

NOUS41 KWBC 242138  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-61  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
530 PM EDT WED SEP 24 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...NWS EMPLOYEES

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

SUBJECT MODIFICATIONS TO MARINE ZONE BOUNDARIES IN ALASKA  
AND FORMAT AND COMMUNICATIONS HEADING CHANGES TO THE  
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST PRODUCTS IN ALASKA...EFFECTIVE  
NOVEMBER 19 2003 AND DECEMBER 16 2003 AT 4 PM ALASKA  
STANDARD TIME /AST/

ACTION...USERS OF NWS MARINE FORECASTS AND WARNINGS ORIGINATING  
FROM ALASKA MUST UPDATE THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DIRECTORIES TO  
CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE PRODUCTS.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/  
IN ALASKA WILL IMPLEMENT CHANGES TO THE MARINE ZONE BOUNDARIES IN  
THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY THIS FALL. THE CHANGES WILL BE  
IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES. WFO JUNEAU WILL IMPLEMENT MOST OF  
THEIR CHANGES FIRST...FOLLOWED BY WFO ANCHORAGE AND WFO  
FAIRBANKS...ON THE FOLLOWING DATES.

WFO JUNEAU COASTAL WATERS	WED. NOVEMBER 19 2003	4 PM AST
WFO JUNEAU OFFSHORE WATERS	TUE. DECEMBER 16 2003	4 PM AST
WFO ANCHORAGE	TUE. DECEMBER 16 2003	4 PM AST
WFO FAIRBANKS	TUE. DECEMBER 16 2003	4 PM AST

THE NEW ZONE NUMBERS AND GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS ARE LISTED IN  
TABLE 2...AND PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE LISTED IN  
TABLE 3.

AN UPDATED ZONE MAP SHAPEFILE CONTAINING THE REALIGNED ZONES IS  
AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES /USE LOWER  
CASE LETTERS/...

[www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm)  
/FILES WILL BE POSTED TO THE ABOVE SITE THURSDAY SEPT. 25TH/

AND

<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/changes>

FOR PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS WHO USE MARINE ZONE NUMBERS AS LOCATION CODES FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO /NWR/ AND EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM /EAS/ APPLICATIONS...THE COASTAL AND OFFSHORE MARINE CODE LISTINGS FOR NWR AND EAS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/...

[www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinenwreas.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinenwreas.htm)

ALSO...THE COASTAL WATERS FORECAST /CWF/ AND OFFSHORE WATERS FORECAST /OFF/ TEXT PRODUCTS ISSUED IN ALASKA WILL BE MODIFIED. PRODUCT CHANGES WILL INCLUDE UPDATING THE FORMAT...DIVIDING THE CONTENTS INTO NEW COLLECTIVES...AND MODERNIZING THE WMO HEADINGS AND AWIPS IDS. ONCE IMPLEMENTED... THESE CWF PRODUCTS WILL CONFORM TO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-310... ENTITLED COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES...AND NWSI 10-311... ENTITLED OFFSHORE NAVTEX AND HIGH SEAS MARINE FORECAST SERVICES.

THE CWF AND OFF FORMAT CHANGES WILL INVOLVE MODIFYING THE WAY THE TEXT OF THE FORECAST IS PRESENTED. A FIVE DAY FORECAST WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH MARINE AREA AND IT WILL BE PRESENTED IN A STRUCTURED PERIOD-BY-PERIOD FORMAT. THIS FORMAT USES THE DAYS OF THE WEEK TO DESCRIBE EACH PERIOD EXCEPT THE CURRENT DAY...WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS TODAY OR TONIGHT. ADVISORY AND WARNING CONDITIONS WILL BE HEADLINED AT THE TOP OF THE FORECAST FOR EACH MARINE ZONE.

CURRENTLY...THE FORECAST FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS IS WRITTEN IN A NARRATIVE FORMAT THAT DESCRIBES THE TIMING OF MAJOR CHANGES IN WEATHER CONDITIONS RATHER THAN PROVIDING FORECASTS FOR STANDARDIZED TIME PERIODS. A THREE TO FIVE DAY EXTENDED FORECAST IS PROVIDED SEPARATELY...USUALLY ENCOMPASSING MORE THAN ONE FORECAST ZONE.

THE WEATHER PARAMETERS INCLUDED IN THE MARINE FORECASTS /WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED...WAVE HEIGHT...AND SIGNIFICANT WEATHER/ WILL NOT CHANGE. THE ONLY CHANGE RELATING TO CONTENT IS THE EXPANSION OF EXTENDED FORECAST INFORMATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL MARINE AREA.

THE WMO HEADINGS AND AWIPS IDS FOR THE CWF PRODUCTS AND OFF PRODUCTS ARE ALSO BEING UPDATED DURING THIS TRANSITION. THESE CHANGES ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. WMO HEADING AND AWIPS ID CHANGES THE COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS AND OFFSHORE MARINE FORECASTS IN ALASKA.

/NOTE: SOME OLD COLLECTIVES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO OR THREE NEW ONES DUE TO INCREASING PRODUCT LENGTH. ALSO...WMO HEADINGS FOR CWF PRODUCTS ISSUED BY WFO ANCHORAGE WERE MODERNIZED IN SEPTEMBER 2003...SO THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS LIST./

OLD	OLD	NEW	NEW	CHANGE	
WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID	DATE	



YAKUTAT BAY PKZ053

...WFO ANCHORAGE...

