Service Change Notice 21-100
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To:      Subscribers:
-Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS)
Products
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:    Kevin Berberich
Ice Services Branch Chief, Ocean Prediction Center
Deputy Director, U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC)

Subject: Updates to Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS)
Products on or around January 3, 2022

Several inconsistencies in the products of the U.S. National Ice Center’s
Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (USNIC’s IMS) will be
addressed on January 3, 2022. Users of the current IMS products will not
see any interruptions to data delivery, but the resultant product files
will change to reflect the updates described below. Users should
carefully read the scheduled change descriptions, and ensure their ingest
process is compatible.

Affected Products and Scheduled Changes:

American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) Header:
- As the NOAA component of the USNIC has transferred from the National
Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) to the
NWS, the ASCII header will be updated to reflect this change. The number
of characters within the ASCII header will change, but the number of
lines will remain the same.

ASCII, Gridded Binary version two (GRIB2), and GeoTIFF Internal Filename:
- Currently, the filename of the .gz file and the internal file it
contains do not match within the distributed ASCII, GRIB2, and GeoTIFF
products. The internal filename will be renamed to match the compressed
filename (without the .gz), whereas the compressed filename will not
change. Common Linux command-line tools ignore the internal filename by
default, and would be unaffected by this change.

GRIB2 Header:
- The datetime in the header of the Northern Hemisphere GRIB2 products is
inconsistent, one day behind the reality of IMS product’s 00 Coordinated
Universal Time (UTC) valid time. The date for the 00 UTC GRIB2 products
will be adjusted one day ahead, representing the correct date and time.

Additionally, the originating center and sub-center will be changed from
NESDIS to NWS/Ocean Prediction Center (OPC).
GRIB2 Projection Change #1
- The included projection metadata in the header of Northern Hemisphere
GRIB2 products lists projection information for an oblate spheroid rather
than the actual IMS projection. This change will correct the projection
metadata to match the true IMS projection.

GRIB2 Projection Change #2:
- The initial pixel latitude/longitude (lat/lon) is indicated to be the
upper right corner of the lower left pixel for the 1km GRIB2 products.
It will be changed to be the centroid of the lower left pixel, matching
the 4km GRIB2 products. Additionally, very slight adjustments to the
initial pixel lat/lon for the 4km GRIB2 products will be made to improve
precision.

Sample data may be accessed at the following location:

https://satepsanone.nesdis.noaa.gov/pub/30day/nic_ims/sample_data/

Please send comments on this change to:

Walt Clark
USNIC Products Area Lead
walter.clark@noaa.gov

Additional questions and comments can be directed to:

Kevin Berberich
OPC Ice Services Branch Chief, USNIC Deputy Director
kevin.berberich@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification

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