis: °C  
Color: Choose...

Cancel Apply **Done**

# Copy the air temperature series

• Edit

- Copy Series: Temp

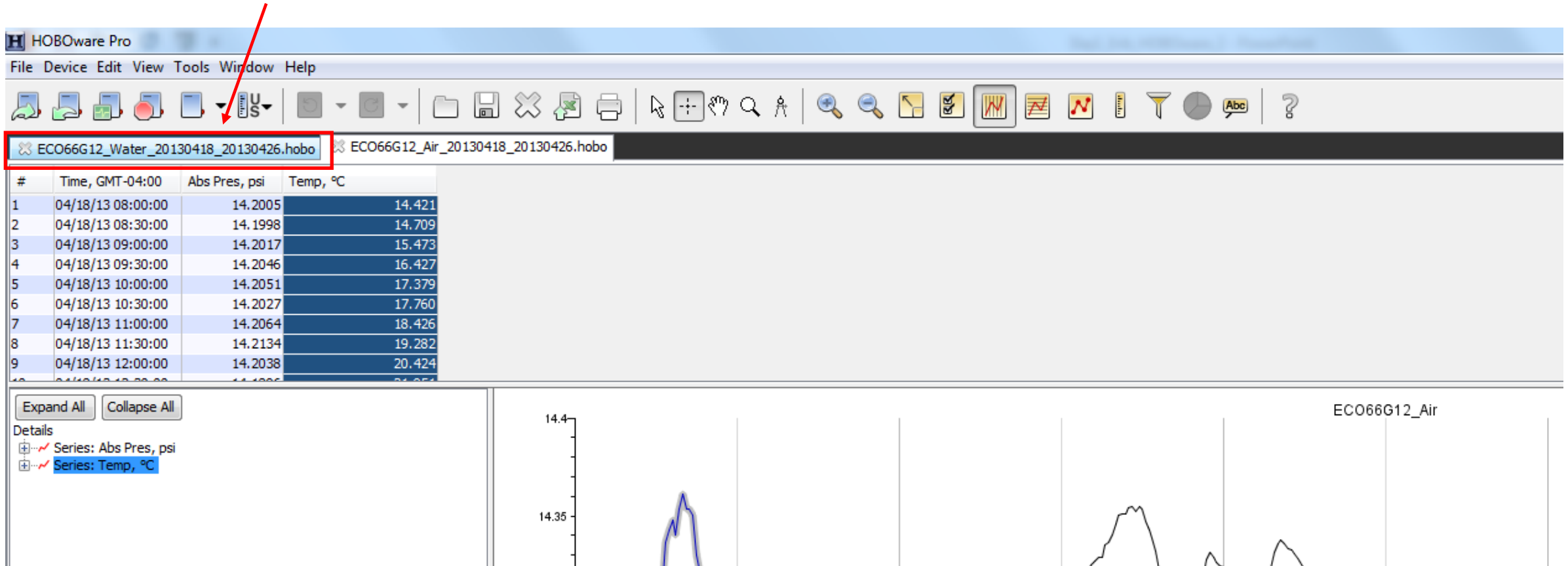
Note: the Temp Series needs to be highlighted in order for this to work

ECO66G12\_Air

#	Time	Value
1	04/18	14.421
2	04/18	14.709
3	04/18	15.473
4	04/18	16.427
5	04/18	17.379
6	04/18	17.760
7	04/18	18.426
8	04/18	19.282
9	04/18	20.424

# While keeping the air sensor file open, reopen the water sensor file

Click on the tab for the water sensor file



# Paste the air temperature series into the water sensor file

The screenshot shows the HOBOWare Pro software interface. The 'Edit' menu is open, and the 'Paste Series' option is highlighted with a red rectangle. The menu also includes options like 'Filter Series: Water Temp...', 'Copy Series: Water Temp' (Ctrl+C), 'Add Graph Label...', 'Hide/Show Series', 'Remove Series: Water Temp' (Delete), 'Graph Properties', 'Convert Units', 'Undo Action: Edit Series Properties' (Ctrl+Z), 'Redo Action' (Ctrl+Y), and 'Copy Graph to Clipboard'.

