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Service Change Notice 26-51 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Corey Allen
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 NOS/Office of Coast Survey

Subject: Updated: Upgrade of the Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS) to Version 3.1 Effective Aug 11, 2026

Updated to reflect a new date of Aug 11, 2026

Effective on or about Aug 11, 2026, beginning with the 1200 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) cycle, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO) will upgrade the Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS) to Version 3.1.0. This implementation may be delayed if there is declaration of either an Enhanced Weather situation or Critical Weather Day.

STOFS V3.1 represents a major upgrade of the STOFS modeling system, last upgraded in May 2024. STOFS V3.1 contains several enhancements improving model performance, resolution, and coverage, including upgrades to both the global (STOFS-2D-Global) and Atlantic (STOFS-3D-Atlantic) components, and the addition of a new component for the Pacific (STOFS-3D-Pacific).

Model upgrades for STOFS-2D-Global (ADCIRC-based) include:

- Inclusion of a gridded bias correction. This bias correction uses the current station bias correction approach used in operational STOFS-2D-Global (v2.1), which corrects the station water level forecast guidance biases by removing the bias between the observed water levels at NOS/CO-OPS stations and most recent 5 days of nowcast water levels. This bias correction at stations is then propagated across the entire global grid using a graph diffusion approach. The result is that both station and gridded output is bias corrected.

- Addition of a few stations to the station output, as requested by National Weather Service forecast offices: Bogue Sound at Emerald Isle, NC; White Oak River at Swansboro, NC; Kings Bay MSF Pier, GA; and TEMCO Kalama Terminal, WA. Also, some redundant stations are removed from the output: Duck, NC; Fort Point, NH; Money Point, VA; and Springmaid Pier, SC. South Amboy, NJ was removed as it is no longer active and S Amboy Raritan River, NJ is the active station in that area. Finally, Naples Bay, North, FL has an updated NOS ID from 8725110 to 8725114.

Model upgrades for STOF3D-Atlantic (SCHISM-based) include:

- Major improvements to the mesh in watersheds (rivers, levees) and coastal areas (barrier islands, jetties/breakwaters, Intracoastal Waterway); and local mesh refinements requested by the community. These refinements resulted in improvements to the water level forecast guidance.

- Inclusion of a dynamic adjustment (bias correction) of open boundary conditions, to account for missing physics in the model, including steric effects, to improve the model's overall accuracy. This bias correction is calculated by averaging the model's nowcast bias for the past two days over 11 U.S. East Coast open coast NOS/CO-OPS stations. This bias is then uniformly applied to the open boundary conditions to force the model simulations.

- Station netCDF output will now be referenced to local mean sea level (LMSL) (no longer NAVD88), while gridded output will remain referenced to xGEOID20b. Station SHEF output will remain referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

- Addition of a few stations to the station output, as requested by National Weather Service forecast offices: Bogue Sound at Emerald Isle, NC; White Oak River at Swansboro, NC; and Kings Bay MSF Pier, GA. Also, some redundant stations are removed from the output: Duck, NC; Fort Point, NH; Money Point, VA; and Springmaid Pier, SC. South Amboy, NJ was removed as it is no longer active and S Amboy Raritan River, NJ is the active station in that area. Finally, Naples Bay, North, FL has an updated NOS ID from 8725110 to 8725114.

Lastly, a component for the Pacific called STOF3D-Pacific is being added, which will use the SCHISM model core. This component will provide 3D baroclinic and surface current coverage for the north Pacific basin, from 30 degrees South to the Bering Strait. STOF3D-Pacific will use input from the National Water Model and Copernicus' Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) global hydrology to include inland hydrology and extreme precipitation effects on coastal flooding, and will also provide surface currents for marine navigation use.

Output changes for NCEP NOMADS web services

A. File additions:

The below are additional files being sent to NCEP NOMADS for STOF3D-Global.

```
stofs_2d_glo.tCCz.fields.cwl.maxele.nc
stofs_2d_glo.tCCz.fields.cwl.maxele.noanomaly.nc
stofs_2d_glo.tCCz.points.cwl.noanomaly.nc
stofs_2d_glo.tCCz.fields.cwl.noanomaly.nc
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These are the additional files for STOF3D-Pacific:

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stofs_3d_pac.t12z.field2d_nhhh1_hhh2.nc
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stofs_3d_pac.t12z.field2d_fhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.fields.out2d_nhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.fields.out2d_fhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.{ncast,fcast}.station.profile.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.points.cwl.temp.salt.vel.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.points.cwl.shef
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.fields.cwl.maxele.nc
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.alaska.f{hour}.grib2 (where {hour}={000-048})
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.alaska.cwl.grib2
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.conus.west.f{hour}.grib2 (where {hour}={000-048})
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.conus.west.cwl.grib2
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.guam.f{hour}.grib2 (where {hour}={000-048})
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.guam.cwl.grib2
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.hawaii.f{hour}.grib2 (where {hour}={000-048})
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.hawaii.cwl.grib2
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.northpacific.f{hour}.grib2 (where {hour}={000-048})
stofs_3d_pac.tCCz.northpacific.cwl.grib2

(where {nhhh1_hhh2}={n001_012,n013_024},
{fhhh1_hhh2}={f001_012,f013_024,f025_036,f037_048}, and
where tCCz is forecast cycle: CC = 12)

B. Timeliness changes:

For STOFSS-2D-Global, stofs_2d_glo.t00z.points.cwl.nc (where tCCz is forecast cycle: CC = 00,06,12,18) will be available about 15 minutes earlier. All other STOFSS-2D-Global files will be available at about the same time as v2.1.
All STOFSS-3D-Atlantic files will be available at about the same time as v2.1.

C. File size changes:

The refinements performed on the STOFSS-3D-Atlantic mesh change the following STOFSS-3D-Atlantic file sizes:

stofs_3d_atl.t12z.field2d_nhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_atl.t12z.field2d_fhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_atl.tCCz.fields.out2d_nhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_atl.tCCz.fields.out2d_fhhh1_hhh2.nc
stofs_3d_atl.tCCz.conus.east.cwl.grib2
stofs_3d_atl.tCCz.puertori.cwl.grib2

(where {nhhh1_hhh2}={n001_012,n013_024}, and
{fhhh1_hhh2}={f001_012,f013_024,f025_036,f037_048,f049_060,f061_072,f073_084,f085_096})

where tCCz is forecast cycle: CC = 12

A consistent parallel feed of data is available on the NCEP HTTPS sites at the following URLs:

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/stofs/para/>
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/para/noaaport/stofs_2d_glo/

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NCEP urges all users to ensure their decoders can handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the GRIB files, and volume changes. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes before implementation.

Any questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below.

For questions concerning science changes, please contact:

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For questions regarding the data flow aspects of these datasets, contact:

Margaret Curtis
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National Service Change Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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