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Service Change Notice 11-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Therese Z. Pierce
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Implementing Improved Marine Zone Coverage for the Florida Keys
Coastal Waters: Effective July 7, 2011

Effective Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 200 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) or 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Key West, FL, will reconfigure its current coastal waters zones for the Florida Keys. This reconfiguration will provide better forecast services by realigning the coastal zones for climatological, geographical and bathymetric effects.

This change will provide enhanced forecasts for Hawk Channel, the smaller zones between Key West and the Dry Tortugas, more consistency with bathymetry across Florida Bay and Gulf zones, and remove the zone boundaries near Key West Harbor.

All current zones will be realigned, except GMZ072 (Straits of Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out) and GMZ073 (Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge 20 to 60 nm out). Four additional new zones will be added.

Table 1 lists all the products issued by WFO Key West that will be affected by the marine zone changes.

Table 2 lists all the current marine zones and Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Key West.

Table 3 lists all the marine zones and UGCs for which WFO Key West will issue forecasts and warnings effective July 7, 2011.

Table 1: WFO Key West Products Affected by the Marine Zone Changes:
Effective July 7, 2011

| Product Name | WMO Heading | AWIPS ID |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Coastal Waters Forecast | FZUS52 KKEY | CWFKEY |
| Marine Weather Message | WHUS72 KKEY | MWWKEY |
| Special Marine Warning | WHUS52 KKEY | SMWKEY |

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|---------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Marine Weather Statement | FZUS72 KKEY | MWSKEY |
| Hurricane Local Statement | WTUS82 KKEY | HLSKEY |
| Hazardous Weather Outlook | FLUS42 KKEY | HWOKEY |
| Watch County Notification | WWUS62 KKEY | WCNKEY |
| Short Term Forecast | FPUS72 KKEY | NOWKEY |

Table 2: Current Marine Zones and Corresponding UGCs for WFO Key West

| Current Marine Zone Name ----- | UGC --- |
|---|------------|
| Florida Bay | GMZ031 |
| Gulf side of the Lower Keys out 20 nm | GMZ032 |
| Gulf waters from East Cape Sable to Chokoloskee 20 to 60 nm | GMZ033 |
| Ocean Reef to Craig Key out 20 nm | GMZ052 |
| Craig Key to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge out 20 nm | GMZ053 |
| West end of the Seven Mile Bridge to Key West out 20 nm | GMZ054 |
| Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ072 |
| Craig Key to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ073 |
| West end of the Seven Mile Bridge to Key West 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ074 |
| Key West to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas out 60 nm | GMZ075 |

Table 3: Marine Zones and corresponding UGCs for which WFO Key West Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings: Effective July 7, 2011

| Marine Zone Name ----- | UGC --- |
|---|------------|
| Florida Bay including Blackwater and Buttonwood Sounds | GMZ031 |
| Bayside and Gulfside from Craig Key to Halfmoon Shoal out to 5 fathoms | GMZ032 |
| Gulf waters from East Cape Sable to Chokoloskee 20 to 60 nm out and beyond 5 fathoms | GMZ033 |
| Gulf of Mexico including Dry Tortugas and Rebecca Shoal Channel | GMZ034 |
| Hawk Channel from Ocean Reef to Craig Key out to the reef | GMZ042 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Hawk Channel from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge out to the reef | GMZ043 |
| Hawk Channel from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to Halfmoon Shoal out to the reef | GMZ044 |
| Straits of Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key out 20 nm | GMZ052 |
| Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge out 20 nm | GMZ053 |
| Straits of Florida from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to south of Halfmoon Shoal out 20 nm | GMZ054 |
| Straits of Florida from Halfmoon Shoal to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas out 20 nm | GMZ055 |
| Straits of Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ072 |
| Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ073 |
| Straits of Florida from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to south of Halfmoon Shoal 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ074 |
| Straits of Florida from Halfmoon Shoal to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas 20 to 60 nm out | GMZ075 |

Customers must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue processing the products in Table 1.

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

www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm

A map showing the existing and additional marine zones that will be effective July 7, 2011 is posted on the WFO Key West webpage at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/?n=marinezone>

For questions about these changes, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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