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Public Information Statement 24-04
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From: Gregory Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through March 6, 2024 on Proposed Changes to the OPC 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts, the 24-Hour Wind and Wave Forecast Chart, and 24-Hour Surface Chart

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) is soliciting comments through March 6, 2024 on a proposal to expand the coverage area of 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts issued by the OPC, change the units on the newly-expanded 24-hour Wind and Wave Forecast Chart to meters, and remove references to fog and the Gulf Stream on the newly-expanded 24-hour Surface chart.

Examples of the proposed charts can be found at:

https://ocean.weather.gov/proposed_24hr_forecast.php

The format of the proposed 24-hour surface and wind and wave charts will match the format of the 48-, 72-, and 96-hour surface and wind and wave charts already produced by the OPC. In the north Atlantic, this would extend the 24-hour charts to an area approximately from 16N to 64N, and from 10E to 97W. In the north Pacific, this would extend the 24-hour charts to an area approximately from 16N to 64N, and from 116W to 137E. This will provide the mariner expanded information on weather systems and hazards across the north Atlantic and north Pacific compared to what is currently available over those oceans (north Atlantic, 22N to 51N, 40W to 98W; north Pacific, 18N to 62N, 108W to 157W).

To accommodate this expansion, OPC will eliminate references to fog and the Gulf Stream on the 24-hour surface charts. This will make the 24-hour surface chart content consistent with the 48-, 72-, and 96-hour chart content, and also allow forecasters the time to complete the charts over the expanded area within established deadlines. Mariners will still have access to forecasts of dense fog in the high seas forecasts, which can be found for the Atlantic at:

Product	WMO ID	AWIPS PIL
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High Seas for METAREA IV	FZNT01 KWBC	HSFAT1

and, for the Pacific at:

Product -----	WMO ID -----	AWIPS PIL -----
East Pacific High Seas	FZPN01 KWBC	HSFEPI
High Seas for METAREA XII	FZPN02 KWBC	HSFEPI

Mariners will also have access to Gulf Stream imagery provided by the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) at:

https://ocean.weather.gov/gulf_stream.php

In addition, to further ensure consistency of information, the units of the waves on the expanded 24-hour wind and wave forecast chart will be meters. Currently, units of the 24-hour wind and wave forecast charts are in feet, while the units of the 48-, 72-, and 96-hour wind and wave forecast charts are in meters.

Consistency will extend to the radiofax information broadcast on the Kodiak, Alaska transmitter, station NOJ, as well. 24-hour surface and wind and wave forecast information will have the same map area as 48-, 72-, and 96-hour forecast information. There will be no changes to the radiofax schedule.

There will be no changes to the web links for the 24-hour surface and wind and wave charts OPC's webpage, <https://ocean.weather.gov>. Arctic projections forecast information will also continue to be available there.

Ftpmail identifiers for the expanded 24-hour forecast information in the north Atlantic will be:

Surface forecast 00 UTC valid time, PPAE00
Surface forecast 12 UTC valid time, PPAE01

Wind and wave forecast 00 UTC valid time, PWAE98
Wind and wave forecast 12 UTC valid time, PWAE99

Ftpmail identifiers for the expanded 24-hour forecast information in the north Pacific will be:

Surface forecast 00 UTC valid time, PPBE00
Surface forecast 12 UTC valid time, PPBE01

Wind and wave forecast 00 UTC valid time, PWBE98
Wind and wave forecast 12 UTC valid time, PWBE99

Use of the FTPMail identifiers PJBE88, PJBE89, PYBE00 and PYBE01 will be suspended.

The NWS is accepting comments through March 6, 2024 on the proposal of expanding the 24-hour surface and wind and wave forecasts in area, to match the areal extent of the Ocean Prediction Center's suite of forecasts at 48, 72, and 96 hours, along with eliminating reference to fog and the Gulf Stream on the 24-hour surface charts.

Please send feedback to the email addresses below or via this webpage:

<https://ocean.weather.gov/survey-24hour/index.php>

Darin Figurskey
Operations Branch Chief
NWS/NCEP Ocean Prediction Center
College Park, MD
darin.figurskey@noaa.gov

Melinda Bailey
NWS Marine Program Manager
NWS Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
melinda.bailey@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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