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Public Information Statement, Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1055 AM EDT Tue Sep 27 2016

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

FROM: Tim Oram
Acting Chief, Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services
Branch

SUBJECT: Amended: Soliciting comments on the Experimental
Enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh
Distribution for Wave Heights through Jan 11, 2018

Amended to extend comment period through January 11, 2018

NWS is seeking user comments on the Experimental Enhanced Coastal Waters Forecast Using Rayleigh Distribution for Wave Heights through January 11, 2018. NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in Southern Region are testing an experimental enhancement to their Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) including the addition of wave height fields using the theoretical Rayleigh Distribution.

Several different wave parameters can be inferred from this distribution. Among these are 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 January 11, 2018. 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 extend the
comment period, make enhanced CWF an operational product, or
discontinue the enhancement.

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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