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Public Information Statement 21-39  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Allison Allen, Chief  
              Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject:      Soliciting Comments on Proposal to Discontinue Small  
              Craft Exercise Caution Headline through August 13, 2021

Through August 13, 2021, the Southern Region of the National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting specific feedback on the proposal to discontinue the Small Craft Exercise Caution (SCEC) headline in the Coastal Waters Forecast text product.

This is a second request for comments, to gather additional feedback. The first request was held from February 2021 through April 2021 at this link:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns21-11scec\\_discontinue.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns21-11scec_discontinue.pdf)

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](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-14small_craft_advisoryaab.pdf)

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-66exp\\_high\\_surf.pdf](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](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/sample_scec_products.pdf)

The NWS is 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 filling out this survey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Discontinue SCEC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Discontinue_SCEC)

For more information, please contact:

Melinda Bailey  
National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
[Melinda.Bailey@noaa.gov](mailto:Melinda.Bailey@noaa.gov)

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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