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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-118
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1115 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

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Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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

Subject: Changes to Marine Forecast Zones for WFO San Diego, CA: Effective March 18, 2025

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in San Diego, CA (SGX) will modify the boundaries for their Marine Forecast Zones. The new nearshore coastal zone will now be in place from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border out 10 nautical miles (nm). A new outer coastal zone from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border will extend from 10 to 60 nautical miles from shore. The current delineation for that zone configuration is out 30 nm. 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 March 19, 2025 at 2100 UTC.

The new configuration will allow for more precise forecast, watch, and warning products for mariners from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border out to 60 nm. It will also have a popular shipping route, roughly 30 to 40 nautical miles offshore running north to south from south of the border to the Port of Long Beach within one zone. The current configuration intersects that popular shipping route making forecasting and warning for that route complicated. In addition, the proposed zone configuration will be more consistent with other WFOs along the U.S. West Coast. However, the neighboring nearshore and outer coastal zones to the north, in WFO Los Angeles' (LOX) forecast area will maintain their current zone configuration due to the position of Catalina Island and the complex curvature of the coastlines. Further dividing these waters, popular with boaters off Orange and Los Angeles Counties to Catalina Island, would result in having to access multiple marine forecasts for a single route. WFO SGX does not anticipate issues with misaligned nearshore and offshore zones with WFO LOX.

The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current Marine Forecast Zone Names

PZZ750: Coastal Waters from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border and out to 30 nm
PZZ775: Waters from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border Extending 30 to 60 nm out including San Clemente Island

Table 2. UGCs: New Marine Forecast Zone Names

PZZ740: Coastal Waters from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border and out to 10 nm
PZZ745: Waters from San Mateo Point to the Mexican Border Extending 10 to 60 nm out including San Clemente Island

Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO SGX Marine Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
Special Marine Warning	WHUS56 KSGX	SMWSGX
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS76 KSGX	MWSSGX
Marine Weather Message	WHUS76 KSGX	MWWSGX
Coastal Waters Forecast	WHUS46 KSGX	CFWSGX
Watch County Notification	WWUS66 KSGX	WCNSGX

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://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/557085ab65a442de8e7710f23b506aa1

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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