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Service Change Notice 10-49  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:        Therese Z. Pierce  
              Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Changes in Coastal Waters Marine Zones for the Lower Chesapeake Bay of Southeastern Virginia: Effective April 5, 2011

Effective Tuesday April 5, 2011 at 200 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) or 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Wakefield, VA, will reconfigure its marine zones for the lower Chesapeake Bay.

Currently, there are three marine zones covering the lower Chesapeake Bay. A new marine zone will be created to cover the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Marine observations, local studies, and customer feedback all reflect conditions in this area can vary, at times significantly, from locations farther up the bay. This reconfiguration will serve to improve the precision of marine warnings, forecasts, and other services by allowing forecasters to be more area specific.

The marine zone with the Universal Geographic Code (UGC) ANZ632, zone name Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Cape Henry, VA, will be split into two separate zones effective April 5, 2011:

ANZ632 Mouth of Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek, VA.

One new marine zone will then be created:

ANZ634 Chesapeake Bay from Little Creek, VA, to Cape Henry, VA, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

Table 1 lists the current marine zones and corresponding UGCs which WFO Wakefield issues forecasts and warnings.

Table 2 lists the marine zones and corresponding UGCs which WFO Wakefield will issue forecasts and warnings effective April 5, 2011.

Table 3 lists all of the products issued by WFO Wakefield that will be affected by the marine zone changes.

Table 1. Current Marine Zones and Corresponding UGCs which WFO Wakefield Issues Forecasts and Warnings

Current Marine Zone Name -----	Current UGC -----
Chesapeake Bay from Smith Point to Windmill Point	ANZ630
Chesapeake Bay from Windmill Point to New Point Comfort	ANZ631
Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Cape Henry	ANZ632
Currituck Sound	ANZ633
Coastal Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Chincoteague, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ650
Coastal Waters from Chincoteague, VA to Parramore Island, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ652
Coastal Waters from Parramore Island, VA to Cape Charles Light out to 20 nm	ANZ654
Coastal Waters from Cape Charles Light to Virginia-North Carolina Border out to 20 nm	ANZ656
Coastal Waters from Virginia-North Carolina Border to Currituck Beach Light out to 20 nm	ANZ658
Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Currituck Beach Light, NC from 20 to 40 nm	ANZ670

Table 2. Marine Zones and Corresponding UGCs for which WFO Wakefield Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings: Effective April 5, 2011. This includes the new marine zones and the current marine zones listed in Table 1 above which will continue to be utilized, with modifications to boundaries as described above.

New Marine Zone Name -----	New UGC -----
Chesapeake Bay from Smith Point to Windmill Point	ANZ630
Chesapeake Bay from Windmill Point to New Point Comfort	ANZ631
Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek VA	ANZ632
Currituck Sound	ANZ633
Chesapeake Bay from Little Creek, VA, to Cape Henry VA including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel	ANZ634
Coastal Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Chincoteague VA out to 20 nm	ANZ650
Coastal Waters from Chincoteague, VA to Parramore Island, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ652
Coastal Waters from Parramore Island, VA to Cape Charles Light out to 20 nm	ANZ654
Coastal Waters from Cape Charles Light to Virginia-North Carolina Border out to 20 nm	ANZ656
Coastal Waters from Virginia-North Carolina Border to Currituck Beach Light out to 20 nm	ANZ658
Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Currituck Beach Light, NC from 20 to 40 nm	ANZ670

To view graphical images of the current marine zones listed in Table 1, go to the following website:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/east/akqmz.htm>

To view graphical images of the marine zones for which WFO Wakefield will issue forecasts and warnings effective April 5, 2011, go to the following website:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq/news/AKQMZ.html>

Table 3. WFO Wakefield Products Affected by the Marine Zone Changes: Effective April 5, 2011:

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZUS51 KAKQ	CWFAKQ
Special Marine Warning	WHUS51 KAKQ	SMWAKQ
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS71 KAKQ	MWSAKQ
Marine Weather Message	WHUS71 KAKQ	MWWAKQ
Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS81 KAKQ	HLSAKQ
Watch County Notification	WWUS61 KAKQ	WCNAKQ
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS41 KAKQ	HWOAKQ

Customers must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the products listed in Table 3.

Also, customers providing NWS graphic marine forecasts must download an updated marine zone map shapefile to correctly provide graphic marine forecasts for the lower Chesapeake Bay.

An updated marine zone map shapefile containing the new zones is available for download from the following website:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm)

If you have any questions or comments about this reconfiguration of the WFO Wakefield coastal marine zones, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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