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Technical Implementation Notice 13-42
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
130 PM EST Tue Nov 19 2013

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

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

Subject: Temporal Resolution of Forecasts for Hazards, Significant Wave
Heights, Wind Direction, Speed and Gusts on the Oceanic Domain in the
Experimental National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) will Increase:
Effective December 18, 2013

Effective Wednesday December 18, 2013 at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time
(UTC), NDFD hazards, significant wave height, wind direction, speed and
gusts provided on the oceanic domain will become available in experimental
status at 3-hour resolution through Day three instead of the current 6-
hour resolution.  Days four through six will remain at 6-hour temporal
resolution.

This change will enable NDFD oceanic users to access finer resolution
forecasts from the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and most Weather Forecast
Offices (WFOs).  The effective resolution from the Tropical Analysis and
Forecast Branch (TAFB) and WFO Honolulu (HFO) will not increase at this
time.

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.
-Wind Direction is the 10-meter wind direction using 36 points of a
compass valid at the top of the indicated hour.
-Wind Speed is defined as the sustained 10-meter wind speed, in knots,
valid at the top of the indicated hour.
-Wind gust is the maximum 3-second wind speed, in knots, forecast to occur
within a 2-minute interval at a height of 10 meters.

This change primarily affects users who pull NDFD elements in the Gridded
Binary version two (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 access oceanic forecasts for Day 1-3 at a finer temporal resolution.

These grids will continue to be available from the NDFD in GRIB2 files via http and ftp, and in graphics via a map viewer at the experimental site below:

preview.weather.gov/graphical

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

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

If December 18, 2013 is a critical weather day, this implementation may be postponed.  Users will be notified of that decision via another 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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