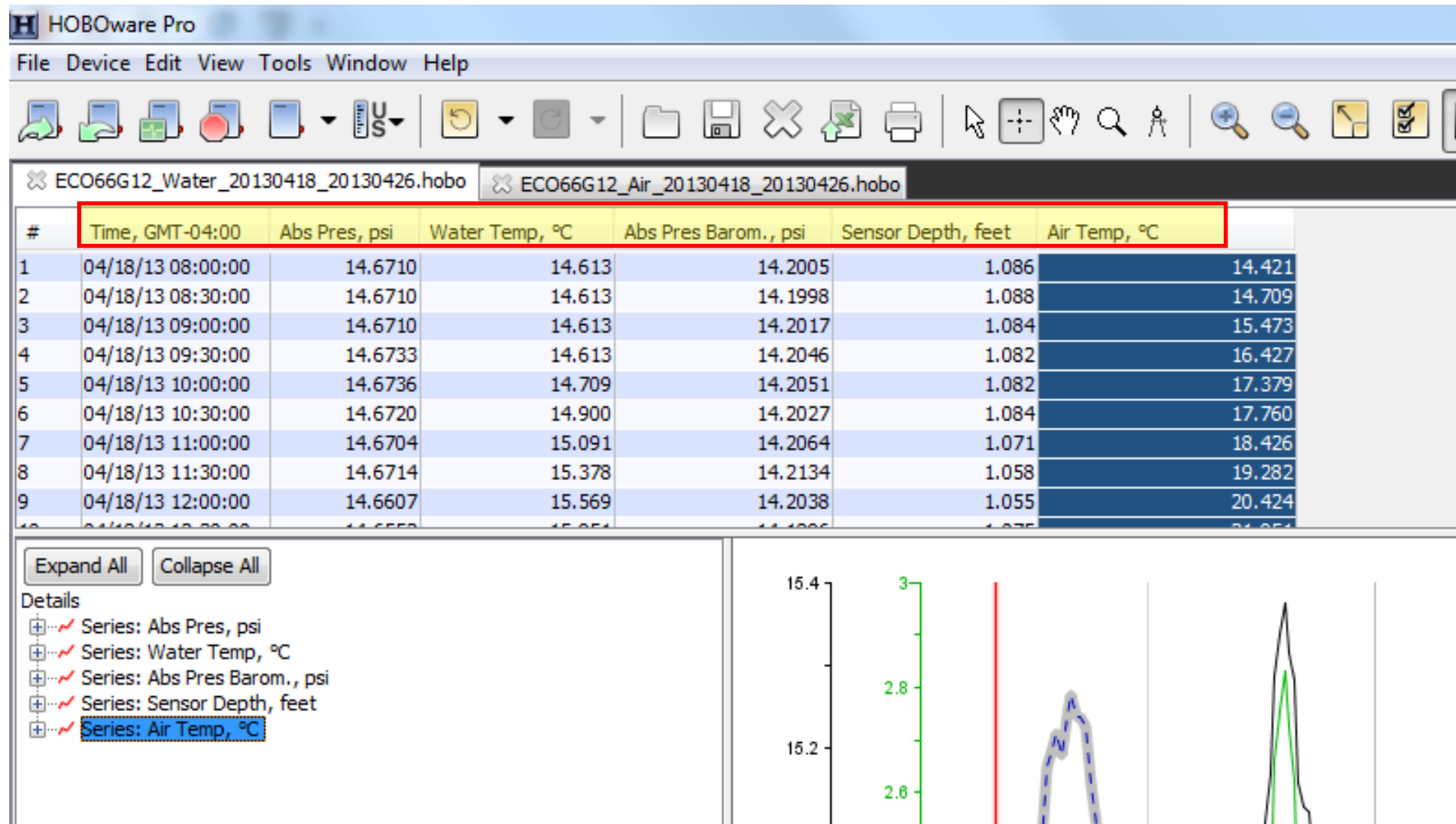
Below the menu, a data table is visible with the following columns: #, Time, Barom., psi, and Sensor Depth, feet. The table contains data for the date 04/18.

#	Time	Barom., psi	Sensor Depth, feet
1	04/18	14.2005	1.086
2	04/18	14.1998	1.088
3	04/18	14.2017	1.084
4	04/18	14.2046	1.082
5	04/18	14.2051	1.082
6	04/18	14.2027	1.084
7	04/18	14.2064	1.071
8	04/18	14.2134	1.058
9	04/18	14.2038	1.055

At the bottom, a graph is displayed with a blue line representing the barometric pressure and a green line representing the sensor depth. The graph has two y-axes: the left axis for barometric pressure (ranging from 15.2 to 15.4) and the right axis for sensor depth (ranging from 2.6 to 3.0). The graph is labeled 'ECO66G12' in the top right corner.



# All the parameters are now in one file, ready for export!



# Now you're ready to export the .csv file

The screenshot shows the HOBOWare Pro interface. The 'File' menu is open, and 'Export Table Data...' is highlighted. A yellow box contains the following list:

- File
- Export Table Data

The 'Export' dialog box is open, showing a table of parameters to export. A yellow box with the text 'Select All Parameters Click 'Export'' points to the 'Export...' button, which is circled in red.

Select	Measurement	Units	S/N	Label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs Pres	psi	10229557	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Temp	°C	10229557	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs Pres Barom.	psi	10229571	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sensor Depth	feet	10229557-4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Temp	°C	10229571	

Save the .csv file in the Data0\_Original folder.  
The file should look like this...

