Gridded MOS Land/Water Mask Changes
November 2007

Our Goal:

To create a land/water mask that is:

1) Rules-based and objective – same rules applied consistently across the entire domain with minimal hand-editing
2) Reproducible

The land/water mask was created by selecting the value of the polygon directly under the grid point (or center of the cell). The polygon values are determined by the land area covered by the AWIPS Canadian provinces file, the AWIPS States file, the AWIPS lakes file, and the Mexico shapefile from the ESRI ArcGIS 9.2 media DVD. All AWIPS shapefiles are available from the AWIPS map catalog. Any points not included in the files above were set to ocean.

Exception: The lakes included in the 5km CONUS land/water mask are the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and the Great Salt Lake because they have a MOS station located within the water body. For inland water bodies, if no MOS station is located within the body, then the water is treated as land by the analysis until such a station is added to the guidance. Lake Okeechobee is an example of a water body currently treated as land.

Gridded MOS land/water grid created September 24, 2007.