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Service Change Notice 22-04
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 06 2022

To: Subscribers:
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From: Darren Wright, Acting Branch Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Marine Zones for NWS Weather Forecast Office Corpus
 Christi, TX, Effective March 22, 2022

Effective on or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 3:00 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Corpus Christi, Texas (CRP) will change Marine Forecast Zones by creating individual zones for four bays along the Middle Texas coast. After this change, all marine forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names indicated below.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed March 29, 2022.

The change will split the Bays and Waterways from Port Aransas to Port O'Connor zone (GMZ235) and the Bays and Waterways from Baffin Bay to Port Aransas (GMZ230) into four zones: Baffin Bay and Upper Laguna Madre (GMZ231), Corpus Christi and Nueces Bays (GMZ232), Copano, Aransas, and Redfish Bays (GMZ236), and San Antonio, Mesquite, and Espiritu Santo Bays (GMZ237).

This split is necessary to provide better geographic specificity in convective, tropical, and long-fuse watch and warning products. It will also provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products for these zones.

Table 1: Current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO Corpus Christi, TX

UGC: Current Marine Zone Name

GMZ230: Bays and Waterways from Baffin Bay to Port Aransas
GMZ235: Bays and Waterways from Port Aransas to Port O'Connor

Table 2: Marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for which WFO Corpus Christi, TX will issue forecasts and warnings effective March 22, 2022

UGC: New Marine Zone Names

- GMZ231: Baffin Bay and Upper Laguna Madre
GMZ232: Corpus Christi and Nueces Bays
GMZ236: Copano, Aransas, and Redfish Bays
GMZ237: San Antonio, Mesquite, and Espiritu Santo Bays

Table 3: NWS products affected by the WFO Corpus Christi, TX marine zone changes effective March 22, 2022

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Tsunami Message	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
Marine Weather Message	WHUS74 KCRP	MWWCRP
Special Marine Warning	WHUS54 KCRP	SMWCRP
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS74 KCRP	MWSCRP
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZUS54 KCRP	CWFCRP
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KCRP	AFDCRP
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KCRP	HWOCR
Watch County Notification	WWUS64 KCRP	WCNCRP

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated marine zone shapefiles are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/CRP/CRP2021ZoneChanges>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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