

NOUS41 KWBC 142005
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-04
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
305 PM EDT Wed Jan 14 2026

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 Other NWS Partners and Employees

From: Dr. Avichal Mehra
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Subject: Implement change in coverage areas for the High Seas Text
Forecast near the Equator and International Dateline effective February
17, 2026

The National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental
Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and Pacific Region will
be making the following changes effective 1200 UTC Tuesday, February 17,
2026:

- (1) align the western boundary of NWS Pacific Ocean text high seas
forecasts (HSF) from approximately 160 degrees E to 180 degrees E. This
would align the boundary with the international date line and also the
western boundary of WMO METAREA XII.
- (2) align the southern boundary of the NWS Pacific Ocean text HSFs from
25 degrees S to the Equator (0 degrees S) west of 120 degrees W, aligning
with the northern boundary of METAREA XIV.

A graphical depiction of these changes is available online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/marine/HighSeasPacificChange>

The result will be the NWS discontinuing forecasts for the overlapping
sections west of the date line from 160 degrees to 180 degrees E
longitude and for the overlapping sections south of the Equator (0
degrees S) and west of 120 degrees W to 25 degrees S.

Text high seas forecasts for METAREA XII in its entirety will continue to
be issued by the NWS and the area itself of METAREA XII will not be
changing.

WMO METAREAs, including METAREA XII, can be found at:
<https://wwmiws.wmo.int/>

Table 1: NWS Product to be Discontinued

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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High Seas Forecast South Mid-Pacific	FZPS40 PHFO	HSFSP

Table 2: NWS Product Reduced Areas:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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High Seas Forecast Northeast Pacific	FZPN01 KWBC	HSFEPI
High Seas Forecast East Pacific	FZPN02 KWBC	HSFEPI
High Seas Forecast North Mid-Pacific	FZPN40 PHFO	HSFNP

High seas text forecasts for METAREA X are issued by Australia, METAREA XI are issued by Japan and METAREA XIV by New Zealand. These can all be found at the WMO WWMIWS website (<https://wwmiws.wmo.int/>), along with text products using the WMO identifiers FQAU20 AMMC, WWJP90 RJTD and FQPS01 NFFN.

High seas forecasts for METAREA XIII are the responsibility of the Russian Federation. High seas forecasts for METAREA XIII should be found online through the WMO WWMIWS website (<https://wwmiws.wmo.int/>), along with text products using the WMO identifier FQRA01 RUVV.

NAVTEX products are issued by the Russian Federation for portions of METAREA XIII. The Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) also includes significant weather in METAREA XIII in its METAREA XI high seas forecast product.

Text HSFs for METAREA XII in its entirety will continue to be issued by the NWS. These text HSFs can be found at a variety of web sites, including <https://ocean.weather.gov> and <https://weather.gov/hfo/marine>, and using WMO identifiers found in Table 2.

In addition, gridded forecasts will continue to be produced (https://www.weather.gov/hfo/enhanced_cpacfull) across the larger chart analysis area across the Pacific between 30 degrees S and 30 degrees N and from the North American continent to 130 degrees E covering all NWS areas of responsibility in the tropical Pacific.

Comments may be sent to:

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

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