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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 12-23
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Implementing Improved Marine Zone Coverage
for the Mobile/Pensacola Coastal Waters:
Effective October 2, 2012

Effective Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) or 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Mobile, Alabama, will reconfigure its current marine zones for the Mobile/Pensacola area. 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 Mobile Bay; the Mississippi Sound; Perdido Bay; Pensacola Bay, including the Santa Rosa Sound; and Choctawhatchee Bay.

All current zones will be maintained except GMZ630 (Mobile Bay), which will be divided into two zones: one for North Mobile Bay and one for South Mobile Bay, split using a line between the mouth of the Fowl River eastward to Point Clear. In addition to a new zone for Mobile Bay, four additional new zones will be added, all separated out of GMZ650 and GMZ655 (see Tables 1 and 2), including one for Perdido Bay, which will incorporate Wolf Bay into the zone.

Table 1 lists all the current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for which WFO Mobile issues forecasts and warnings.

Table 2 lists all the marine zones and corresponding UGCs for which WFO Mobile will issue forecasts and warnings effective October 2, 2012.

Table 3 lists all the products issued by WFO Mobile that will be affected by the marine zone changes.

Table 1: Current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for which WFO Mobile issues forecasts and warnings.

CURRENT MARINE ZONE NAME	UGC
Mobile Bay	GMZ630
Coastal Waters from Pensacola FL to Pascagoula MS out 20 NM	GMZ650
Coastal Waters from Destin FL to Pensacola FL out 20 NM	GMZ655
Waters from Pensacola FL to Pascagoula MS from 20 to 60 NM	GMZ670
Waters from Destin FL to Pensacola FL from 20 to 60 NM	GMZ675

Table 2: Marine zones and corresponding UGCs for which WFO Mobile will issue forecasts and warnings effective October 2, 2012.

MARINE ZONE NAME	UGC
North Mobile Bay	GMZ630
South Mobile Bay	GMZ631
Mississippi Sound	GMZ632
Perdido Bay Area	GMZ633
Pensacola Bay Area including Santa Rosa Sound	GMZ634
Choctawhatchee Bay	GMZ635
Coastal Waters from Pensacola FL to Pascagoula MS out 20 NM	GMZ650
Coastal Waters from Destin FL to Pensacola FL out 20 NM	GMZ655
Waters from Pensacola FL to Pascagoula MS from 20 to 60 NM	GMZ670
Waters from Destin FL to Pensacola FL from 20 to 60 NM	GMZ675

Table 3: WFO Mobile products affected by the marine zone changes effective October 1, 2012.

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST	FZUS54 KMOB	CWFMOB
MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE	WHUS74 KMOB	MWWMOB
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING	WHUS54 KMOB	SMWMOB
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT	FZUS74 KMOB	MWSMOB
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	WTUS84 KMOB	HLSMOB
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	FLUS44 KMOB	HWOMOB
WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION	WWUS64 KMOB	WCNMOB
SHORT TERM FORECAST	FPUS74 KMOB	NOWMOB

Customers must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue processing the products in Table 3.

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 October 2, 2012 is posted on the WFO Mobile web page at:

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

For questions about these changes, please contact:

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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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