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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC 1045 AM EST THU JAN 8 2009

- TO: SUBSCRIBERS: -FAMILY OF SERVICES -NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE -EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK -NOAAPORT OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES
- FROM: ROBERT BUNGE INTERNET DISSEMINATION OFFICER OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 30 2009 ON TESTING OF NWS MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGES

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14 2009...ASSUMING NO CRITICAL WEATHER...NWS WILL START TESTING MARINE POINT FORECAST AND HOURLY WEATHER GRAPHS PAGES FOR COASTAL MARINE FORECAST ZONES FROM NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/ WEBPAGES. SIMILAR MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGES ARE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION FROM WFO WEBPAGES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE GREAT LAKES.

THESE FORECAST WEBPAGES USE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/ TO AUTOMATICALLY GENERATE FORECAST WORDING FOR THE SELECTED GRID POINT AND GRAPHICAL ICONS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IMPORTANT TO MARINERS...INCLUDING CURRENT MARINE WATCHES...WARNINGS...ADVISORIES...NEARBY SURFACE OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE ONE-STOP SERVICE.

FORECAST INFORMATION FOR THESE MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGES IS BASED ON GRIDDED DATA. EACH GRID SQUARE IS EITHER 2.5 X 2.5 KM OR 5 X 5 KM PER SIDE DEPENDING ON AVAILABLE RESOLUTION. THE SELECTED FORECAST AREA /GRID SQUARE/ IS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON A MAP ON THE MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGE. OTHER DESIRED MARINE FORECAST POINTS CAN BE SELECTED FROM THIS SAME MAP.

MARINERS ARE CAUTIONED THAT THESE FORECASTS ARE VALID ONLY FOR THE SELECTED GRID POINT...NOT FOR THE LARGER SURROUNDING AREAS. MARINERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ALSO CHECK MARINE FORECASTS FOR SURROUNDING AREAS OR USE LINK ON THE POINT FORECAST PAGE TO THE SURROUNDING ZONE FORECAST.

THE FOLLOWING NWS OFFICES WILL TAKE PART IN THIS TEST. THE OFFICE NAME AND URL IS PROVIDED BELOW:

SEATTLE WA / WEATHER.GOV/SEATTLE PORTLAND OR / WEATHER.GOV/PORTLAND MEDFORD OR / WEATHER.GOV/MEDFORD EUREKA CA / WEATHER.GOV/EUREKA MONTEREY/SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CA / WEATHER.GOV/SANFRANCISCO LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA / WEATHER.GOV/LOSANGELES SAN DIEGO CA / WEATHER.GOV/SANDIEGO HONOLULU HI / WEATHER.GOV/HFO BROWNSVILLE TX / WEATHER.GOV/BROWNSVILLE CORPUS CHRISTI TX / WEATHER.GOV/CORPUSCHRISTI HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/HGX/ LAKE CHARLES LA / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/LCH/ NEW ORLEANS LA / WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS MOBILE AL / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/MOB/ TALLAHASSEE FL / WEATHER.GOV/TALLAHASSEE TAMPA BAY FL / WEATHER.GOV/TAMPA KEY WEST FL / WEATHER.GOV/KEYWEST MIAMI FL / WEATHER.GOV/MIAMI MELBOURNE FL / WEATHER.GOV/MELBOURNE JACKSONVILLE FL / WEATHER.GOV/JACKSONVILLE SAN JUAN PR / WEATHER.GOV/SANJUAN WAKEFIELD VA /WEATHER.GOV/AKQ

ATLANTIC COASTAL OFFICES NORTH OF WAKEFIELD VA BY APRIL 1 2009.

ADDITIONAL NWS OFFICES MAY BE ADDED AT A LATER DATE. TO ACCESS THESE MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGES...CLICK ON THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL NWS FORECAST PAGE AT ONE OF THE LINKS ABOVE...THEN CLICK ON THE DESIRED POINT IN THE COASTAL WATERS AREA DISPLAYED ON THE MAP.

NWS SOUTHERN REGION OFFICES WILL CONTAIN A LINK TO THE COASTAL WATERS ZONE FORECAST. THIS ZONE FORECAST WILL CONTAIN A MAP FROM WHICH A POINT MARINE FORECAST PAGE CAN BE FOUND.

NWS WILL BE ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON THIS SERVICE AT /USE LOWER CASE/ THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 2009:

HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=MPF

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

ROBERT BUNGE INTERNET DISSEMINATION OFFICER SILVER SPRING MARYLAND ROBERT.BUNGE@NOAA.GOV 301-713-1381 X 140

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE

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