

Models get the core assumptions wrong— the hot spot is missing »

« \$700,000 for believers to convert skeptics – but nothing skeptical science »

Man-made sea-level rises are due to global adjustments

Frank Lansner's first graph surprised me. It's well known and often quoted that sea levels have been rising by 2-3mm a year every year for the last 20 years. But it's not well known that the original raw satellite data doesn't show that at all.

What astonished me was the sea levels first recorded by the Topex Poseidon satellite array showed virtually no rise at all from 1993-2001. Surely not, I thought. I asked sea-level expert Nils Axel-Morner, and he confirmed: "Yes, *it is as bad as that*." Now, given that Envisat (the European satellite) showed no rise from 2003-2011 (until it was adjusted) that means we have almost 20 years of raw satellite data showing very little rise.

We thought satellites would finally give us a definitive answer on sea levels. Instead, like the tide gauges, and every other tool available to mankind, apparently satellites systematically underestimate the rising trends. And despite the speed of light being quite quick and all, it can take *years* for the data to finally arrive. Sometimes 4 or 5 (or 10 years) after the measurement was made scientists "discover" that it was wrong.

Now of course, any one of these adjustments could be for very legitimate reasons and give us results closer to the truth. But the adjustments *always* bring data closer to the modeled trend. It's decidedly non-random. Either there is a God who thinks teasing climate scientists is spiffy, or else there is something fishy going on, and some investigative journalists need to ask some investigative questions. Is that sea-level rise due to global warming or is it due to global *adjustments*?

— Jo

Guest Post by Frank Lansner

Edited by Jo Nova

Sea levels – the raw data is always adjusted upwards

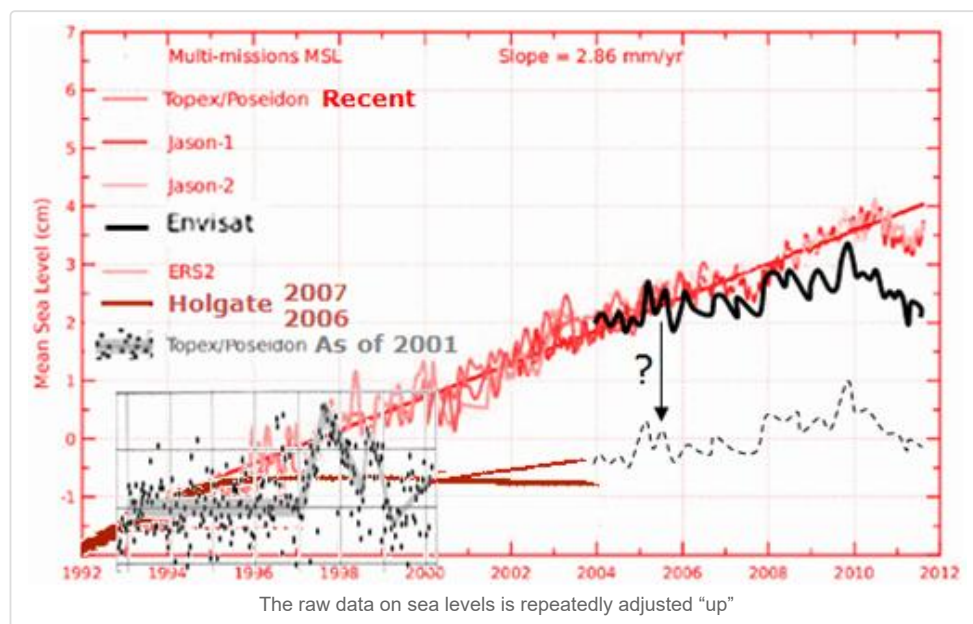


Fig 1 The data for recent years has gone through significant changes. In Morner 2004 the raw satellite data for sea level rise was shown with the original slope (the grey line with dots named "Topex/Poseidon as of 2001" above).

The data was shown in the Morner 2004 peer reviewed article. It does seem that Morner was simply presenting data on sea levels as they were known at the time. In addition, Holgate's data from 2006-7 also seems to show a similar flat trend after 1994.

