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Service Change Notice 24-111
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1035 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Greg Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Marine Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Tallahassee,
FL: Effective March 18, 2025

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Tallahassee, FL (TAE) will change Marine Forecast Zones encompassing the nearshore waters from Mexico Beach to the Walton-Okaloosa county line. The St. Andrews Bay system will be split into a separate marine zone. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 18, 2025 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to Month 19, 2025 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in a more geographically precise forecast, improved watch and warning products for the general public and marine users and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

The current zone, GMZ750, will be split into two separate zones, GMZ735 (St. Andrews Bay Waterways) and GMZ751 (Coastal Waters from Okaloosa-Walton County line to Mexico Beach out 20 nautical miles). This split will optimize issuance of tropical and marine hazard products, as well as routine marine products. Conditions in the St. Andrews Bay system can vary significantly from areas over the open Gulf.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Current Marine Forecast Zone Name

GMZ750: Coastal Waters from Okaloosa-Walton County Line to Mexico Beach out 20NM

Table 2. UGCs: New Marine Forecast Zone Name

GMZ751: Coastal Waters from Okaloosa-Walton County Line to Mexico Beach out 20NM
GMZ735: St. Andrews Bay Waterways

Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Tallahassee, FL Marine Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Special Marine Warning	WHUS52 KTAE	SMWTAE
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS72 KTAE	MWSTAE
Marine Weather Message	WHUS72 KTAE	MWWTAE
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZUS52 KTAE	CWFTAE
Watch County Notification	WWUS62 KTAE	WCNTAE

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these marine weather forecast zone changes.

Preliminary shapefiles for marine forecast zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/tae/TallahasseeZoneChangeNotification>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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