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Public Information Notice, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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FROM: Eli Jacks
Acting Chief, Forecast Services Division

SUBJECT: Soliciting Comments until June 30, 2016, on an
Experimental Graphical Wind Against Current Product

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) is accepting comments until June 30, 2016, on an experimental Graphical Wind Against Current product.

The western North Atlantic is a challenging area both meteorologically and oceanographically. The western boundary current of the North Atlantic consists of the Florida Current, from the Straits of Florida to the coastal waters of Cape Hatteras, NC, and Gulf Stream, from the coastal waters of Cape Hatteras to south of Newfoundland.

The coastal waters of the U.S. East Coast contain some of the highest temperature contrasts in the world with the warm waters of the Gulf Stream system (Florida Current and Gulf Stream) moving northeastward from off the North Carolina coast, abutting the cold waters of the Labrador Current, flowing southwestward just north and northwest of the Gulf Stream. These waters are where many North Atlantic winter ocean storms start, where thunderstorms erupt, and where wind waves and swell can interact with the strong current of the Gulf Stream system and produce short period, very high breaking waves.

To highlight the potential for strong winds to oppose the strong current of the Gulf Stream system, the OPC developed an experimental Graphical Wind Against Current product. This product uses the 10m vector winds from the NWS Global Forecast System (GFS) atmospheric model and the ocean surface current from the U.S. Navy Coastal Ocean Model (NCOM) to highlight areas and strength of the wind opposing ocean currents.

The experimental graphical display is online at:

http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/Loops/WindCurrent_ncomhires_00Z/index.php

Please send comments or requests for more information to:

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

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

National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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