Holgate's flat sea level graph ends in 2004 – when Envisat starts out with yet another dataset showing flat trend. The Envisat data is stitched so that 2004-6 overlaps with the satellite data. (But it could have been aligned with the original raw data of Topex/Poseidon, so that Envisat continues where Holgate 2007 ended.)

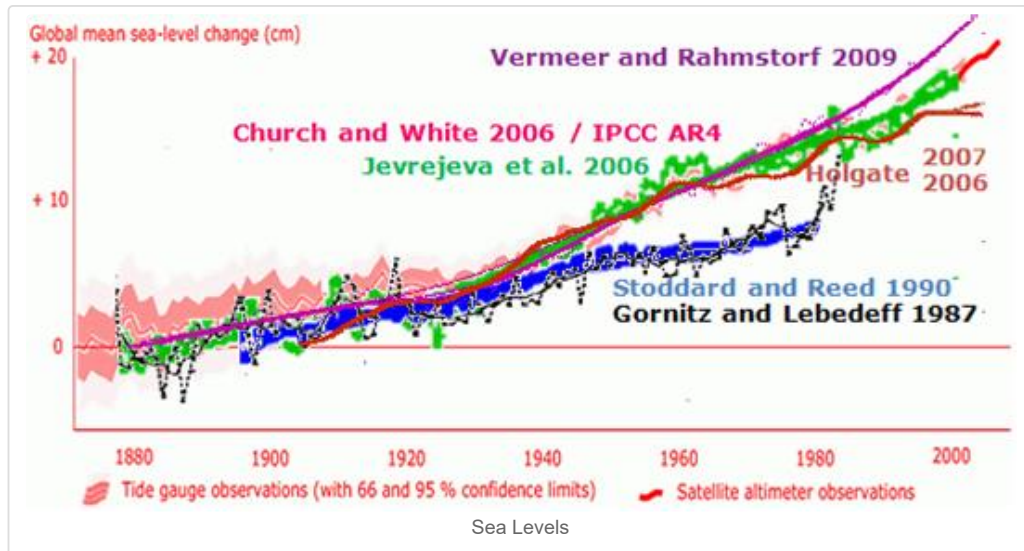


Fig 2. The original red graph is from the IPCC AR4 dataset (Church and White 2006). Other datasets for sea level rise have been added to show the trends as they were reported at the time with the year each one was released.

Something happened to the sea level data from satellites around 2004-2005 it seems, because in 2005 Morner points out that the satellite data has been changed significantly. The trends don't look like they did before 2004.

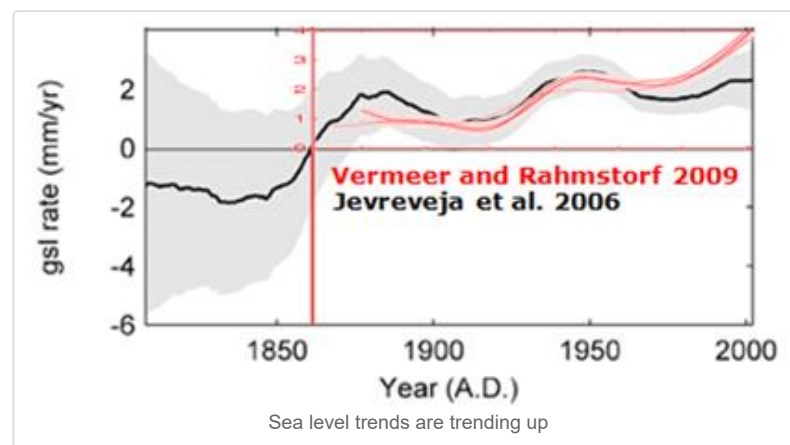


Fig 3 The changes in sea level on a century scale still had a problem around 2006-7: Sea level data still did not support the global warming argument.

Even the results of Jevrejeva 2006 are a problem for the theory of man-made global warming. The annual sea level rise in the 1990's were equal to the annual sea level rise of the 1940's. That would suggest same global temperature trends for the two periods. That does not support the alarm over global warming.

