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Public Information Statement 25-22
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1100 AM EDT Wed Apr 9 2025

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From: Daryl Kleist
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 Modeling and Data Assimilation Branch
 NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Comments through May 10, 2025 on the
Proposed Upgrade of the Real-Time Ocean Forecast System (RTOFS)
to version 2.5

NWS is soliciting comments through May 10, 2025, on a proposed
upgrade of the operational RTOFS to version 2.5.

RTOFS consists of Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM),
Community Ice CodE (CICE) version 4 and data assimilation for
both sea ice and ocean. RTOFS version 2.5 includes the
following changes:

- Added climatological constraints for temperature and salinity
for sea surface height (SSH) assimilation in the analysis (to
reduce subsurface negative salinity bias in the Caribbean Sea)
- Modifications in the assimilation to provide increments on
HYCOM hybrid layers versus the depth-fixed layers to reduce the
error during mapping of the increments onto the HYCOM vertical
grid
- Added assimilation of velocity observations from drifting
buoys and high frequency (HF) Radar installations
- Added two-dimensional variational retrieval (2D-VAR)
assimilation of SSH for verification of ocean front and eddy
feature locations

No product changes are introduced by the proposed upgrade. RTOFS
products will continue to be available from the NOAA Operational
Model Archive and Distribution Services (NOMADS)/FTP/PRD web
services.

Please submit comments, questions, or requests on science
aspects of the proposed upgrade to:

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301-683-3373

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