

NOUS41 KWBC 231828
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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
228 PM EDT Fri Sep 23 2011

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From: Therese Z. Pierce
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Comments Sought on Proposed Change to Offshore Waters Marine
Zones for the Caribbean, Southwest North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico
through October 31, 2011

The National Hurricane Center Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) is accepting comments on its proposed offshore marine zone reconfiguration in the Caribbean, southwest North Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico through October 31, 2011. Comments concerning this experimental service are welcome at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/offshores>

Currently, there are five marine zones covering the Caribbean and Southwest North Atlantic and four marine zones covering the Gulf of Mexico. TAFB proposes to reconfigure these zones into 24 marine zones to cover the Caribbean and southwest North Atlantic and eight zones to cover the Gulf of Mexico.

Marine observations, local effects, and substantial customer feedback all indicate that the current configuration of marine zones does not adequately address local effects or provide sufficient detail for the marine community. This reconfiguration would improve the precision of marine warnings, forecasts and other services by allowing forecasters to be more area specific.

To meet the time constraints for broadcast via U.S. Coast Guard Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) transmitters, the products will be based on forecast data within 250 nautical miles of each of the NAVTEX transmitter areas and will mimic the current offshore zones. Graphical images of the current marine zones and the proposed marine zones, as well as examples of current and proposed Offshore Marine zone forecasts are online at:

www.nhc.noaa.gov/scn/marine/2011/marine_zones/examples.html

For more information regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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