

NOUS41 KWBC 201940
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 25-33
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
340 PM EDT Tue May 20, 2025

To: Subscribers
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Greg Schoor
 Chief, Marine, Tropical, Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through June 25, 2025 on the proposed discontinuation of the condensed versions of offshore marine forecast products

The National Weather Service (NWS) is accepting public comments through Wednesday, June 25, 2025 on the proposed discontinuation of the condensed versions of offshore marine forecast products. These condensed products are provided to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for broadcast over their HF radio transmitters, commonly referred to as High Frequency Voice Broadcasts (HF VOBRA). The NWS's Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and National Hurricane Center (NHC) prepare and disseminate these text products. They do not broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters, only via HF radio stations operated by the USCG. No change is being proposed to NWS marine forecast products that are broadcast over NWR. No other changes are being considered for the Offshore Waters Forecasts (OFF), High Seas Forecast (HSF), or NAVTEX products.

The condensed OFF versions provide mariners with an overview of ocean conditions, including winds, waves, and significant weather events, out to five days for large sections of ocean, such as the offshore waters of the Mid-Atlantic or Hawaii. OFF and NAVTEX products provide the same information over the same area, including warnings for hazardous conditions like gales, storms, tropical storms, hurricanes, and freezing spray. The full offshore text forecasts will continue to be available over the internet from OPC at <https://ocean.weather.gov>, and from NHC at <https://hurricanes.gov>.

Table 1: NWS Products Affected by the Proposed Discontinuation

Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for New England	FZNT33 KWBC	OFFN31
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for Mid-Atlantic	FZNT34 KWBC	OFFN32
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for Caribbean Sea and Tropical	FZNT31 KWBC	OFFN20

N Atlantic		
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for Gulf of America	FZNT32 KWBC	OFFN21
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for SW N Atlantic including the Bahamas	FZNT31 KWBC	OFFN20
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for Washington, Oregon	FZPN35 KWBC	OFFN35
Condensed Offshore Waters Forecast for California	FZPN36 KWBC	OFFN36

Table 2: NWS Products That Are Not Being Proposed for Discontinuation and Will Remain

Offshore Waters Forecast Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Offshore Waters Forecast for New England	FZNT21 KWBC	OFFNT1
Offshore Waters Forecast for Mid-Atlantic	FZNT22 KWBC	OFFNT2
Offshore Waters Forecast for Caribbean Sea and Tropical N Atlantic	FZNT23 KWBC	OFFNT3
Offshore Waters Forecast for Gulf of America	FZNT24 KWBC	OFFNT4
Offshore Waters Forecast for SW N Atlantic including the Bahamas	FZNT25 KWBC	OFFNT5
Offshore Waters Forecast for Washington, Oregon	FZPN25 KWBC	OFFNZ5
Offshore Waters Forecast for California	FZPN26 KWBC	OFFNZ6
Offshore Waters Forecast for Eastern Gulf of Alaska	FZAK67 KWBC	OFFAJK
Offshore Waters Forecast for Western Gulf of Alaska	FZAK61 KWBC	OFFAER
Offshore Waters Forecast for Bering Sea	FZAK62 KWBC	OFFALU
Offshore Waters Forecast for U.S. Arctic	FZAK69 KWBC	OFFAFG
Offshore Waters Forecast for Hawaii	FZHW60 KWBC	OFFHFO
Offshore Waters Forecast for Eastern Pacific - Mexico	FZPN27 KWBC	OFFPZ7
Offshore Waters Forecast for Western Pacific - Equatorial	FZPN28 KWBC	OFFPZ8
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for NE US Waters	FZNT23 KWNM	OFFN01
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Mid-Atlantic States Waters	FZNT24 KWNM	OFFN02
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southeast U.S. Waters	FZNT25 KWNM	OFFN03
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southeast Gulf of America	FZNT25 KNHC	OFFN04
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for San Juan Atlantic Waters	FZNT26 KNHC	OFFN05
NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Northwest	FZPN27 KNHC	OFFN06

Gulf of America

NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southern California Waters	FZPN22 KWNM	OFFN07
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NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Northern California Waters	FZPN23 KWNM	OFFN08
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NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Washington and Oregon Waters	FZPN24 KWNM	OFFN09
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NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Hawaiian Waters	FZHW61 PHFO	OFFN10
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A map of the condensed offshore forecasts can be found here for OPC:

https://ocean.weather.gov/product_description/abtoffshore_vobra.php

and from NHC:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/abouttafbprod.shtml#VOBRA>

More detailed and precise NWS marine forecasts are available online, such as the Offshore Waters Forecasts. Here are links to the Offshore Waters Forecast from OPC:

https://ocean.weather.gov/product_description/abtoffshore.php

and from NHC:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/abouttafbprod.shtml#OWF> which cover waters from approximately 60 nautical miles (NM) to 250 NM. The NWS's National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) (<https://digital.weather.gov/>) provides graphical forecasts of winds, wind gusts, wave heights, and other weather-based hazards over the oceanic domain. These forecasts provide more localized information than the broader condensed versions of offshore forecasts.

If the NWS discontinues the condensed versions of offshore marine forecast products, a Service Change Notice will be disseminated.

Please submit comments and feedback on the removal of these text products to:

NWS Marine Program

Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

National Weather Service

marine.weather@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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