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Public Information Statement, Comment Request: Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From: Michelle Hawkins  
Acting Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather  
Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Soliciting Comments until December 30,  
2016 on the Experimental Tampa Bay Marine Channel  
Forecast

Amended to extend comment period through December 30, 2016

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Tampa Bay Area is seeking user comments on the Experimental Tampa Bay Marine Channel Forecast through December 30, 2016. 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 Extra Tropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (ESTOFS) model produced by the 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 comment period is being extended to solicit additional comments on new enhancements to the Marine Channel Forecast. This includes alternations to the current layout (new tabs) and the addition of cross section forecasts for the route. 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

[marc.austin@noaa.gov](mailto:marc.austin@noaa.gov)

At the end of the comment period, if comments are favorable, the Marine Channel Forecast will be evaluated for 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/viewExperimental.php?selrow=491>

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Marc Austin  
Forecaster  
NWS Tampa Bay/Ruskin FL  
813-645-2323 x331  
[Marc.Austin@noaa.gov](mailto:Marc.Austin@noaa.gov)

National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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