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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 02-21  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
430 PM EST WED APR 3 2002

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS  
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
/NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE PIERCE  
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: UPDATED MARINE PROGRAM DIRECTIVES...EFFECTIVE  
MAY 21 2002

AN ENTIRELY NEW NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ SET OF MARINE  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR NWS OFFICES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE  
MAY 21 2002 AT 0000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/. THIS IS  
PART OF AN OVERALL NWS EFFORT TO UPDATE AND REORGANIZE NWS  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ACCORDING TO A NEW NWS DIRECTIVES SYSTEM  
BY SEPTEMBER 2002. AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE...THE NEW DIRECTIVES  
WILL REPLACE AND SUPERCEDE THE CURRENT WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS  
MANUAL /WSOM/ CHAPTERS. AS THEY ARE APPROVED...THE NEW  
DIRECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES WILL BE POSTED ON THE  
INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/index.htm>

THE NEW MARINE DIRECTIVE AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES DESCRIBED  
BELOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB PAGE SHOWN ABOVE...BY CLICKING  
ON "10 - OPERATIONS AND SERVICES".

THE MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH HAS COMBINED INFORMATION  
PREVIOUSLY CONTAINED IN WSOM CHAPTERS D-07...D-51...AND D-52 INTO  
A NEW FORMAT. BASIC POLICY IS CONTAINED IN NWS POLICY DIRECTIVE  
10-3...ENTITLED "MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES"...WITH  
PROCEDURES AND PRODUCTS DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING NWS PROCEDURAL  
INSTRUCTIONS:

- 10-301 MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES ABBREVIATIONS AND  
DEFINITIONS
- 10-302 MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES AREAS OF  
RESPONSIBILITY
- 10-303 MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES STANDARDS AND  
GUIDELINES
- 10-304 MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES  
COMMUNICATIONS...DISSEMINATION
- 10-310 COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES
- 10-311 OFFSHORE...NAVTEX...AND HIGH SEAS MARINE FORECAST

## SERVICES

- 10-312 GREAT LAKES MARINE SERVICES
- 10-313 SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS
- 10-314 MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS
- 10-330 OCEAN ICE SERVICES
- 10-331 GREAT LAKES ICE SERVICES

OUTSIDE OF THE FORMAT CHANGE...THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE NEW MARINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES ARE:

1. FORECASTERS MAY NOW INCLUDE HURRICANE FORCE WIND WARNING HEADLINES FOR WINDS OF 64 KNOTS OR GREATER NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A TROPICAL CYCLONE.
2. STANDARDIZED SHIP ICE WARNINGS AT 2 CM PER HOUR OR GREATER ACCUMULATION FOR ALL OF NORTH AMERICA.
3. FORECASTERS WILL USE THE PERIOD FORMAT FOR ALL COASTAL... OFFSHORE...AND GREAT LAKES MARINE FORECASTS EXTENDING OUT TO 5 DAYS. THEY WILL NO LONGER ISSUE DISCRETE EXTENDED FORECASTS.
4. FORECASTERS WILL INCLUDE WINDS AND SEAS IN ALL FORECAST PERIODS IN ALL MARINE FORECASTS. HOWEVER...THEY MAY SHOW TREND FORECASTS OF THESE PHENOMENA IN LATER FORECAST PERIODS.
5. FORECASTERS MAY USE SURF ZONE FORECASTS...A NEW PRODUCT...TO COVER THE AREA BETWEEN THE WATERS EDGE AND THE BEGINNING OF BREAKING WAVES.
6. REGIONAL DIRECTORS MAY ALLOW COMBINED MARINE AND PUBLIC FORECASTS IN SELECTED ISLAND AREAS.
7. FORECASTERS WILL TRUNCATE THE NAVTEX FORECAST AT 4 PERIODS TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE BROADCAST TRANSMISSION LIMITATIONS.
8. GUIDANCE IS GIVEN FOR GRAPHIC FORECAST PRODUCTS.
9. IN RESPONSE TO USER REQUESTS...FORECASTERS WILL CONTINUE ISSUING THE NEARSHORE FORECAST ON THE GREAT LAKES TO THE END OF THE SHIPPING SEASON IN DECEMBER.
10. SPECIFIC GUIDANCE IS GIVEN ON HOW VOLCANIC ASH EVENTS IN MARINE ENVIRONS SHOULD BE HANDLED.
11. WE HAVE PROVIDED A SET OF STANDARDS FOR NWS MARINE PROGRAM PERSONNEL.
12. CERTAIN MARINE FORECAST AREAS...INCLUDING OFFSHORE AND COASTAL WATERS OF HAWAII...OFFSHORE WATERS OFF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST...AND OFFSHORE WATERS SOUTH AND EAST OF THE LEEWARD AND WINDWARD ISLANDS...HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER NWS MARINE AREAS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

MR. ROBERT W. JACOBSON JR.  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH  
1325 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY #13118  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND 20910

PHONE: /301/ 713-1677 EXTENSION 108 /M-F 730 AM - 400 PM/

THIS AND ALL OTHER PENDING NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTIFICATIONS ARE

AVAILABLE ON THE NWS OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER...AND WEATHER  
SERVICE/S HOME PAGE IN THE NOTIFICATION SECTION AT /USE LOWER  
CASE/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

END  
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