So, in addition to the link I sent last week with some best practices on naming, here are some more worthy principles that I try to follow for naming and coding:

Proposed Project Principles:

1. Database columns and python variable names: All column and variable names will consist of full English words in lower case, separated by underbars
   1. Mixing case is problematic when discussing database fields over the phone, taking notes in class and in all cases of verbal communication (classroom and business presentations, phone conversations, podcasts, etc). Keeping all characters in lower case helps minimize errors in understanding names  and also later in trying to remember the conventions used with regard to mixed case approaches.
   2. Using underbars between words in a name also limits transcription errors, as there is no question as to whether to run words together (in short: do not do it).
   3. In decades past, computer languages and database systems alike limited the number of characters allowed in variable and database related names, due mostly to an effort to squeeze out a little bit of performance, and finding the best abbreviations was somewhat of an art. Today with no such need for speed and with the popularity of drop-down lists and auto-completion in coding, short abbreviations have no clear advantage over spelled-out names.
   4. The "Zen of Python" propounds design principles that were first associated with the Python language, but also, for similar reasons, apply to naming conventions in general. Since this project will use python, it is also a good idea to not force developers to use a certain convention in database names vs Python names.
      1. See <https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0020/> for a refreshingly short but thorough list of 20 principles in coding and naming. The twentieth principle is the unwritten rule that goes without saying.
2. Coding Principles:
   1. See Python's PEP-8 standard:
      1. <https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008/>
   2. If other types of code are included, try to adhere to the python principles as much as possible.

This link has a nice discussion of opinions about such names, and with that in mind, I think 'meters\_above\_seafloor' is best. Especially as it conveys to those outside of our meeting (developers, other observers or audience members of future presentations on the work), a very clear description of what that value means, and thus will minimize all sorts of potential errors. The most accepted answer, with which I agree cites "Clarity trumps most things", which also applies to our database column naming.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/445191/should-we-put-units-of-measurements-in-attribute-names>