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Technical Implementation Notice 13-36 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
950 AM EST Tue Nov 26 2013

To: Subscribers:
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From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Temporal Resolution of Forecasts of Significant Wave Heights in the Experimental National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) will Increase: Effective December 4, 2013

Amended to announce a delay in extending the NDFD significant wave height grid from five days to six days while supporting policy is developed.

Effective Wednesday December 4, 2013, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NDFD significant wave height element across the entire contiguous U.S. (CONUS) will become available in experimental status from NDFD at 1-hour resolution for the first 36 hours from NDFD issuance time, at 3-hour resolution through three days, and at 6-hour resolution through five days.

The increase in NDFD resolution will enable users to access wave height grids at the finest resolution Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) produce. The effective temporal resolution of WFO wave height forecasts varies across the CONUS. Alaska will increase from 12-hour to 6-hour resolution.

The significant wave height grid is the average wave height (trough to crest) of the one-third highest waves valid for the top of the designated hour. Significant wave height is the combination of wind, waves and swell.

This change primarily affects users who pull NDFD elements in the gridded binary version 2 (GRIB2) format from the NWS file transfer protocol (FTP) server, either via the Internet or the Family of Services (FOS) server access service, and users who pull HTML files from the NWS hypertext transfer protocol (http) server. Those users will now be able to pull this element at a finer time-scale resolution.

The Public Information Statement extending the comment period to increase the resolution in the NDFD until December 31, 2013, can be found here:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns13expndfd_map_vieweraaa.pdf

The significant wave height grid will continue to be available from the NDFD as follows:

Gridded Binary 2 (GRIB2) files via http and ftp
Graphics via a map viewer at the experimental site:
preview.weather.gov/graphical

General information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

If December 4, 2013, is a critical weather day this implementation may be postponed. Users will be notified of that decision via a Technical Implementation Notice (TIN) as far in advance as possible.

For general questions regarding NDFD data please email:
nws.ndfd@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data please contact:

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TINs specifically related to the NDFD are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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