FILE

HOME

INSERT

PAGE LAYOUT

FORMULAS

DATA

REVIEW

VIEW

Paste

Cut

Copy

Format Painter

Clipboard

Calibri

11

A

A

B

I

U

A

Font

Wrap Text

Merge & Center

Alignment

General

\$

%

,

0.00

0.00

Number

Conditional Formatting

Format as Table

Normal

Bad

Good

Neutral

Check Cell

Explanatory ...

Input

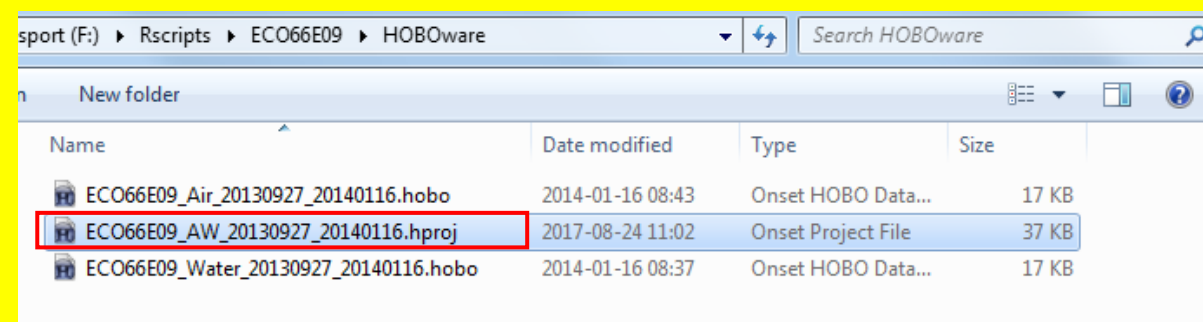
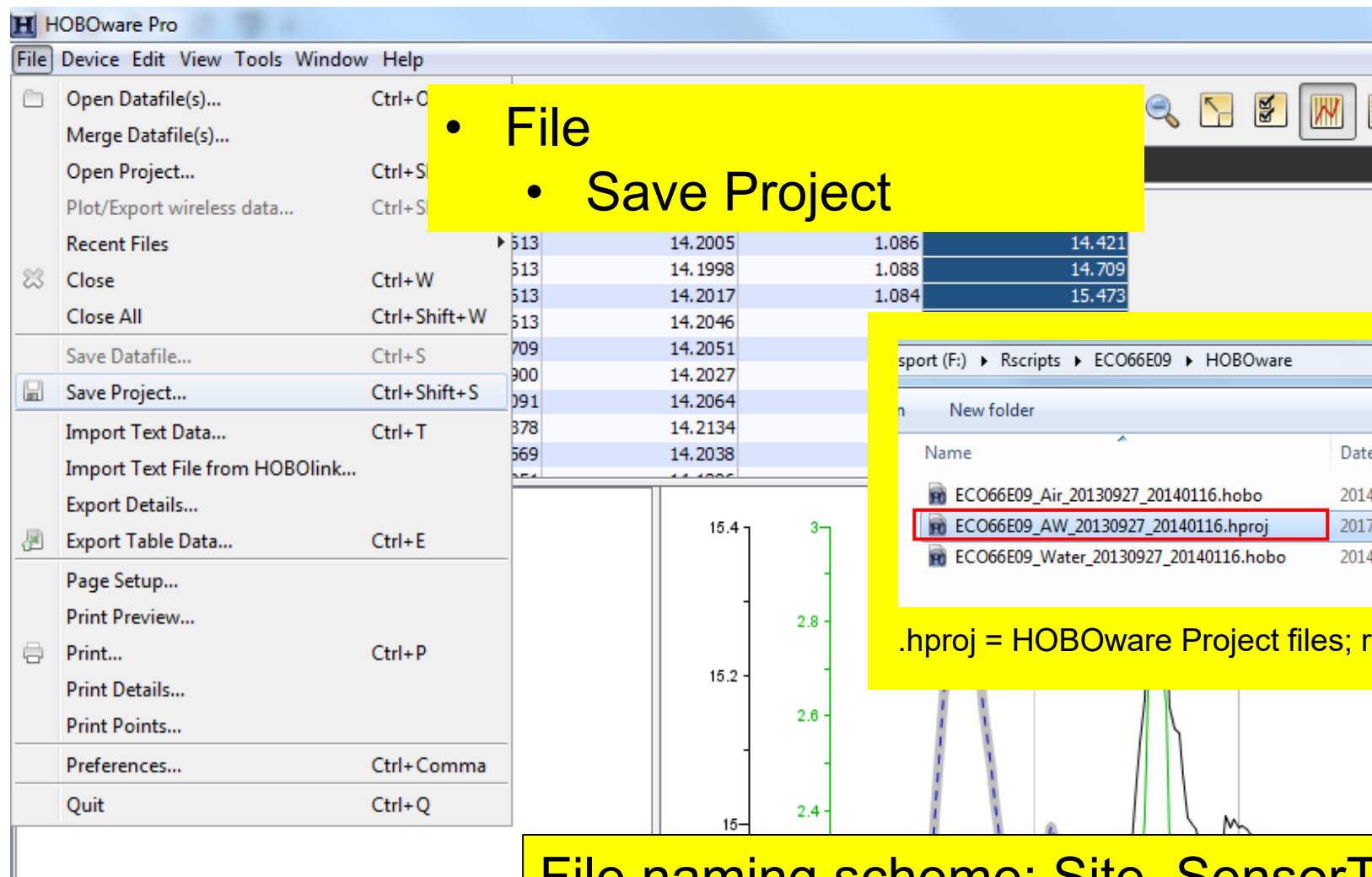
Linked Cell

