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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Comments Sought through June 30, 2013 on New Webpage for Forecast and Observed Wave Information

NWS is seeking comments through June 30, 2013, on an experimental marine Webpage. The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Eureka, CA, has developed a graphical vector plot of predefined point guidance for up to six wave systems (direction, height, and period) and wind (direction, speed) through a 5-day period at 6-hourly increments. If the point is associated with a buoy location, the previous 24-hour observations, partitioned in the same manner as the forecast waves, are plotted in 3-hour intervals. The forecast wave information is from the partitioned Simulating Waves Nearshore (SWAN) model output. The wind is forecaster derived.

NWS marine users can use the Hanson Plots to quickly assess the wind and sea conditions out to five days. The Webpage highlights trends in the conditions and helps users obtain favorable and hazardous conditions.

Because observed buoy data is also presented in the same format, users can evaluate the current conditions and forecast conditions at the same time. Users also can assess how the forecast is performing in the near term relative to current conditions because both views are on a plot for locations that have buoys. NWS forecasters also use the Hanson Plots to determine which sets of wave data (up to a maximum of six individual wave systems) will be used as initial guidance for the official gridded forecast.

To view the Hanson Plots, see:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/marine/hansonplots/>

For a description of this new product, see:

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/HansonPlots_Extension_PDD%20.pdf

To provide feedback, see:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=HPGT>

The feedback period will run through June 30, 2013. At the end of the feedback period, this product will be considered for national implementation.

Feedback and questions can also be sent to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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