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Public Information Statement Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Allison Allen, Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Maximum Wave Height in Great Lakes Open Lake Forecast (GLF) and Nearshore Forecast (NSH) through December 31, 2017

Updated to extend comment period through December 31, 2017, to solicit additional user feedback to include the experimental maximum wave height in the NSH and GLF at all Great Lakes Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs).

The NWS is seeking user comments on the inclusion of the Experimental Maximum Wave Height in the GLF and NSH at all Great Lakes WFOs through December 31, 2017. NWS WFOs in Chicago, IL (LOT) and Detroit, MI (DTX) have been testing, on an experimental basis, the addition of maximum wave height, expressed as occasional wave height, to their GLF. This experimental enhancement will now be included in the GLF and NSH for all Great Lakes WFOs.

Currently, NWS typically provides significant wave height, which is the average of the highest 1/3 of all waves, in marine forecasts. The average wave height of the highest 1/10 of all waves observed is approximately 1.26 times the significant wave height. The inclusion of H1/10 wave height into the GLF and NSH provides a more descriptive and accurate assessment of the wave field expected for any particular time across a given marine zone.

The current operational GLF and NSH products provide a forecast range of the expected Significant Wave Height (HS) across the Great Lakes. HS is defined as the average height of the highest 1/3 of the waves.

For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 15 TO 25 KT INCREASING TO GALES TO 35 KT LATE.
WAVES 6 TO 9 FT.

Adding the average wave height of the highest 1/10 of all waves to the GLF and NSH products, when appropriate, will provide the user with information that could reduce the number of marine accidents on the lakes, saving lives. This new information will follow this template:

GLF and NSF: HS with occasional H1/10 WAVES POSSIBLE. For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 15 TO 25 KT INCREASING TO GALES TO 35 KT LATE.
WAVES 6 TO 9 FT. OCCASIONALLY TO 11 FT.

These additions are made as part of the routine forecast provided online at the following Central Region WFOs and will be broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards:

WFO Chicago, IL (LOT): <http://www.weather.gov/lot/marine>

WFO Detroit, MI (DTX): <http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjuIH2kzRM>

WFO Duluth, MN (DLH): <http://www.weather.gov/dlh/marine>

WFO Marquette, MI (MQT): <http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjvsn2kzRM>

WFO Gaylord, MI (APX): <http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjwJH2kzRM>

WFO Milwaukee, WI (MKX): <http://www.weather.gov/mkx/local-marine>

WFO Green Bay, WI (GRB): <http://www.weather.gov/grb/marine>

WFO Northern Indiana (IWX):
<http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjyEH2kzRM>

WFO Grand Rapids, MI (GRR):
<http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjyUX2kzRM>

WFO Cleveland, OH (CLE): <http://www.weather.gov/cle/Marine>

WFO Buffalo, NY (BUF): <http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/#.WHjzBn2kzRM>

For details on this product enhancement please see:

<http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDDMaximumWaveHeightinGLF2017%20.pdf>

Please provide comments on this proposed enhancement at:

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

Comments will be solicited through December 31, 2017. During the comment period, NWS will actively educate users and partners about the product's availability and use.

At the end of the comment period, NWS will evaluate the enhanced GLF and NSH for operational implementation at all Great Lakes WFOs that produce the GLF and NSH.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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