Styles

I16

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Plot Title: ECO66G12					
2	Date Time, GMT-04:00	Abs Pres, psi (LGR S/N: 10229557)	Water Temp, °C (LGR S/N: 10229557)	Abs Pres Barom., psi (LGR S/N: 10229571)	Sensor Depth, feet (LGR S/N: 10229557)	Air Temp, °C (LGR S/N: 10229571)
3	2013-04-18 08:00	14.671	14.613	14.2005	1.086	14.421
4	2013-04-18 08:30	14.671	14.613	14.1998	1.088	14.709
5	2013-04-18 09:00	14.671	14.613	14.2017	1.084	15.473
6	2013-04-18 09:30	14.6733	14.613	14.2046	1.082	16.427
7	2013-04-18 10:00	14.6736	14.709	14.2051	1.082	17.379
8	2013-04-18 10:30	14.672	14.9	14.2027	1.084	17.76
9	2013-04-18 11:00	14.6704	15.091	14.2064	1.071	18.426
10	2013-04-18 11:30	14.6714	15.378	14.2134	1.058	19.282
11	2013-04-18 12:00	14.6607	15.569	14.2038	1.055	20.424
12	2013-04-18 12:30	14.6552	15.951	14.1896	1.075	21.951
13	2013-04-18 13:00	14.6471	16.237	14.1982	1.037	23.869

Before you close HOBOWare, save the file with the combined air and water sensor data as a HOBOWare Project File.



.hproj = HOBOWare Project files; retain the original HOBOWare Data files too!

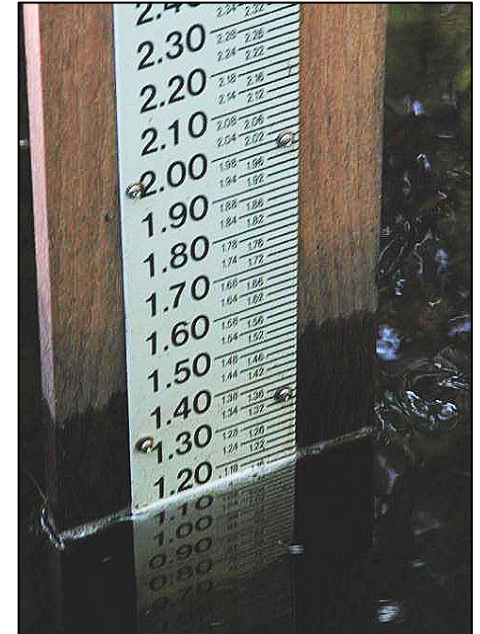
File naming scheme: Site\_SensorType\_StartDate\_EndDate  
Example – ECO66G12\_AW\_20130418\_20130426

# **Reference water level measurements**

# Reference water level measurements

What exactly are these?

- Discrete measurement from a fixed reference point such as a staff gauge or the top of a stilling well
- Enable you to get water level vs. a fixed reference point that should not change over time



# Why take reference water level measurements?

Allow you to see **data relative to a meaningful reference** for the site such as a staff gauge.

Important if you want to **check if there has been any measurement drift or logger shift** (physically) during the deployment. Pressure sensors can drift up to 0.3% FS per year.

HOBOWare will also **compensate for differences in the elevation** of the **barometric pressure** and **water pressure loggers**.

# Reference water level measurements

Reference water level measurements are often (but not always) taken from staff gages.

Installation tip, **if you have a staff gage** -

- When possible, gage **should be oriented so that it is parallel to flow**
- If not, water will 'pile up' on gage making it difficult to get an accurate reading
- Installing gage in a pool will result in less turbulence and allow for more accurate gage readings



'Pile up' of water on staff gages



# Reference water level measurements

## What if you don't have a staff gage?

There are a number of different options. Examples include –

- Use a **stable structure on the bottom of the stream**, such as a boulder, and **measure up to water surface**. Make sure to mark this spot so that you can measure from this same spot for future water level reference measurements.
- If there aren't boulders, you could **drive a PVC pipe into the bottom** and use that instead.
- Reference a **mark on a vertical structure**, such as a boulder along the stream or a bridge support, and **measure from this mark down to the water surface**.



