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Public Information Statement 16-36  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
230 PM EST Mon Nov 14 2016

To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Arun Chawla  
              Chief, Marine Modeling & Analysis Branch  
              NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments on the Removal of NCEP RTOFS Atlantic Forecasting System through December 15, 2016

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) has been running a North Atlantic Basin Real Time Ocean Forecasting System (RTOFS Atlantic) since December 2005. This system has been superseded by the Global Real Time Ocean Forecasting System (RTOFS Global), which became operational in October 2011.

RTOFS Global provides ocean circulation forecasts for the global ocean at 1/12th degree horizontal resolution and is a superior product to the RTOFS Atlantic system that has not been upgraded in more than two years. To streamline our products and optimize our resources, NCEP would like to discontinue the legacy RTOFS Atlantic system and migrate to RTOFS Global products.

RTOFS Atlantic output products were never made available on NOAAPort. They are only available on the NCEP file transfer protocol (ftp) servers at:

<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ofs/prod/>  
<http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/ofs/prod/ofs.YYYYMMDD/>

Output products include guidance for the U.S. coastal waters, including the Eastern Seaboard, Gulf of Maine, Gulf Stream and Gulf of Mexico. Similar guidance is available from the RTOFS Global model. The products from the two systems can be seen at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/rtofs/>

Products from the RTOFS Global model are available on NOAAPort and also on the NCEP ftp server at:

<http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/rtofs/prod/rtofs.YYYY MMDD>

Where YYYYMMDD is the 4-digit year, 2-digit month and 2-digit day identifier.

NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this change. If approved, a Technical Implementation Notice will be issued giving 30 days' notice of the implementation date.

Send comments on this proposal to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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