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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 11-41  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
210 PM EST Tue Dec 6 2011

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Subject: Changes in Marine, Fire and Public Weather Forecast  
Zones for Portions of the Lower James, York, and  
Rappahannock Rivers in Southeastern Virginia Effective  
April 3, 2012

Effective Tuesday April 3, 2012 at 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Wakefield (AKQ), Virginia, will reconfigure its marine, fire and public weather zones to transfer portions of the lower James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers from fire and public weather zones to marine zones.

Currently there are four marine zones covering the lower Chesapeake Bay. Four new marine zones will be created covering the portions of the James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers removed from the fire and public weather zones. Customer feedback has identified these areas as containing high ship traffic. Reconfiguration will improve the precision of marine warnings, forecasts, and services by allowing them to be more area specific.

Effective April 3, 2012, WFO Wakefield marine area of responsibility will be expanded to cover the following:

- 1). A new marine zone, UGC ANZ635 (Rappahannock River from Urbanna to Windmill Point) will be created from the Rappahannock River portions of fire and public weather zones VAZ078 (Lancaster) and VAZ085 (Middlesex).
- 2). A new marine zone, UGC ANZ636 (York River), will be created from the York River portions of fire and public weather zones VAZ084 (Gloucester), VAZ090 (James City) and VAZ091 (York).

3). A new marine zone, UGC ANZ637 (James River from Jamestown to the James River Bridge will be created from the James River portions of fire and public weather zones VAZ089 (Surry), VAZ093 (Isle of Wight) and VAZ094 (Newport News/Hampton).

4). A new marine zone, UGC ANZ638 (James River from the James River Bridge to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel) will be created from the James River portions of fire and public weather zones VAZ095 (Norfolk/Portsmouth) and VAZ096 (Suffolk).

The following fire and public weather zones from WFO Wakefield will be affected (none are outside WFO Wakefield marine area of responsibility):

- Lancaster VAZ078
- Gloucester VAZ084
- Middlesex VAZ085
- Surry VAZ089
- James City VAZ090
- York VAZ091
- Isle of Wight VAZ093
- Newport News/Hampton VAZ094
- Norfolk/Portsmouth VAZ095
- Suffolk VAZ096

Effective April 3, 2012 the marine zone with Universal Geographic Code (UGC) designation of ANZ632, currently named Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek, VA, will undergo the following changes:

1). ANZ632, named Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek VA, will be split into two zones. The marine area east of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel will remain unchanged. The marine area west of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel will be merged with new marine zone ANZ638, James River from the James River Bridge to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

Table 1 below lists the current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for which WFO Wakefield issues forecasts and warnings:

Current Marine Zone Name	Current UGC
Chesapeake Bay from Smith Point to Windmill Point	ANZ630
Chesapeake Bay from Windmill Point to New Point Comfort	ANZ631
Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek, VA	ANZ632
Currituck Sound	ANZ633
Chesapeake Bay from Little Creek to Cape Henry, VA, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel	ANZ634

Coastal Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Chincoteague, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ650
Coastal Waters from Chincoteague to Parramore Island, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ652
Coastal Waters from Parramore Island to Cape Charles Light, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ654
Coastal Waters from Cape Charles Light to VA/NC border out to 20 nm	ANZ656
Coastal Waters from VA/NC border to Currituck Beach Light, NC out to 20 nm	ANZ658
Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Currituck Beach Light, NC from 20 to 40 nm	ANZ670

Table 2 below lists the marine zones and corresponding UGCs for which WFO Wakefield will issue forecasts and warnings effective April 3, 2012.

Marine Zone Name	New UGC
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Chesapeake Bay from Smith Point to Windmill Point	ANZ630
Chesapeake Bay from Windmill Point to New Point Comfort	ANZ631
Chesapeake Bay from New Point Comfort to Little Creek, VA	ANZ632
Currituck Sound	ANZ633
Chesapeake Bay from Little Creek to Cape Henry, VA, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel	ANZ634
Rappahannock River from Urbanna to Windmill Point	ANZ635
York River	ANZ636
James River from Jamestown to the James River Bridge	ANZ637
James River from James River Bridge to Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel	ANZ638
Coastal Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Chincoteague, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ650
Coastal Waters from Chincoteague to Parramore Island, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ652
Coastal Waters from Parramore Island to Cape Charles Light, VA out to 20 nm	ANZ654
Coastal Waters from Cape Charles Light To VA/NC border out to 20 nm	ANZ656
Coastal Waters from VA/NC border to Currituck Beach Light, NC out to 20 nm	ANZ658
Waters from Fenwick Island, DE to Currituck Beach Light, NC from 20 to 40 nm	ANZ670

Graphical images of the current and future marine, fire and

public zones listed in Tables 1 and 3 are online at:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq/news/AKQMZ.html>

TABLE 3. NWS products affected by the WFO Wakefield marine, fire and public weather zone changes effective April 3, 2012:

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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COASTAL WATERS FORECAST	FZUS51 KAKQ	CWFAKQ
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING	WHUS51 KAKQ	SMWAKQ
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT	FZUS71 KAKQ	MWSAKQ
MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE	WHUS71 KAKQ	MWWAKQ
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	WTUS81 KAKQ	HLSAKQ
WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION	WWUS61 KAKQ	WCNAKQ
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	FLUS41 KAKQ	HWOAKQ
COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE	WHUS41 KAKQ	CFWAKQ
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING	WUUS51 KAKQ	SVRAKQ
TORNADO WARNING	WFUS51 KAKQ	TORAKQ
SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT	WWUS51 KAKQ	SVSAKQ
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	WWUS81 KAKQ	SPSAKQ
ZONE FORECAST	FPUS51 KAKQ	ZFPAKQ
SHORT TERM FORECAST	FPUS71 KAKQ	NOWAKQ
TSUNAMI MESSAGE	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
FIRE WEATHER FORECAST	FNUS51 KAKQ	FWFAKQ
RED FLAG WATCH/WARNING	WWUS81 KAKQ	RFWAKQ
NATIONAL FIRE DANGER	FNUS81 KAKQ	FWMAKQ
RATING SYSTEM FORECAST		
WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE	WOUS64 KWNS	WOU <sub>n</sub> (n=1-9)

Partners and users of WFO AKQ products must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the products in Table 3.

Also partners and users accessing NWS graphical marine, fire and public forecasts must download updated zone map shapefiles to correctly view forecasts for the lower Chesapeake Bay.

Updated zone map shapefiles containing the new zones are available online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/marinezones.htm>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/pubzone.htm>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm>

If you have any questions or comments about this reconfiguration of marine, fire and public weather zones please contact:

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National Weather Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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