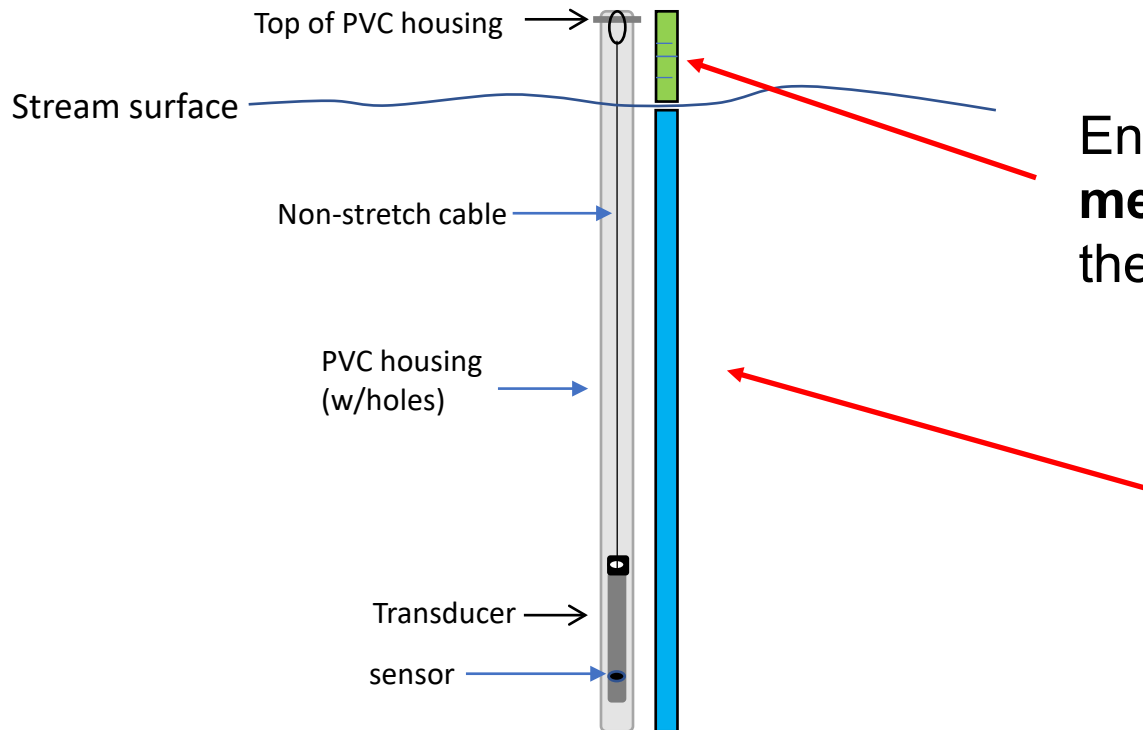
Measurement from water level to top of bridge beam

# Reference Water Level Measurements

## Positive vs. negative entries in HOBOWare Pro

### Example using a PVC stilling well:

The stilling well must be securely mounted so that it does not move. Use the top of the stilling well as your reference point.



Enter as a **negative number** for **above-water measurements** (in this example, the distance from the top of the stilling well to the water surface).

Enter as a **positive number** for **in-water measurements** (in this case, the stream surface to stream bottom).

Note: the sensor is not touching the stream bottom

Stream bottom

# How does HOBOWare Pro use reference water levels?

The screenshot displays the HOBOWare Pro interface. On the left, the 'Barometric Compensation Assistant' dialog is open. It features a 'Fluid Density' section with radio buttons for 'Fresh Water (62.428 lb/ft³)', 'Salt Water (63.989 lb/ft³)', 'Brackish Water (63.052 lb/ft³)', 'Manual Input' (set to 300.000 lb/ft³), and 'Derived From Temp. Channel, assuming fresh water'. Below this is the 'Barometric Compensation Parameters' section, which includes a checked box for 'Use a Reference Water Level'. The 'Reference Water Level' is set to -0.887 Feet. A 'Reference Time' dropdown shows '04/26/13 10:00:00 GMT-04:00 [Pres = 14.733 psi]'. A 'Barometric Data' list shows various timestamps and pressures. The 'Resultant Series Name' is 'Water Level'. At the bottom are 'Help', 'Cancel', and 'Create New Series' buttons.

On the right, the main HOBOWare Pro window shows a data table for 'ECO66G12\_Water\_20130418\_20130426.hobo'. The table has columns: '#', 'Time, GMT-04:00', 'Abs Pres, psi', 'Temp, °C', 'Abs Pres Barom., psi', and 'Water Level, feet'. The data rows show a sequence of measurements. The final row (389) has a 'Water Level' of -0.887, which is circled in red.

