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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 Weather Services Branch

Subject: Experimental Period Extended until at least March
31, 2015, for the Experimental Gridded Marine Offshore
and High Seas Forecasts in the National Digital
Forecast Database (NDFD)

Until at least March 31, 2015, the NWS Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) and Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) will continue to provide to the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD), on an experimental basis, gridded forecasts of four marine weather elements over their offshore waters and high seas forecast areas of responsibility (AOR) in the Atlantic and Pacific. The Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, AK, are currently providing five weather elements over their offshore waters on an experimental basis to the NDFD in the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska basins.

TAFB will continue to provide the grids to NDFD for all of their offshore and high seas areas of responsibility. OPC will continue to provide offshore grids while their high seas forecast grids are expected to be added at a later date. Offshore and high seas forecast grids from the Honolulu Weather Forecast Office (HFO) will also be added at a later date.

The gridded marine parameters include surface wind direction and speed, wind gusts, significant wave heights and marine hazards. The Alaska offices also produce a weather grid.

The upper right latitude, longitude for this new oceanic grid is 79.99N, 10.71E. The lower left corner lies directly on NCEP grid 204 point, which coincides with all other Pacific region NDFD grids. The lower left latitude, longitude for this grid is 30.42S, 129.91E. Specific information on the grid domain can be found at

<http://graphical.weather.gov/docs/ndfdSRS.htm>

Areas of the offshore grids that coincide with the NDFD CONUS grid are included in the CONUS mosaic.

Each offshore and high seas producer update its grids at least four times per day.

The experimental marine grids are online at:

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

More details regarding these elements are available in the Product Description Document in the online catalog of Experimental NWS products and services available at:

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/Ex_Grid_Offshore_HS_ndfd.pdf

Forecasts for these zones will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via web browser

Graphics for the oceanic grid area available via the experimental NDFD map viewer located at:

<http://preview.weather.gov/graphical/>

Both graphics, and XML via SOAP, are available within 30 days of the grids being produced.

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

Comments and feedback on these experimental TAFB Offshore and High Seas NDFD elements, as well as the OPC Offshore elements, are welcome at:

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

GRIB2 users:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

Users OF XML SOAP service:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap>

NDFD online graphics:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp>

These Offshore and High Seas Marine elements will remain experimental until at least March 31, 2015, when NWS assesses feedback and completes a Technical analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and extend the experimental feedback period. Users will be notified of that decision via another Public Information Statement and a new implementation date will be established.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

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For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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NDFD Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

All National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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