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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
658 AM EDT Wed May 30 2012

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FROM: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Soliciting comments on the Experimental Enhanced
Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution
for Wave Heights through November 30, 2012

NWS is seeking user comments on the Experimental Enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave Heights through November 30, 2012. The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Miami is testing an experimental enhancement to its Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), additional wave height fields using the theoretical Rayleigh Distribution.

Several different wave statistics can be inferred from this distribution. Among these, the Significant Wave Height (HS) and the average height of the highest 10 percent of waves (H1/10) observed at sea, approximately 1.272 times the significant wave height.

The current CWF product provides a forecast range of the expected HS across the coastal waters. HS is defined as the average height of the highest 1/3 of the waves. For example:

TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 13 TO 18 KNOTS BECOMING NORTHEAST
16 TO 21 KNOTS. SEAS 2 TO 4 FEET BUILDING TO 4 TO 6 FEET LATE.
DOMINANT PERIOD 6 SECONDS. INTRACOASTAL WATERS CHOPPY IN EXPOSED
AREAS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

Adding the H1/10 wave height to the CWF product will provide a more descriptive and accurate assessment of the wave field expected for any particular time across a given marine zone. User knowledge of this information could reduce the number of marine accidents at sea, saving lives. This new information will follow this template:

HS with occasional H1/10 SEAS POSSIBLE.

For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 13 TO 18 KNOTS BECOMING NORTHEAST 16 TO 21 KNOTS. SEAS 2 TO 4 FEET WITH OCCASIONAL 5 FEET BUILDING TO 4 TO 6 FEET WITH OCCASIONAL 8 FEET POSSIBLE LATE. DOMINANT PERIOD 6 SECONDS. INTRACOASTAL WATERS CHOPPY IN EXPOSED AREAS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

These additions will be made available as part of the routine forecast provided online at

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/>

and broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. This information will not be provided through the point and click format.

Comments regarding this enhancement to the CWF can be provided at:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=MIAERD

Or send comments to:

sr.mfl.marine@noaa.gov

Comments will be solicited through November 30, 2012. During this comment period, a proactive effort will be made to educate users and partners of the product availability and use. At the end of the comment period, NWS will decide whether to make WFO Miami Enhanced CWF an operational product. At that time, the enhanced CWF will also be evaluated for use at other WFOs and regions.

For more information please contact:

Dr. Pablo Santos
Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service
Miami, FL 33165-2149
305-229-4500
pablo.santos@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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