

NOUS41 KWBC 151456
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-24
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1100 AM EDT TUE APR 15 2003

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...AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT CHANGES TO SURF ZONE FORECAST AND RIP CURRENT
PROGRAM...EFFECTIVE MAY 15 2003

IN RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF NWS CUSTOMERS...NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ PROVIDING RIP CURRENT
INFORMATION WILL INCLUDE THIS PARAMETER IN THE SURF ZONE FORECAST
/AWIPS PRODUCT CATEGORY SRF/ AS OF MAY 15 2003. IN ADDITION...
THE SRF WILL BECOME A SEGMENTED PRODUCT AS OF MAY 15 2003.

THE SURF ZONE IS THE VERY NARROW AREA OF WATER BETWEEN THE HIGH
TIDE LEVEL ON THE BEACH AND THE SEA-WARD SIDE OF BREAKING WAVES.
THE SURF ZONE FORECAST DEBUTED IN MAY 2002 AT SOME WFOS.

SRF PRODUCT IDENTIFIERS AND COMMUNICATIONS PATHWAYS WILL BE IN
PLACE EFFECTIVE MAY 15 2003...HOWEVER SOME WFOS MAY NOT BEGIN TO
ISSUE THEIR SRF UNTIL THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. A LIST OF
PARTICIPATING COASTAL WFOS ISSUING THE SRF ON OR AFTER MAY 15
2003 FOLLOWS. PLEASE NOTE...THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO WMO HEADINGS
OR AWIPS IDENTIFIERS AND NO ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR CONTINUED
RECEIPT OF PRODUCTS FROM WFOS THAT PRODUCED THE SRF IN 2002.

WFO	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
BROWNSVILLE TX *	FZUS54 KBRO	SRFBRO
CHARLESTON SC *	FZUS52 KCHS	SRFCHS
JACKSONVILLE FL *	FZUS52 KJAX	SRFJAX
LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA	FZUS56 KLOX	SRFLOX
MELBOURNE FL *	FZUS52 KMLB	SRFMLB
MIAMI FL *	FZUS52 KMFL	SRFMFL
MOBILE AL *	FZUS54 KMOB	SRFMOB
NEWPORT NC	FZUS52 KMHX	SRFMHX
PHILADELPHIA PA	FZUS51 KPHI	SRFPHI
SAN DIEGO CA	FZUS56 KSGX	SRFSGX
TALLAHASSEE FL *	FZUS52 KTAE	SRFTAE
WAKEFIELD VA	FZUS51 KAKQ	SRFAKQ
WILMINGTON NC	FZUS52 KILM	SRFILM

* THE WFOS DENOTED WITH ASTERISKS PROVIDE THE SRF FOR THE

FIRST TIME ON OR AFTER MAY 15 2003.

RIP CURRENT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NWS WILL USE THE FOLLOWING THREE-TIERED SET OF QUALIFIERS IN TEXT PRODUCTS...

LOW RISK. WIND AND/OR WAVE CONDITIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIP CURRENTS. HOWEVER...RIP CURRENTS CAN SOMETIMES OCCUR...ESPECIALLY IN THE VICINITY OF GROINS...JETTIES...AND PIERS. KNOW HOW TO SWIM AND HEED THE ADVICE OF THE BEACH PATROL.

MODERATE RISK. WIND AND/OR WAVE CONDITIONS SUPPORT STRONGER OR MORE FREQUENT RIP CURRENTS. ONLY EXPERIENCED SURF SWIMMERS SHOULD ENTER THE WATER.

HIGH RISK. WIND AND/OR WAVE CONDITIONS SUPPORT DANGEROUS RIP CURRENTS. RIP CURRENTS ARE LIFE-THREATENING TO ANYONE ENTERING THE SURF.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT RIP CURRENTS IS AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov>

THE NWS LOOKS FORWARD TO STRENGTHENING AND ENCOURAGING AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR COASTAL WFOS AND LOCAL AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR BEACHFRONT SAFETY. THESE SAFETY OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PASS ON NWS RIP CURRENT INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC. THESE SAFETY OFFICIALS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO RELAY RIP CURRENT OBSERVATIONS BACK TO THE LOCAL WFO.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED A SAMPLE PRODUCT...PLEASE CONTACT

MR. TIMOTHY SCHOTT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
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SILVER SPRING MARYLAND 20910

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THIS NOTICE AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/

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

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