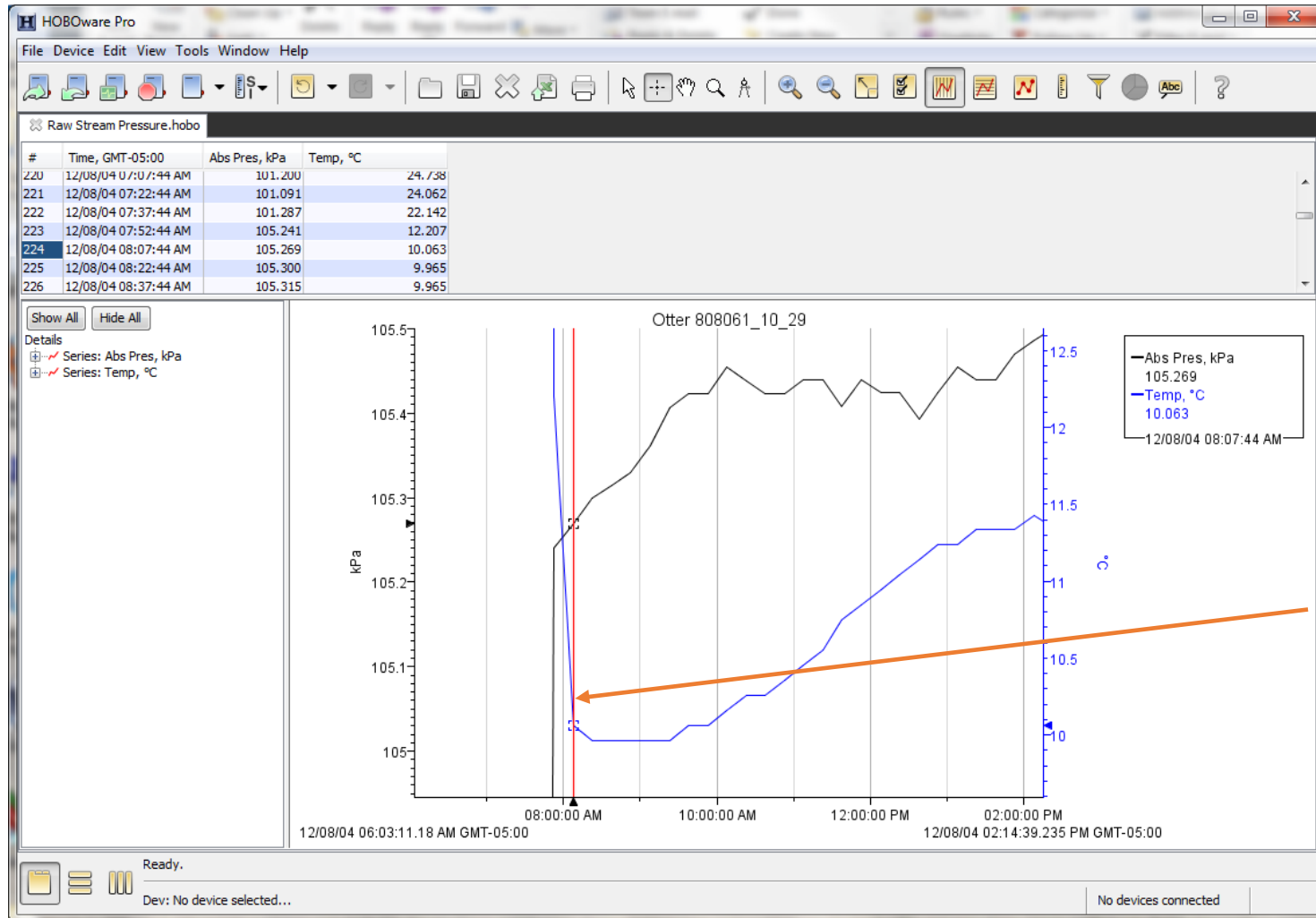
#	Time, GMT-04:00	Abs Pres, psi	Temp, °C	Abs Pres Barom., psi	Water Level, feet
381	04/26/13 06:00:00	14.7263	9.866	14.3569	-0.884
382	04/26/13 06:30:00	14.7351	9.768	14.3648	-0.882
383	04/26/13 07:00:00	14.7325	9.669	14.3625	-0.883
384	04/26/13 07:30:00	14.7344	9.571	14.3629	-0.880
385	04/26/13 08:00:00	14.7367	9.571	14.3669	-0.883
386	04/26/13 08:30:00	14.7367	9.571	14.3656	-0.880
387	04/26/13 09:00:00	14.7322	9.571	14.3613	-0.881
388	04/26/13 09:30:00	14.7234	9.669	14.3553	-0.887
389	04/26/13 10:00:00	14.7328	9.768	14.3645	-0.887

Example – a reference water level measurement was taken at the end of the deployment period. The value was -0.887. If you enter this value into HOBOWare Pro's Barometric Compensation Assistant (see screenshot on left), click 'Create New Series', and then scroll to the end of the output table, you'll see that HOBOWare adjusts the data values so that the last value equals the reference water level (-0.887).

