

# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE'S NEW COASTAL WATERS FORECAST

## Additional Wave Detail Enhancements

[weather.gov/marine/wavedetail](https://weather.gov/marine/wavedetail)

### What is happening?

- The National Weather Service (NWS) will provide an enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), which will soon include detailed wave information, including height, direction, and period of individual wave systems.
- Wind and weather portions will remain the same.
- The point forecast format will remain unchanged.

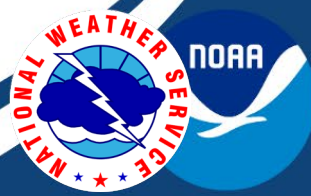
### Why is this change being made?

- Providing direction, height, and period information for individual wave systems better describes the forecasted sea state to all potential users.
- Detailed wave information better meets the user's needs. Some users may only be interested in short period waves that present hazards on the open waters. Others may only be interested in long period waves that present shoaling and large surf hazards near shore. Still others may be interested in both.

### What will the new wave format look like?

- Wave period and direction will be added for any impactful wave systems.
- Wave group detail will feature a single significant wave height (not a wave range).

Old Format	New Format
Seas 6 to 8 ft.	Seas 6 to 8 feet. Wave Detail: South 8 feet at 20 seconds.
Seas 5 to 7 ft, occasionally to 9 ft. (If applicable)	Seas 5 to 7 feet, occasionally to 9 ft. Wave Detail: North 7 feet at 12 seconds and southeast 3 feet at 6 seconds.
Seas 15 to 18 ft.	Seas 15 to 18 feet. Wave Detail: South 17 feet at 22 seconds and east 6 ft at 8 seconds.
Seas 2 to 4 ft.	Seas 2 to 4 feet. Wave Detail: East 4 feet at 5 seconds.



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### Did the NWS ask for feedback before making this change?

- Yes. The NWS [solicited comments](#) from Sept 2022 through July 2023. Over 500 responses were received. 89% favored the change.

### Where can I find the operational Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF)?

- There are multiple ways of finding this forecast
- From the web, visit [weather.gov/marine](https://www.weather.gov/marine) or click the Watches, Warnings & Advisories (WWA) map from your local National Weather Service office website.
- You can hear the forecast on most marine band radios utilizing the WX Channels 1-7.

### What if I still want the previous forecast wording?

- The CWF from the Watches, Warnings & Advisories (WWA) map can be displayed either by a point (known as “point-and-click”) or an area (known as “zone”).
- The area forecast will contain the new wave terminology.
- The point forecast does not currently contain the new detailed wave terminology. It is planned to be implemented in FY 2025.

### What else do I need to know?

- Wave period and direction will be added for any impactful wave systems.
- By default, wave groups will be ordered by their height. In some cases where height is the same, the wave period will be considered next.
- Wave detail is optional for inland waterways, e.g., bays and sounds.

### Who do I contact if I have concerns with this change?

- Email NWS National Marine Program Manager, Melinda Bailey, at [melinda.bailey@noaa.gov](mailto:melinda.bailey@noaa.gov) and/or [marine.weather@noaa.gov](mailto:marine.weather@noaa.gov).

### More Information:

- Please visit: <https://www.weather.gov/marine/wavedetail>

