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Public Information Statement, Comment Request Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1055 AM EDT Wed Sep 17 2014

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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Other NWS Partners and Employees

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

SUBJECT: Amended: Soliciting comments on the Experimental
Enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh
Distribution for Wave Heights through Sept. 30, 2015

Amended to extend comment period through September 30, 2015, and
to expand to other Southern Region Coastal Weather Forecast
Offices

NWS is seeking user comments on the Experimental Enhanced
Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave
Heights through September 30, 2015. 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/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bro/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tae/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/>

and broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. NWS will not
provide this information through the point and click format.

Please provide comments regarding this CWF enhancement at:

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

Or email comments to:

Sr-mfl.marine@noaa.gov

Comments will be solicited through September 30, 2015. 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:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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