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Service Change Notice 15-46
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Michael Dion
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Subject: Changes to Alaska Sea Ice Maps: Effective October 1, 2015

Effective Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 4:00 AM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), 8:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), or 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage, Alaska (ANC), will begin issuing sea ice analysis and forecast maps that meet World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards. The analysis maps will be issued daily, while the forecast maps will be issued each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The area of analysis will change to match exclusive economic zone boundaries. There will no longer be an analysis east of 135 degrees W longitude in the Beaufort Sea. The analysis along Kamchatka Peninsula south of the Gulf of Anadyr will no longer be issued as well.

Additionally, the following changes will be made to the existing maps. Table 1 shows the current sea ice maps while Table 2 shows the new sea ice maps.

Table 1: Current Alaska Sea Ice Maps:

- Full area sea ice analysis (marine fax, black and white, and color).
- Cook Inlet sea ice analysis (marine fax, black and white).
- Full area sea ice forecast (marine fax, black and white) with a forecast for the sea ice edge only.
- Sea surface temperature analysis.
- Sea ice shapefile, with sea ice concentration and thickness.

Table 2: New Alaska Sea Ice Maps:

- Full area sea ice analysis (marine fax, concentration in WMO standard colors, and WMO stage in standard colors).
- Cook Inlet sea ice analysis will be available year-round. The map will be shown in WMO standard colors for concentration and stage.
- Full area sea ice forecast area will be displayed as Marginal Ice Zone. The forecast will be over the entire region, rather than just the ice edge.

- Sea surface temperature analysis will only see cosmetic changes to the map.
- Sea ice shapefile will be available in the WMO standard and gridded sea ice information (SIGRID) format.

A webpage comparing images of the old and new products is available on the web at:

<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/newIceSIPAS/>

These sea ice and sea surface temperature maps will be available at:

<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/ice.php>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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