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Service Change Notice 11-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1115 AM EST Wed Mar 2 2011

To: Subscribers:
- Family of Services
- NOAA Weather Wire Service
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
- NOAAPORT
- Other NWS Partners...Users and Employees.

From: Therese Z. Pierce
Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Implementing Improved Marine Zone
Coverage for the Florida Keys
Coastal Waters: Effective July 7, 2011

Effective Thursday July 7, 2011, at 200 PM EDT or 1800
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) the NWS Weather Forecast Office
(WFO) in Key West, FL, will reconfigure its current coastal
waters zones for the Florida Keys. This reconfiguration will
provide better forecast services by realigning the coastal zones
for climatological, geographical and bathymetric effects.

This change will provide enhanced forecasts for Hawk Channel,
the smaller zones between Key West and the Dry Tortugas, more
consistency with bathymetry across Florida Bay and Gulf zones,
and remove the zone boundaries near Key West Harbor.

All current zones will be realigned, except GMZ072 (Straits of
Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out) and GMZ073
(Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile
Bridge 20 to 60 nm out). Four additional new zones will be
added.

Table 1 lists all the products issued by WFO Key West that will
be affected by the marine zone changes.

Table 2 lists all the current marine zones and universal
Geographic codes UGCs for WFO Key West.

Table 3 lists all the marine zones and UGCs for which WFO Key
West will issue forecasts and warnings effective July 7, 2011.

Table 1: WFO Key West products affected by the marine zone
changes effective July 7 2011.

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST	FZUS52 KKEY	CWFKEY

MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE WHUS72 KKEY MWWKEY
 SPECIAL MARINE WARNING WHUS52 KKEY SMWKEY
 MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT FZUS72 KKEY MWSKEY
 HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT WTUS82 KKEY HLSKEY
 HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK FLUS42 KKEY HWOKEY
 WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION WWUS62 KKEY WCNKEY
 SHORT TERM FORECAST FPUS72 KKEY NOWKEY

Table 2: Current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO Key West.

CURRENT MARINE ZONE NAME	UGC
Florida Bay	GMZ031
Gulf side of the lower Keys out 20 nm	GMZ032
Gulf waters from East Cape Sable to Chokoloskee 20 to 60 nm	GMZ033
Ocean Reef to Craig Key out 20 nm	GMZ052
Craig Key to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge out 20 nm	GMZ053
West end of the Seven Mile Bridge to Key West out 20 nm	GMZ054
Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ072
Craig Key to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ073
West end of the Seven Mile Bridge to Key West 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ074
Key West to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas out 60 nm	GMZ075

Table 3: Marine zones and corresponding UGCs for which WFO Key West will issue forecasts and warnings effective July 7, 2011.

MARINE ZONE NAME	UGC
Florida Bay including Blackwater and Buttonwood Sounds	GMZ031
Bayside and Gulfside from Craig Key to Halfmoon Shoal out to 5 fathoms	GMZ032
Gulf waters from East Cape Sable to Chokoloskee 20 to 60 nm out and beyond 5 fathoms	GMZ033

Gulf of Mexico including Dry Tortugas and Rebecca Shoal Channel	GMZ034
Hawk Channel from Ocean Reef to Craig Key out to the reef	GMZ042
Hawk Channel from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge out to the reef	GMZ043
Hawk Channel from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to Halfmoon Shoal out to the reef	GMZ044
Straits of Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key out 20 nm	GMZ052
Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge out 20 nm	GMZ053
Straits of Florida from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to south of Halfmoon Shoal out 20 nm	GMZ054
Straits of Florida from Halfmoon Shoal to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas out 20 nm	GMZ055
Straits of Florida from Ocean Reef to Craig Key 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ072
Straits of Florida from Craig Key to west end of Seven Mile Bridge 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ073
Straits of Florida from west end of Seven Mile Bridge to south of Halfmoon Shoal 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ074
Straits of Florida from Halfmoon Shoal to 20 nm west of Dry Tortugas 20 to 60 nm out	GMZ075

Customers must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue processing the products in Table 1.

An updated zone map shapefile containing the new boundaries for these marine zones is available for download from the following website:

www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm

A map showing the existing and additional marine zones that will be effective July 7, 2011 is posted on the WFO Key West page at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/?n=marinezone>

For questions about these changes, please contact:

Kennard "Chip" Kasper	Melinda Bailey
Marine Focal Point	Public/Marine Meteorologist
National Weather Service	National Weather Service
WFO Key West	Southern Region Headquarters
1315 White Street	819 Taylor St. Rm 10a11
Key West FL 33040	Fort Worth TX 76102
305-295-1316	817-978-1100 X107
Kennard.Kasper@Noaa.Gov	Melinda.Bailey@Noaa.Gov

NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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