

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:

-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS Partners and Employees

From: Dr. Avichal Mehra

Deputy Director, Ocean Prediction Center

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
High Seas Forecast South Mid-Pacific	FZPS40 PHFO	HSFSP

Table 2: NWS Product Reduced Areas:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
High Seas Forecast Northeast Pacific	FZPN01 KWBC	HSFEP1
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:

Melinda Bailey
National Weather Service
Marine Program Manager and
Coordinator for METAREAs IV and XII
Silver Spring, Maryland
melinda.bailey@noaa.gov

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

NNNN