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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 Enhanced
Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution
for Wave Heights through June 18, 2014

NWS is seeking user comments on its Experimental Enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave Heights through June 18, 2014. Selected NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO)s in Southern Region, currently WFOs Miami and Tallahassee, are testing an experimental enhancement to their Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), additional wave height fields using the theoretical Rayleigh Distribution.

NWS can infer several different wave statistics from this Distribution such as 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/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh/>

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=SRERD

NWS is seeking comments through June 18, 2014. 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
Southern Region's Enhanced CWF an operational product. Other NWS
Southern Region WFOs may join this test. Further Public
Information Statements will be issued as needed.

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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