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Public Information Statement 16-33 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
115 PM EST Tue Nov 28 2017

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Allison Allen  
              Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Modernized Open  
Lakes Forecast for the Great Lakes through March 31, 2018

Updated to extend the comment period for the Experimental Modernized Open  
Lake Forecast (GLF) through March 31, 2018, and to expand the scope to  
include all five Great Lakes.

The Open Lake Forecast (GLF) is a text product issued by five primary  
Great Lakes Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) to state expected weather  
conditions within their marine forecast area of responsibility through Day  
5. The primary offices responsible for issuing the GLF are:

WFO Marquette, MI (for Lake Superior)  
WFO Detroit, MI (for Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair)  
WFO Chicago, IL (for Lake Michigan)  
WFO Cleveland, OH (for Lake Erie)  
WFO Buffalo, NY (for Lake Ontario)

These offices routinely issue a GLF four times per day.

During comment and review, the experimental modernized Open Lake Forecast  
will be produced in parallel with the current operational Open Lake  
Forecast by all five primary Great Lakes WFOs.

The product format for the Experimental Modernized Open Lake Forecast will  
be as follows:

Experimental Modernized Open Lake Forecast for Lake Xxxx  
National Weather Service City State  
TIME-DATE (example: 900 AM EDT Sat Sep 30 2017)

.SYNOPSIS...text

SSZXXX-XXX>XXX-DDHHMM- (UGC/FIPS CODING) GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS  
TIME-DATE (example: 900 AM EDT Sat Sep 30 2017)

...HEADLINE...

.TODAY...

Weather...

Surface Winds (Knots) 100-foot Winds (Knots)

Significant Waves (Feet/Meters)

Occasional waves (Highest 10 percent whenever wave heights of six feet or higher are forecast) (Feet/Meters)

.TONIGHT...

.TOMORROW...

.TOMORROW NIGHT...

.FORECAST DAYS 3 THROUGH 5...

Weather...Surface wind...Significant waves (dollar sign, dollar sign)

This forecast is arranged in an easy-to-read format and provides weather, wind and wave information. The mandatory elements are surface and 100-foot wind speed/direction, significant waves, maximum (occasional) waves and significant weather.

The Day 3-5 forecast will be in narrative format and will only include weather, significant wave height, and surface wind speed and direction. Before the end of the evaluation period, additional elements may be added to the format to test the capacity for expansion within the GLF. This could include Probability of Gale Force wind, return frequency of maximum (occasional) waves, or wave period.

This experimental product format is available online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/modernized>

as well as a side-by-side comparison between modernized and existing formats. For details on this product enhancement, see the following Product Description Document (PDD):

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD%20GLF%20Modernized%202017.pdf>

Please provide comments by March 31, 2018, on the proposal to provide the Modernized Open Great Lakes Forecast at all Great Lakes offices using the following link:

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

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, a decision will be made to choose one of the following options:

- Transition to operational at all Great Lakes Forecast Offices
- Extend the comment period
- Discontinue the enhancement.

For questions on this product, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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