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PNSWSH

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National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Experimental Offshore Waters Forecasts for the Northeast Pacific Ocean within 250 NM of Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Ecuador: Effective July 20, 2016

Effective Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at 830 am Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) or 1530 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of the National Hurricane Center is issuing, on an experimental basis, offshore waters forecasts in the East Pacific within 250 nautical miles (NM) of Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Ecuador.

Currently, the area is only covered by the Northeast Pacific High Seas Forecast and Eastern Pacific Tropical Weather Discussion, while Offshore Waters Forecasts are provided for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea on the opposite coast. The experimental East Pacific Offshore Waters Forecast will derive the text from the oceanic/national digital forecast database (NDFD) which covers the same area.

Users who do not currently have the capability to download and view the oceanic/national digital forecast database will be able to access the text product instead. Ten (10) marine zones will cover the area within 250 NM of the Pacific coast of Mexico, with seven (7) marine zones covering the area within 250 NM of the Pacific coast of Central America, Colombia and Ecuador.

Marine observations, local effects and substantial user feedback all indicate that the current forecast services provided for this area do not adequately provide the level of detail out to five (5) days and do not address the local effects for the marine community. These experimental products are intended to improve the precision of marine warnings, forecasts and other services by allowing forecasters to be more specific and detailed while providing a forecast out to five (5) days.

The experimental east Pacific offshore waters text products are available at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/epoffshores/data/WRKOFFPZ7>
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/epoffshores/data/WRKOFFPZ8>

Table 1. Marine Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for which TAFB will Issue Experimental Forecasts and Warnings Effective July 20, 2016:

New Marine Zone Name -----	New UGC -----
Synopsis for the East Pacific within 250 NM of Mexico	PMZ001
U.S. Mexico Border South to 29N within 60 NM offshore	PMZ009
Mexico South OF 29N to Punta Eugenia to 250 NM offshore	PMZ011
Punta Eugenia to Cabo San Lazaro to 250 NM offshore	PMZ013
Cabo San Lazaro to Cabo San Lucas to 250 NM offshore	PMZ015
Northern Gulf of California	PMZ017
Central Gulf of California	PMZ019
Southern Gulf of California	PMZ021
Entrance to the Gulf of California including Cabo Corrientes	PMZ023
Mexico - States of Michoacan and Guerrero to 250 NM offshore	PMZ025
Mexico - States of Oaxaca and Chiapas including the Gulf of Tehuantepec	PMZ027
Synopsis for the East Pacific within 250 NM of Central America, Colombia and Ecuador	PMZ101
Guatemala and El Salvador to 250 NM offshore El Salvador to Northern Costa Rica including the Gulfs of Fonseca and Papagayo	PMZ113
Northern Costa Rica to Western Panama to 250 NM Offshore	PMZ115
Eastern Panama and Colombia including the Gulf of Panama	PMZ117
Ecuador including Gulf of Guayaquil to 250 NM offshore	PMZ119
Ecuador between 250 NM and 500 NM offshore	PMZ121
Offshore Galapagos Islands	PMZ123

Table 2. Experimental Offshore Waters Forecasts Issued by TAFB Starting July 20, 2016:

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Offshore Waters Forecast	FZPN27 KNHC	OFFPZ7
Offshore Waters Forecast	FZPN28 KNHC	OFFPZ8

Comments may be provided via the survey below:

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

The Experimental Feedback period will run from July 20, 2016 through July 20, 2018. At the end of the comment period, the product will be evaluated and a decision will be made to transition to operational status, discontinue or extend the experimental comment period for additional feedback.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed TAFB experimental East Pacific Offshore Waters marine zones, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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