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Public Information Statement, Comment Request  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
210 PM EDT Mon Sep 16 2013

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Mark Tew  
              Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Enhanced Coastal Waters  
Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave Heights through June 18,  
2014

NWS is seeking user comments on its Experimental Enhanced Coastal Waters  
Forecast (CWF) Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave Heights through June  
18, 2014. Selected NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in Southern  
Region, currently WFOs Miami and Tallahassee, FL, are testing an  
experimental enhancement to their CWF, additional wave height fields using  
the theoretical Rayleigh Distribution.

NWS can infer several different wave statistics from this Distribution  
such as the Significant Wave Height (HS) and the average height of the  
highest 10 percent of waves (H1/10) observed at sea, approximately 1.272  
times the HS.

The current CWF product provides a forecast range of the expected HS  
across the coastal waters. HS is defined as the average height of the  
highest 1/3 of the waves. For example:

TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 13 TO 18 KNOTS BECOMING NORTHEAST 16 TO 21  
KNOTS. SEAS 2 TO 4 FEET BUILDING TO 4 TO 6 FEET LATE.  
DOMINANT PERIOD 6 SECONDS. INTRACOASTAL WATERS CHOPPY IN EXPOSED AREAS.  
SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

Adding the H1/10 wave height to the CWF product will provide a more  
descriptive and accurate assessment of the wave field expected for any  
particular time across a given marine zone. User knowledge of this  
information could reduce the number of marine accidents at sea, saving  
lives. This new information will follow this template:

HS with occasional H1/10 SEAS POSSIBLE.

For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 13 TO 18 KNOTS BECOMING NORTHEAST 16 TO 21 KNOTS. S EAS 2 TO 4 FEET WITH OCCASIONAL 5 FEET BUILDING TO 4 TO 6 FEET WITH OCCASIONAL 8 FEET POSSIBLE LATE. DOMINANT PERIOD 6 SECONDS. INTRACOASTAL WATERS CHOPPY IN EXPOSED AREAS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

These additions will be made available as part of the routine forecast provided online at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/>  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh/>

and broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. This information will not be provided through the point and click format.

Comments regarding this enhancement to the CWF can be provided at:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SRERD](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SRERD)

NWS is seeking comments through June 18, 2014. During this comment period, a proactive effort will be made to educate users and partners of the product availability and use. At the end of the comment period, NWS will decide whether to make Southern Region's Enhanced CWF an operational product. Other NWS Southern Region WFOs may join this test. Further Public Information Statements will be issued as needed.

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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