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Public Information Statement 18-04 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Scott Lindsey
 Regional Hydrologist, Alaska Region

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments through June 30, 2018 on Proposed
Enhancements to the Alaska River Ice Breakup Map

Updated to include the electronic survey link for comments:

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

NWS is soliciting comments on proposed enhancements to the existing Alaska River Ice Breakup Map. The Alaska River Ice Breakup map is currently a static graphic display. NWS is proposing to enhance the display by making this information accessible interactively with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Geospatial Web Mapping Service (WMS). The information will also be in shapefile format for download.

The NWS participates in an annual Riverwatch program collaboratively with several state and local agencies. Information about local river ice conditions are collected daily and put into a graphical map format. These map images provide qualitative estimates, based on the best available information, of local ice conditions ranging from completely ice covered to completely open water, and provide a statewide perspective of the river ice breakup progression. Most major rivers in Alaska are covered by this graphical Alaska River Ice Breakup Map product.

The Alaska River Ice Breakup Map is produced daily each spring during the river ice breakup season. The product is typically produced for approximately 30 days until all major rivers are completely ice free.

Starting this spring, the Alaska region will also be providing this breakup information as a GIS web services layer on an experimental basis. The purpose of this new GIS layer is to provide our core partners, customers and the general public the ability to incorporate current breakup conditions into a number of free and commercial GIS applications for situational awareness. This web mapping service will be considered experimental for the entire 2018 breakup season.

To access the experimental Alaska River Ice Breakup Map layers available for comment, please see the link provided below:

https://idpgeis.ncep.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NWS_Forecasts_Guidance_Warnings/aprfc_RiverBreakupStatus/MapServer

The experimental Alaska River Ice Breakup Map WMS provides an Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)-compliant protocol for direct use of GIS data. This service can be consumed by a number of free and commercial GIS clients. The information in shapefile format will also be publically available.

Additional information regarding the Experimental Alaska River Ice Breakup Map may be found in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_AlaskaRiverIceBreakupMap.pdf

NWS partners and users of this experimental web mapping service representing the Alaska Breakup Map are encouraged to comment on this experimental product.

NWS is requesting comments on this experimental GIS web service until June 30, 2018. If comments and feedback are favorable, NWS may make the Alaska River Ice Breakup Map GIS layer available operationally in the future via the NWS Geospatial Web Services server.

Please submit comments via the short survey linked below:

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

or directly to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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