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Service Change Notice 24-38
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1250 PM EDT Fri Apr 5 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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From: Gregory Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to the 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts Issued by the Ocean Prediction Center: Effective on or around June 3, 2024

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) will be implementing the following changes to its 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts on or around June 3, 2024:

1. Expanding the coverage area of 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave forecast charts.
2. Changing the units on the 24-hour Wind and Wave forecast chart to meters.
3. Removing references to fog on the 24-hour Surface chart.

Examples of the updated charts can be found at:

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

Specific details on these changes are found below.

1. Expanding the coverage area of 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts. The format of the expanded 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 will extend the 24-hour charts to an area approximately from 16N to 64N, and from 10E to 97W. In the north Pacific, this will 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).
2. Changing the units on the 24-hour Wind and Wave forecast chart to meters. 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.

3. Removing references to fog on the newly-expanded 24-hour Surface chart. To accommodate the expansion of the coverage area for the 24-hour Surface chart, OPC will eliminate references to fog on these 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
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East Pacific High Seas	FZPN01 KWBC	HSFEP1
High Seas for METAREA XII	FZPN02 KWBC	HSFEPI

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 available on OPC's webpage at <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.

Please send questions or feedback to the contacts listed below or via this webpage:

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

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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