Side note: if you *don't* enter a Reference Water Level, the Resultant Series Name will say 'Sensor Depth'; if you *do* make an entry, it will say 'Water Level' (like in the screenshot above)

# Reference water level measurements –

## Another consideration: temperature stability



Do not enter reference water level measurements for time periods during which temperature measurements are not at equilibrium.

In this example, the first set of temperature measurements are not at equilibrium.

# Checking for sensor drift

- Ideally you take reference water level measurements at the beginning and end of each deployment period (and potentially in-between).
- For the best accuracy, take multiple reference water level measurements and average them.
- Then run the data through the Barometric Compensation Assistant twice:
  - Once with the starting reference level
  - Then with the ending reference level
- Compare the two resulting data series. If there is no difference, that is good! (the sensors didn't drift)
- If there is a difference:
  - Are there any sudden jumps in the data? This could be due to the logger shifting. In this case, use the data processed with the first reference level up to the jump, and use the data processed with the ending reference level after the jump.
  - If there is not a sudden change, it is possible that one of the reference readings is not correct (e.g., perhaps the logger had not reached temperature equilibrium for the first reference reading).
  - Another possibility is measurement drift, in which case you can add a correction factor that increases linearly over the time of deployment to make it match the reference readings at the beginning and end (this is something you would likely to do in MS Excel).

# What if you can't take reference water level measurements?

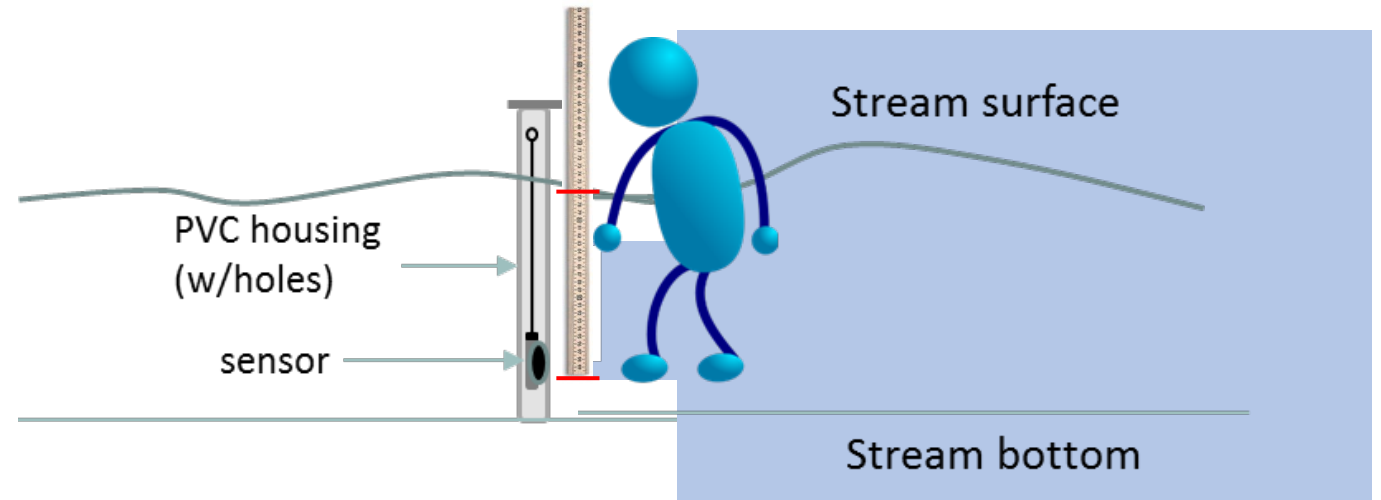
At a minimum, try to measure **sensor depth** (from water surface to sensor diaphragm). **Compare this measurement to the sensor reading** (should be close!).

However it **may be difficult to get an accurate measurement**.

Suggestion – if the sensor is hanging vertically from a cable in a stilling well, note where the water line is on the cable when you pull up the logger, and measure from that point to the sensor diaphragm.



The ceramic pressure sensor diaphragm is located 0.16 inches above the center of the hole in the U20





## **What if you haven't been taking reference water level measurements but want to start doing it part-way through deployment?**

If you hadn't been entering reference water levels into HOBOWare Pro's Barometric Compensation Assistant and start doing so, it will change your outputs and you will lose continuity in your data.

For continuity, we recommend that you continue generating sensor depth (as before) in addition to outputs with reference water level. Use the beginning/end reference water level measurements to check for sensor drift.

(A similar loss of continuity would occur if you changed your reference point part-way through the deployment and didn't adjust accordingly).

