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Service Change Notice 17-99
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Darin Figurskey
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 Ocean Prediction Center

Subject: Changes to 500mb Forecasts Provided by the Ocean Prediction Center and Ceasing Production of a Small Suite of Products: Effective November 13, 2017

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) will make changes to the 500mb forecasts produced by the center effective Monday, November 13, 2017. OPC will automate the 500mb forecasts and disseminate via radiofax and Internet forecasts produced directly by the Global Forecast System (GFS) model.

The 500mb forecasts also will no longer contain indications of vorticity maxima via trough lines. Currently, forecasters perform little manual intervention to numerical weather prediction output on the 500mb forecasts with the exception of adding vorticity maxima.

Users will now receive 500mb forecasts via the Internet on an hourly basis out to 384 hours, or 16 days, at:

<http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov/model-guidance-model-area.php#>

These forecasts will be linked from the OPC internet page, along with highlighting 500mb forecasts at select hours, at:

<https://ocean.weather.gov>

Currently, 500mb forecasts are only available to 96 hours.

Also, the change will not affect the radiofax schedule of forecast information. The radiofax schedule can be found at:

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/fax/marine.shtml>

In addition, the OPC will terminate the production of Internet-only products known as black gif images. These images are only available via the Internet. Continuing to maintain these black gifs limits OPC's ability to make improvements to other operational products.

The web URLs that will be discontinued are:

https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppba51_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppaa50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppaa51_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppae00_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppae01_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppae50_black.gif
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https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppam50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppba50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbe00_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbe01_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbe50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbe51_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbi50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbi51_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/ppbm50_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/pwae98_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/pwae99_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/pwbe98_black.gif
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/pwbe99_black.gif

The information can already be found in a different format in radiofax charts issued by the OPC, as well as on the OPC webpage at:

<https://ocean.weather.gov>

For comments and requests for more information, contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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