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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 /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND 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 /ADVANCED WEATHER  
INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /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 WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADINGS OR AWIPS  
IDENTIFIERS AND NO ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR CONTINUED RECEIPT OF PRODUCTS  
FROM WFOS THAT PRODUCED THE SRF IN 2002. \*THE WFOS DENOTED WITH ASTERISKS  
PROVIDE THE SRF FOR THE FIRST TIME ON OR AFTER MAY 15 2003.

WFO	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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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

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 /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.RIPCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV](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  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
PHONE: 301-713-1677 EXTENSION 122  
E MAIL: [TIMOTHY.SCHOTT@NOAA.GOV](mailto:TIMOTHY.SCHOTT@NOAA.GOV)

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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