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Public Information Statement 21-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Allison Allen, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through April 21, 2021, on Proposal to
 Discontinue Small Craft Exercise Caution Headline

Through April 21, 2021, the NWS Southern Region is soliciting feedback on a proposal to discontinue the Small Craft Exercise Caution (SCEC) headline in the Coastal Waters Forecast text product.

As part of the NWS Hazard Simplification project, the NWS is considering a major change to the Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) system. For information on this see:
<https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>

Related comment periods on Small Craft Advisory and High Surf Advisory have garnered positive public feedback:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-14small_craft_advisoryaab.pdf
and
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-66exp_high_surf.pdf

Example of proposed change:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/sample_scec_products.pdf

We are proposing this change for several reasons. First, the SCEC headline does not have associated Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) encoding to accompany the headline issuance for alerting purposes. Second, the detailed forecast information within the product will not change within the coastal waters forecast products for a mariner to make a prudent decision. Finally, the Southern Region NWS Coastal Forecast Offices are only the offices that issue this headline and the NWS is seeking to simplify our products and communicate threats more clearly and consistently.

Please provide feedback by sending an email to:
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For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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