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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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FROM: Mark Tew
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SUBJECT: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Maximum
Wave Height in Great Lakes Open Lake Forecast
(GLF) through June 18, 2014

NWS is seeking user comments on the Experimental Maximum Wave Height in the Great Lakes Open Lake Forecast (GLF) through June 18, 2014. The NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO)s in Chicago (LOT) and Detroit (DTX) are testing an experimental enhancement to their Open Lakes Forecast (GLF). These WFOS are adding the maximum wave height, expressed as occasional wave height, which is the average of the highest 1/10 waves whenever wave heights of six feet or higher are forecast. Currently, NWS typically provides the significant wave height, which is the average of the highest one-third waves, in marine forecasts.

The average wave height of the highest 1/10 of waves observed is approximately 1.26 times the significant wave height. The inclusion of H1/10 wave height into the GLF provides a more descriptive and accurate assessment of the wave field expected for any particular time across a given marine zone.

The current GLF product provides a forecast range of the expected Significant Wave Height (HS) across the Open Lake waters. HS is defined as the average height of the highest 1/3 of the waves. For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 15 TO 25 KT INCREASING TO GALES TO 35 KT LATE. WAVES 6 TO 9 FT.

Adding the H1/10 wave height to the GLF product, when appropriate, 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 on the lakes, saving lives. This new information will follow this template:

GLF: HS with occasional H1/10 WAVES POSSIBLE.

For example:

.TONIGHT...NORTHWEST WINDS 15 TO 25 KT INCREASING TO GALES TO 35 KT LATE. WAVES 6 TO 9 FT. OCCASIONALLY TO 11 FT.

These additions will be made as part of the routine forecast provided online at the following Central Region WFOs:

WFO LOT <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/>

WFO DTX <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/>

and broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. This information will not initially be provided through the point and click format but will be added to these web displays in the future.

For details on this product enhancement please see

<http://products.weather.gov/viewExperimental.php?selrow=520>.

Please provide comments on this proposed enhancement at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=EMWHGLF>

Comments will be solicited through June 18, 2014. During this period, NWS will actively educate users and partners of the product's availability and use.

At the end of the comment period, NWS will decide whether to make WFOs Chicago and Detroit's Enhanced GLF an operational product. At that time, the enhanced GLF will also be evaluated for use at the three other WFOs that issue the GLF: Marquette (MQT) in Central Region and Buffalo (BUF) and Cleveland (CLE) in Eastern Region. This product will also be considered for possible inclusion in the Great Lakes Nearshore Marine Forecasts (NSH).

For more information please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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