Finally in 2009 Vermeer and Rahmstorf produced a dataset for sea level rise that actually suggested that annual sea level rise in the 1990's exceeded the 1940's rate and thus suggested warming was increasing faster now than it was in the 1940's. This was the first time that a dataset for sea-level rise was produced that actually supported the global warming argument.

Meanwhile, sea level data from Envisat keeps coming in, and it seems that the new project staff have no idea they have to produce global warming adapted data:

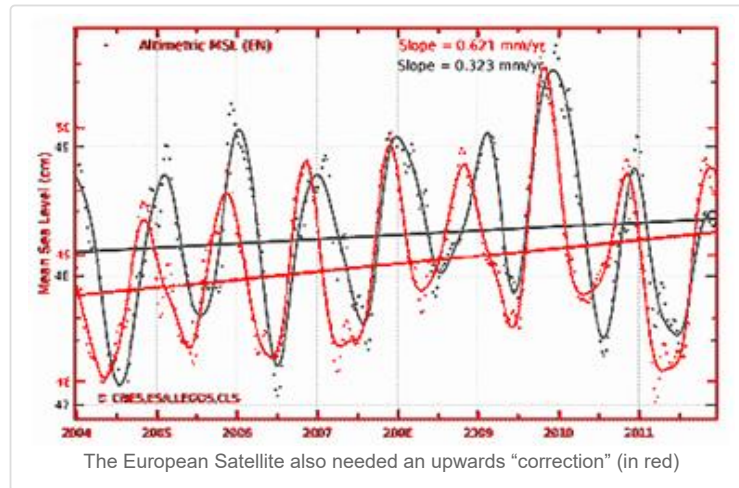


Fig 4. As always there is some kind of adjustment making data a little more GW friendly, but still, the adjusted version of Envisat shows a tiny slope of around 6-7 cm per century... (the unadjusted showed 3 cm per century.)

European Satellites need upward corrections too

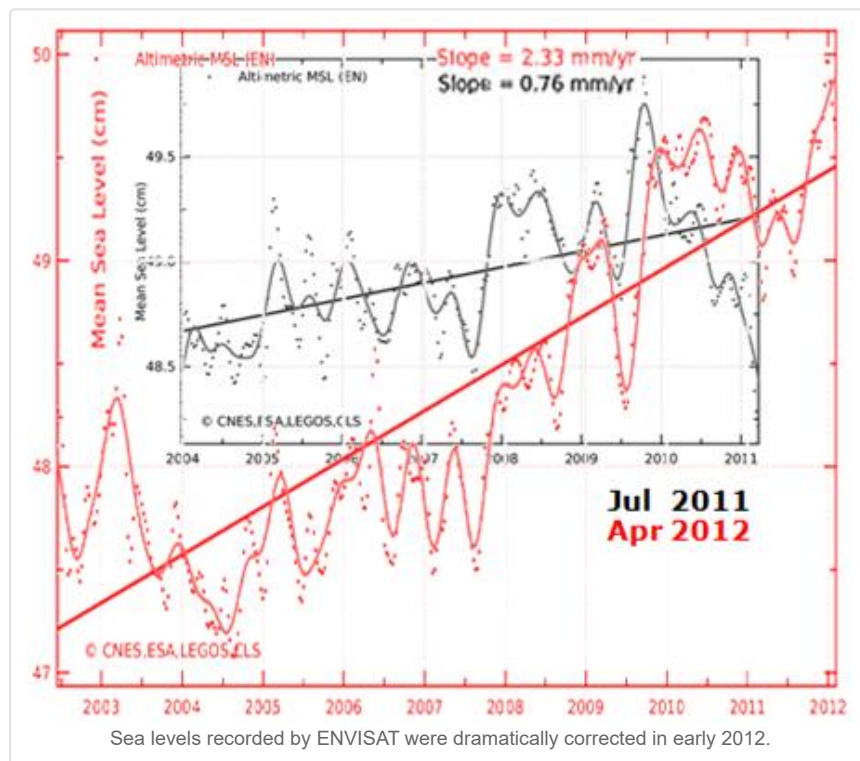


Fig 5: The European Envisat data before (in black) and after (in red)

After the Envisat stopped transmitting, the whole series was changed dramatically. In addition, the full length of the data beginning in 2002 is now shown. It appears that Envisat data from 2002-4 shows a fall in sea level, but this dive was not shown until now when the new stronger increase in sea level dominates the picture.

