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From:    Allison Allen, Chief
         Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on Proposal to Change Small Craft Advisory to Small Craft Warning through August 31, 2020

Updated to extend deadline to August 31, 2020.

The NWS is considering a major change to the Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system (for information on this and other proposed changes, see: https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/).

The proposed new system would remove the terms "Advisory," "Special Weather Statement," and "NOWcast" as headlines, and streamline all sub-Watch and sub-Warning information into a single, plain-language Statement, with a few exceptions. One exception to this change includes the marine Small Craft Advisory (SCA), one of the advisories included in the Marine Weather Message (MWW) product and the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) product.

Due to the critical nature and use of the information of the Small Craft Advisory and that associated conditions require vessels of a certain size to take protective action, NWS proposes to rename this advisory to Small Craft Warning instead of converting it to a plain-language statement. The NWS regional criteria for issuing Small Craft Warnings would remain the same as it is for Small Craft Advisories.

Here is a link to the current regional SCA criteria:

https://www.weather.gov/marine/faq#13

At this time, the NWS is soliciting specific feedback on the proposal to change a Small Craft Advisory to a Small Craft Warning, including the headlines.

A description of the proposal to change Small Craft Advisory to Small Craft Warning, product examples, and requirements explanation can be found at the following link:

To provide feedback to this proposal, take the survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZGX6BF

or contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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