# How do you know your reference point hasn't moved?

## Elevation surveys

- Important tool for detecting movement of transducers and staff gages
- Conduct surveys yearly after high spring flows/ice out or if movement is suspected
- Can use results to correct transducer data if movement is detected

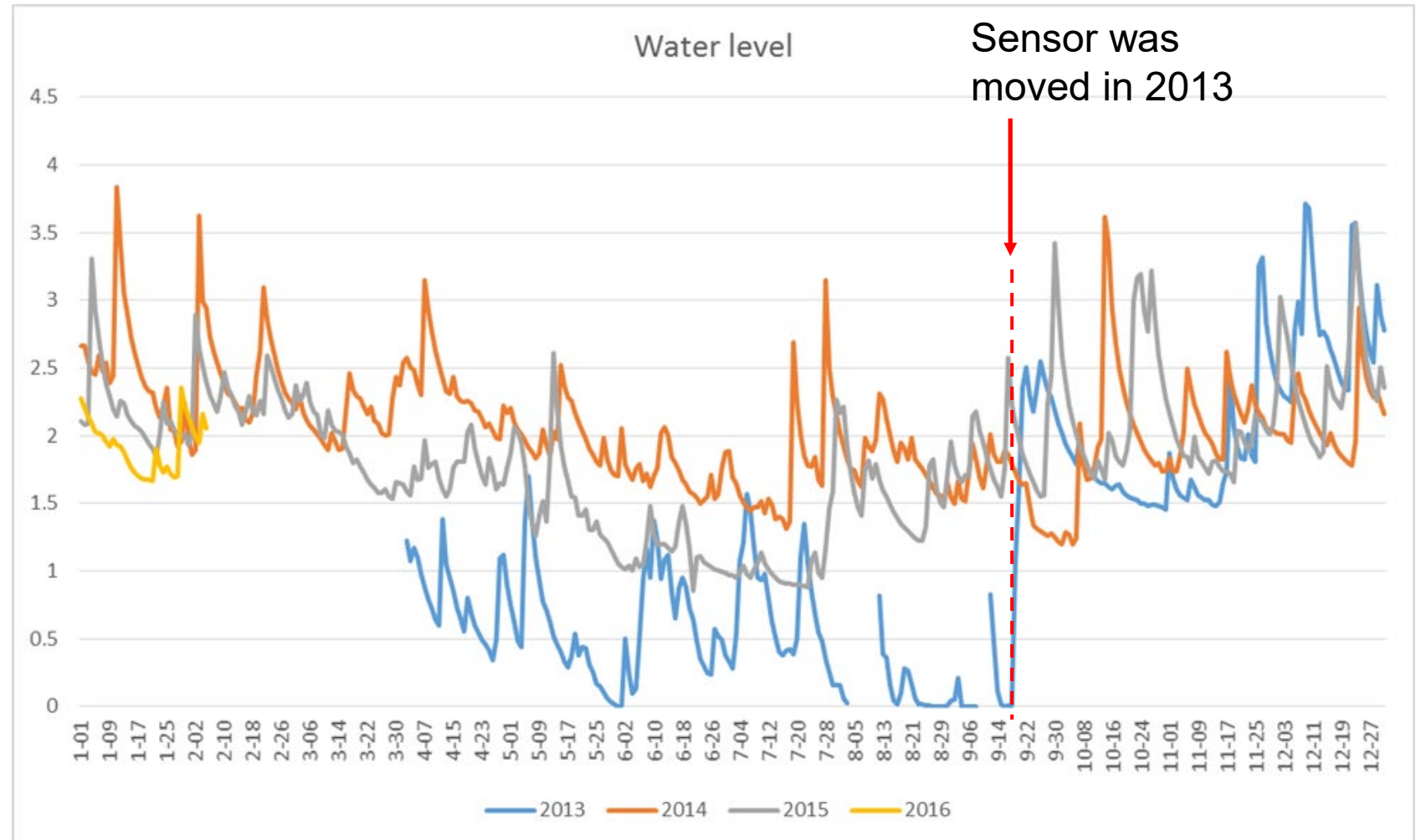




# Example of sensor being moved part-way through deployment

Sensor was too high & was going dry; they moved it on 9/20/2013.

No reference water level measurements (tough to adjust).



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Tetra Tech developed the materials with assistance from David Gibbs (EPA ORISE fellow: [gibbs.david@epa.gov](mailto:gibbs.david@epa.gov)), Paul Gannett (Onset: [Paul\\_Gannett@onsetcomp.com](mailto:Paul_Gannett@onsetcomp.com)), Michelle Craddock (MA RIFLS), Nick Murray (WV DEP) and other RMN partners.

Questions can be directed to Jen Stamp ([Jen.Stamp@tetrattech.com](mailto:Jen.Stamp@tetrattech.com)).