

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-3

MARCH 8, 2023

Operations and Services

MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives>.

OPR: W/AFS26 (G. Schoor)

Certified by: W/AFS (A. Allen)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-3, *Marine and Coastal Weather Services*, dated October 19, 2017. The following changes were made to this directive:

1. Changed the certifier and signatory.
2. Removed section 3.4 as it was redundant to section 3.5 (now 3.4).
3. Added sections for roles and responsibilities for Offices of Observations, Science and Technology Integration, Dissemination and Central Processing.
4. Removed Instruction 10-305, *Marine Zone Change Process* from Appendix A, as it has been replaced by [Instruction 10-105, National Weather Service Zone Change Process](#).

1 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) issues marine warnings and forecasts for the coastal areas of the United States (U.S.), along the coasts of U.S. territories, across ocean areas specified by international agreement, and on the Great Lakes. This includes ice forecasts and advisories issued primarily for the Great Lakes and the waters surrounding Alaska. This directive provides the framework for the NWS Marine Program, which includes marine and coastal weather services.

2 The NWS Marine Program provides, in cooperation with our governmental and private sector partners, meteorological support for the protection of life and property, to promote economic benefits, and to enhance the quality of life for governmental, commercial, and recreational maritime operations across NWS areas of responsibility.

3 To ensure the NWS Marine Program is consistent with the NWS mission and with Department of Commerce (DOC) and NOAA policy, this directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The **Director of the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office (AFSO)** will establish procedures and products consistent with this policy directive. The Chief of the AFSO Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch (AFS26) will provide primary staff assistance.

3.2 Each **Regional Director (RD)** will manage and administer the Marine Program in their Region consistent with AFS directives. The respective Meteorological Service Divisions (MSDs) or equivalent will provide primary staff assistance. Each RD will keep AFS26 informed of regional supplements to applicable AFS directives.

3.3 The **Meteorologists-in-Charge (MICs) of Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs)** with marine responsibility will implement and operate the Marine Program in their area of responsibility. Each MIC will keep their regional headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable AFS directives or regional supplements. For Alaska Region, this also includes offshore forecasts.

3.4 Each **Director of the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC)** and the **National Hurricane Center (NHC)** will manage and administer the Marine Program in their offices consistent with AFS directives. The Director of Operations (DO) at WFO Honolulu (HFO), the Chief of the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) Ocean Forecast Branch and the Chief of the NHC Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) will provide primary staff assistance.

3.5 The **DO at HFO**, the **Chief of the OPC Ocean Forecast Branch** and the **Chief of the NHC TAFB** will implement and operate the Marine Program for their offshore and high seas areas of responsibility. The DO of WFO Honolulu will keep Pacific Region Headquarters informed and each Chief will keep their National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable AFS directives or NCEP supplements.

3.6 Office of Observations

The Office of Observations is responsible for operations and maintenance, operational monitoring and availability, system requirements and technical solutions for deep ocean and coastal weather, climate monitoring and tsunami detection buoys and stations, and the provision of observing partner observations in the deep and coastal oceans for NWS operations (e.g., WFOs/River Forecast Centers (RFCs), Tsunami Warning Centers, National Centers) accurate analyses and predictions to achieve Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services' requirements

3.7 Office of Science and Technology Integration

The Office of Science and Technology Integration plans, develops, demonstrates, and integrates scientific techniques and system capabilities in overall support of the NWS Marine Program. The office analyzes Mission Delivery Council (MDC)-approved requirements for the NWS Marine Program improvements in close coordination with AFSO, and develops potential scientific and technological solutions to address these requirements through coordination with entities within NOAA, other federal agencies, and the external research community.

3.8 Office of Dissemination

The Office of Dissemination is responsible for ensuring, through program planning, that policy and procedures are in place to sustain dissemination systems operational capabilities to support the NWS Marine Program.

3.9 Office of Central Processing

The Office of Central Processing is responsible for providing system engineering and software management f to sustain operational systems supporting the NWS Marine Program. The office provides real-time operational support and maintenance for nationally-delivered marine applications.

4 Field offices and National Centers with adjoining or overlapping areas of responsibility should coordinate and collaborate to ensure products are compatible and consistent. This effort includes communication with appropriate governmental forecast agencies outside the United States.

5 Compliance with this directive will be monitored by the NWS regions, National Centers, AFSO, and the NWS Assistant Administrator (AA) based on defined performance measures. Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed and determined by the AA, AFSO, and NWS Regions. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in Appendix A.

GRAHAM.KENN
ETH.EARL.1365
881142

Digitally signed by
GRAHAM.KENNETH.EARL.
1365881142
Date: 2023.02.22 08:22:45
-05'00'

Kenneth E. Graham
Assistant Administrator
for Weather Services

Date

Appendix A

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Procedural Directives

Instruction 10-302	<u>Marine and Coastal Services Areas of Responsibility</u>
Instruction 10-303	<u>Marine and Coastal Services Standards and Guidelines</u>
Instruction 10-310	<u>Coastal Waters Forecast</u>
Instruction 10-311	<u>Offshore, NAVTEX, High Seas, and Marine Forecast Services</u>
Instruction 10-312	<u>Great Lakes Marine Services</u>
Instruction 10-313	<u>Special Marine Warnings</u>
Instruction 10-314	<u>Marine Weather Statements</u>
Instruction 10-315	<u>Marine Weather Message</u>
Instruction 10-320	<u>Surf Zone Forecast and Coastal/Lakeshore Hazard Services</u>
Instruction 10-330	<u>Ocean and Great Lakes Ice Services</u>
Instruction 10-340	<u>Marine Forecaster Training</u>

Supporting Information

1. Pursuant to the NWS Organic Act, 15 U.S.C. 313, the NWS is authorized to issue marine and coastal weather forecasts.
2. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act as implemented through the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300) governs NWS responsibilities responding to discharges of oil or other hazardous substances, including those into a marine environment.
3. The National Search and Rescue Plan, 1999, requires the NWS, acting for NOAA, to support marine search and rescue efforts.
4. The NWS issues forecasts and warnings for internationally defined METAREAs (High Seas) Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) areas following requirements and procedures as outlined in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and other international agreements to which the U.S. is a party through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO).
5. The Compact of Free Association and the three respective Subsidiary Agreements for Federal Programs and Services (Appendix I, Article VII) with the three Pacific Island sovereign states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, which require NWS to provide weather services and related programs.