ZONE NAME UGC PRODUCT

SYNOPSIS FOR THE NORTH GULF COAST PKZ197 FZAK51 PAFC  
CAPE SUCKLING TO GORE POINT PKZ120  
RESURRECTION BAY PKZ121  
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND PKZ125  
PASSAGE CANAL PKZ129  
BARREN ISLANDS AND KAMISHAK BAY PKZ130  
KODIAK ISLAND WATERS GORE POINT TO  
SITKINAK PKZ132

SHELIKOF STRAIT PKZ138  
COOK INLET NORTH OF KAMISHAK AND  
ENGLISH BAY PKZ140  
KACHEMAK BAY PKZ141

SYNOPSIS FOR SOUTHWEST ALASKA AND  
THE ALEUTIANS PKZ199 FZAK52 PAFC  
SITKINAK TO CASTLE CAPE PKZ150  
CASTLE CAPE TO CAPE SARICHEF PKZ155  
CAPE NEWENHAM TO PORT HEIDEN PKZ160  
PORT HEIDEN TO CAPE SARICHEF PKZ165  
CAPE NEWENHAM TO DALL POINT PKZ180  
CAPE SARICHEF TO NIKOLSKI PKZ170  
UNALASKA BAY PKZ171  
NIKOLSKI TO ADAK PKZ172  
ADAK TO KISKA PKZ175  
KISKA TO ATTU PKZ176  
PRIBILOF ISLANDS PKZ179  
ST MATTHEW ISLAND PKZ185

SYNOPSIS FOR WESTERN GULF OF ALASKA PKZ399 FZAK61 PAFC  
GULF OF ALASKA NORTH OF 55 DEGREES  
NORTH AND WEST OF 144 DEGREES  
WEST PKZ350

SYNOPSIS FOR CENTRAL BERING SEA PKZ499 FZAK62 PAFC  
SOUTH CENTRAL BERING SEA EAST OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE PKZ410

...WSO KODIAK...

ZONE NAME UGC PRODUCT

SYNOPSIS FOR CHINIAK AND MARMOT BAYS PKZ198 FZAK58 PADQ  
CHINIAK BAY PKZ136  
MARMOT BAY PKZ137

...WSO VALDEZ...

ZONE NAME UGC PRODUCT

SYNOPSIS FOR VALDEZ PORT NARROWS  
AND ARM PKZ196 FZAK58 PAVW  
PORT OF VALDEZ PKZ126  
VALDEZ NARROWS PKZ127  
VALDEZ ARM PKZ128

...WFO FAIRBANKS...

ZONE NAME UGC PRODUCT

SYNOPSIS FOR WESTERN ALASKA AND THE  
ARCTIC COAST PKZ299 FZAK59 PAFG  
  
NORTON SOUND PKZ290  
DALL POINT TO WALES PKZ295  
KOTZEBUE SOUND PKZ200  
WALES TO CAPE LISBURNE PKZ205  
CAPE LISBURNE TO CAPE HALKETT PKZ210  
CAPE HALKETT TO DEMARCATION POINT PKZ215

TABLE 3. ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY NEW MARINE ZONES AND UGCS.

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADINGS	AWIPS IDS
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING	WHAK57 PAJK	SMWAJK
	WHAK51 PAFC	SMWAER
	WHAK52 PAFC	SMWALU
	WHAK59 PAFG	SMWAFG
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT	FZAK87 PAJK	MWSAJK
	FZAK81 PAFC	MWSAER
	FZAK82 PAFC	MWSALU
	FZAK89 PAFG	MWSAFG

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL USERS OF NWS MARINE FORECASTS AND WARNINGS ORIGINATING FROM ALASKA MAKE SURE THAT THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DIRECTORIES EXACTLY MATCH THE HEADINGS LISTED IN TABLE 1. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL PREVENT THESE PRODUCTS FROM REACHING THEIR INTENDED AUDIENCE.

NWS CUSTOMERS WHO AUTOMATICALLY PROCESS PRODUCTS LISTED IN TABLE 3 USING THE Z FORM OF THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ MAY NEED TO PROGRAM THE NEW Z CODES INTO THEIR SYSTEM/S/ TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS THE PRODUCTS.

A WEB PAGE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW USERS TO TEST THE CHANGES TO ENSURE THEY CAN DECODE THE MODIFIED PRODUCT CORRECTLY. SEE EXAMPLES AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/...

<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/changes>

ALL OTHER ALASKA REGION WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES WILL MODERNIZE THEIR COASTAL MARINE FORECASTS AND OFFSHORE MARINE FORECASTS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. LOOK FOR FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES REGARDING THESE CHANGES.

NWSI 10-310 AND 10-311 ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/...

[www.nws.noaa.gov/directives](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives)

CLICK ON 10-OPERATIONS AND SERVICES...AND THEN SCROLL DOWN AND CLICK ON 10-310 COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES OR 10-311 OFFSHORE NAVTEX AND HIGH SEAS MARINE FORECAST SERVICES.

PARTNERS/CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING POINT OF CONTACT IF THEY BELIEVE THE CHANGES WILL ADVERSELY IMPACT THEIR OPERATIONS...OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THIS CHANGE...

AIMEE DEVARIS  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
ALASKA REGION MARINE PROGRAM MANAGER  
ANCHORAGE AK  
PHONE 907.271.3507  
E-MAIL AIMEE.DEVARIS@NOAA.GOV

THIS NOTICE AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/...

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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