Note from Jo: The excuses for the upwards adjustments stretch credulity. One of the sea-level adjustments that increases the trend is a "correction" for rising land (globally) – Seriously: 10% of recorded sea level rise is compensation for the land apparently rising too. In any case, even if sea-levels are rising still (could be), they started rising long before we started using coal to produce electricity, see It wasn't CO2: Global sea levels started rising before 1800. And in the case of Australia, Australian sea level rises exaggerated by 8 fold (or maybe ten).

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- Watts/Goddard on Envisat: [[WattsUpWithThat-April-2012](#)]

Frank Lansner writes [HideTheDecline](#), from Denmark.

9.2 out of 10 based on 76 ratings

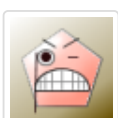
Post

The short killer summary: [The Skeptics Handbook](#). The most deadly point: [The Missing Hot Spot](#).



May 25th, 2012 | Tags: [Adjustments to data](#), [Envisat](#), [Jevrejeva](#), [Lansner \(Frank\)](#), [Sea Level](#) | Category: [Global Warming](#) | [Print This Po](#)

127 comments to Man-made sea-level rises are due to global adjustments



Eric Simpson
May 25, 2012 at 3:33 am

#1

"the original raw satellite data doesn't show that at all"

You know what doesn't show that at all? Going to the beach. Your own eyes! There's been *no* sea level rise. My wuwu comment:

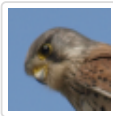
I've been going to this tide-pooled rocky beach for ~40 years.

As a little tike I would name the big rocks (as Farm, Minor & "Major League Rock" etc), and from shore throw rocks at them. With my own eyes: the sea level has not changed. Further, recently I was there at a low tide of minus 0.5 and went out to Major rock. There was a few spotty inches of water between Minor & Major rocks.

This is EXACTLY as it was 40 years ago. Only when the tide was lower than minus 1.0 would there be no water at all between Minor & Major. I reported this to my scientist (biochem) "trust the experts" brother. He said "ok, that is some anecdotal evidence." Me: "ANECDOTAL?!! It's *me!* And you see the same thing." Him: "Anecdotal in that it's not scientific, or... systematic." In a bit, he said "Those [huge] rocks have moved." I took this as sarcastic, saying "Haha. Yeah. Another thing I hear is that the 'land has risen.'"

Maybe the sea has risen everywhere else, while it's just at Big Sur that it remains the same.

2 0



Krishna Gans

May 25, 2012 at 6:18 am

The values of the models are the right ones, of course, we live in the (climate) matrix. 😊

#2

3 0



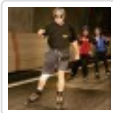
agwnonsense

May 25, 2012 at 6:23 am

Are these guys scientists or accountants, observed scientific data only needs adjustment to hide something, err truth perhaps. Telling the truth could create some much needed credibility for these morons. I have LIVED WORKED and PLAYED in the OCEAN and the Sea Level is pretty much the same as it was 50 years ago. Climate Change is Natural and CO2 is Life

#3

3 0



Ingvar Engelbrecht

May 25, 2012 at 7:31 am

And then they say that the sceptics are involved in stupid conspiracy theories. Well things that these and other in the same domain sure feed thoughts like that. But it is not really a conspiracy, everything is done openly!

#4

0 0



warcroft

May 25, 2012 at 7:55 am

OT. . .

#5

http://blogs.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/timblair/index.php/dailytelegraph/comments/penalties_apply/

"Shops and restaurants could face fines up to \$1.1 million if waiters or sales staff wrongly blame the carbon tax for price rise, or exaggerate the impact."

0 0



Rod Stuart

May 25, 2012 at 7:57 am

In the meantime, the 1841 tide mark at Port Arthur is still at sea level. Perhaps a warmist's bathtub has deeper water at one end, but Mother Nature's big bathtub stubbornly resists the sea level BS.

#6

0 0