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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 02-21
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
430 PM EST WED APR 3 2002

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: UPDATED MARINE PROGRAM DIRECTIVES...EFFECTIVE MAY 21 2002

AN ENTIRELY NEW NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ SET OF MARINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR NWS OFFICES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MAY 21 2002 AT 0000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/. THIS IS PART OF AN OVERALL NWS EFFORT TO UPDATE AND REORGANIZE NWS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ACCORDING TO A NEW NWS DIRECTIVES SYSTEM BY SEPTEMBER 2002. AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE...THE NEW DIRECTIVES WILL REPLACE AND SUPERCEDE THE CURRENT WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS MANUAL /WSOM/ CHAPTERS. AS THEY ARE APPROVED...THE NEW DIRECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES WILL BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/INDEX.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/index.htm)

THE NEW MARINE DIRECTIVE AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES DESCRIBED BELOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEBPAGE SHOWN ABOVE...BY CLICKING ON "10 - OPERATIONS AND SERVICES".

THE MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH HAS COMBINED INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY CONTAINED IN WSOM CHAPTERS D-07...D-51 AND D-52 INTO A NEW FORMAT. BASIC POLICY IS CONTAINED IN NWS POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-3...ENTITLED "MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES"...WITH PROCEDURES AND PRODUCTS DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING NWS PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTIONS:

MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS...DISSEMINATION
COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES
OFFSHORE...NAVTEX AND HIGH SEAS MARINE FORECAST SERVICES

10-312 GREAT LAKES MARINE SERVICES
10-313 SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS
10-314 MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS
10-330 OCEAN ICE SERVICES
10-331 GREAT LAKES ICE SERVICES

OUTSIDE OF THE FORMAT CHANGE...THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE NEW MARINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES ARE:

- FORECASTERS MAY NOW INCLUDE HURRICANE FORCE WIND WARNING HEADLINES FOR WINDS OF 64 KNOTS OR GREATER NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A TROPICAL CYCLONE.
- STANDARDIZED SHIP ICE WARNINGS AT 2 CM PER HOUR OR GREATER ACCUMULATION FOR ALL OF NORTH AMERICA.
- FORECASTERS WILL USE THE PERIOD FORMAT FOR ALL COASTAL...OFFSHORE AND GREAT LAKES MARINE FORECASTS EXTENDING OUT TO FIVE DAYS. THEY WILL NO LONGER ISSUE DISCRETE EXTENDED FORECASTS.
- FORECASTERS WILL INCLUDE WINDS AND SEAS IN ALL FORECAST PERIODS IN ALL MARINE FORECASTS. HOWEVER...THEY MAY SHOW TREND FORECASTS OF THESE PHENOMENA IN LATER FORECAST PERIODS.
- FORECASTERS MAY USE SURF ZONE FORECASTS...A NEW PRODUCT...TO COVER THE AREA BETWEEN THE WATERS EDGE AND THE BEGINNING OF BREAKING WAVES.
- REGIONAL DIRECTORS MAY ALLOW COMBINED MARINE AND PUBLIC FORECASTS IN SELECTED ISLAND AREAS.
- FORECASTERS WILL TRUNCATE THE NAVTEX FORECAST AT FOUR PERIODS TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE BROADCAST TRANSMISSION LIMITATIONS. GUIDANCE IS GIVEN FOR GRAPHIC FORECAST PRODUCTS.
- IN RESPONSE TO USER REQUESTS...FORECASTERS WILL CONTINUE ISSUING THE NEARSHORE FORECAST ON THE GREAT LAKES TO THE END OF THE SHIPPING SEASON IN DECEMBER.
- SPECIFIC GUIDANCE IS GIVEN ON HOW VOLCANIC ASH EVENTS IN MARINE ENVIRONS SHOULD BE HANDLED.
- WE HAVE PROVIDED A SET OF STANDARDS FOR NWS MARINE PROGRAM PERSONNEL.
- CERTAIN MARINE FORECAST AREAS...INCLUDING OFFSHORE AND COASTAL WATERS OF HAWAII...OFFSHORE WATERS OFF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST AND OFFSHORE WATERS SOUTH AND EAST OF THE LEEWARD AND WINDWARD ISLANDS...HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER NWS MARINE AREAS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

MR. ROBERT W. JACOBSON JR.
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND

PHONE: 301-713-1677 EXTENSION 108 /M-F 730 AM - 400 PM/

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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