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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Tampa Bay
Marine Channel Forecast through June 1, 2013

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Tampa Bay Area is seeking user comments on the Experimental Tampa Bay Marine Channel Forecast from through June 1, 2013. The Tampa Bay Marine Channel Forecast was developed as part of WFO Tampa Bay's Weather Ready Nation Pilot objective. The Marine Channel Forecast uses local NWS digital forecast data for six of the seven weather elements in the product: winds, gusts, waves, weather, rain chance, and hazards. For the seventh element, water level relative to mean sea level, Marine Channel Forecast currently populates data from the Extratropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (ESTOFS) model produced by the NWS's Ocean Prediction Center (OPC).

Forecasts are produced at 13 points along the Tampa Bay shipping channel. These 13 points were considered by a diverse group of mariners to be critical points of weather information along the channel. The Marine Channel Forecast is displayed on a static Google map with the Tampa Bay shipping channel and the forecast points overlaid. Users may click on any forecast point to view the forecast.

The Marine Channel Forecast is currently available at the following web address:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/?n=marinechannelsforecast>

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product by using the brief survey and comment form at:

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

or provide comments directly to

todd.barron@noaa.gov

At the end of the comment period, if comments are favorable, the Marine Channel Forecast may be changed to an operational product and moved to national availability. At that time, the NWS will then decide whether to transition the product to operational, extend the comment period, or discontinue the product.

You may obtain more information on this product online at:

http://products.weather.gov/PDD/NavSaF_PDD.pdf

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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