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Service Change Notice 16-35
NOAA's National Ocean Service Office of Coast Survey Silver Spring MD
Relayed by National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1145 AM EDT Thu Sep 29 2016

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS and NOS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Edward Myers
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NOS/Office of Coast Survey

Subject: Amended: Addition of a Map Service to NOAA's nowCOAST(tm) to Provide Access to NWS/National Hurricane Center's Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map: Effective Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Amended to change date from October 5, 2016 to September 28, 2016 due to possible Critical Weather Day next week.

As of 3 PM EDT Wednesday, September 28, 2016, the NOAA nowCOAST(tm) (nowcoast.noaa.gov) provides access to the NWS/National Hurricane Center (NHC) Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map via web mapping services. Users can access the Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map using two different protocols: ArcGIS Representational State Transfer (REST) Map Service and OGC Web Map Service (WMS). This service will allow NOAA users to integrate this map with their own map layers such as coastal evacuation routes and critical infrastructure on client- or server-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or other mapping applications. In addition, users will also be able to view the NHC map via the nowCOAST(tm) map viewer.

The Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map was developed by the NHC over the course of several years in consultation with social scientists, emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, and others. The map is intended to depict the risk associated with coastal flooding from storm surge associated with tropical cyclones. On June 1, 2016, it became an operational product, issued on demand for certain tropical cyclones that are expected to affect the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts of the United States.

The nowCOAST(tm) map service will provide access to the latest official NWS Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map which depicts the geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur along with the heights, above ground, that water could reach in those areas. These potential heights are represented with different colors based on water level:

Greater than 1 foot above ground (blue)

Greater than 3 feet above ground (yellow)
Greater than 6 feet above ground (orange)
Greater than 9 feet above ground (red)

Two versions of this graphic are provided in this map--one with a mask (depicted in gray) identifying Intertidal Zone/Estuarine Wetland areas and another version without the Intertidal Zone/Estuarine Wetland mask. Two additional layers are provided to depict first, the full geographic extent for which the map is presently valid (the "map boundary"), and second, Levee Areas, if any, within the affected area (symbolized with a black-and-white diagonal hatch pattern). If the map is not presently active, all layers will be blank except for the Map Boundary layer, which will display a gray shaded region indicating the coverage area for any potential future graphics along with a text label indicating that the map is not presently available.

The nowCOAST(tm) map service will be updated approximately every 10 minutes to ensure the latest information is provided to the user as soon as it becomes available. Once issued, the Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map will be updated by NHC every six hours alongside each new NHC Forecast Advisory for the associated tropical cyclone. Due to processing requirements, however, during the creation of this product, the map will be available approximately 60 to 90 minutes following the release of the associated Forecast Advisory, at which point nowCOAST(tm) will acquire it and update this map service within the next 10 to 20 minutes (i.e., this product will be updated on nowCOAST(tm) within approximately 70 to 110 minutes after the associated forecast advisory is released).

This new nowCOAST(tm) map service can be found at:

http://nowcoast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/nowcoast/wwa_meteocean_tropicalcyclones_inundation/MapServer

Additional information about NHC's Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map can be found at:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/PDD-PotentialStormSurgeFloodingMap.pdf

nowCOAST(tm) provides coastal intelligence on present and future environmental conditions for coastal and maritime users by integrating data and information from across NOAA and other federal and state agencies. nowCOAST(tm) was developed by NOS' Coast Survey Development Laboratory, and is hosted on NOAA's Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP) infrastructure where it is monitored 24 x 7 by NWS/NCEP Central Operations.

For questions concerning this new map service, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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