

NOUS41 KWBC 101936 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 12-27 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
330 PM EDT Fri Jul 10 2015

TO: Subscribers:
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FROM: Mike Dion
Acting Chief, Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami
Services Branch

SUBJECT: Extending comment period to July 1, 2016, for
Experimental Wave Terminology Change for Coastal
Waters from Point Saint George to Point Arena, CA

On September 19, 2012, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Eureka, CA, changed to an experimental new terminology for describing the sea state in its Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF). The original comment period is being extended through July 1, 2016, to gather additional user feedback. This change was announced in SCN 12-27 posted at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn12-27eka_wave.htm

Areas affected include the coastal waters from Point Saint George to Point Arena, CA. The purpose of the change is to evaluate the following wave terminology:

Sea state will continue to be described by providing detailed wave information to the extent it is useful for the mariner. The amount of detailed wave information provided will depend on conditions. For example, when there is only a single wave, that wave's direction, height and period will be given.

For example:

WAVES NW 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS

When there are two distinct waves, the two waves that make up that sea state will be described.

For example:

WAVES NW 7 FT AT 10 SECONDS... AND SW 5 FT AT 14 SECONDS

Below is an example of a 5-day forecast from WFO Eureka:

TODAY...NW WIND 5 TO 15 KT. WAVES NW 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS.
 TONIGHT...N WIND 10 TO 20 KT. WAVES N 3 FT AT 4 SECONDS...AND NW
 7 FT AT 11 SECONDS.
 SAT...N WIND 10 TO 20 KT. WAVES N 4 FT AT 4 SECONDS...AND NW 7
 FT AT 10 SECONDS.
 SAT NIGHT...N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WAVES N 7 FT AT 6 SECONDS...AND
 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS.
 SUN...N WIND 20 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. WAVES N 10 FT AT 9
 SECONDS.
 MON...N WIND 20 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 35 KT. WAVES N 10 FT AT 9
 SECONDS.
 TUE...N WIND 15 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WAVES 8 FT AT 8
 SECONDS.

WFO Eureka will continue to communicate characteristics of the sea state by using the more descriptive DIRECTION, HEIGHT and PERIOD of the individual wave system, in lieu of WIND, WAVE and SWELL. The reasons for this change, and an explanation of the significance of wave direction, height and period is online at:

www.weather.gov/eureka/waves

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this change to the marine forecast by using the brief survey and comment form available at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=EENWT>

Table 1 lists products issued by NWS Eureka affected by this change which began September 19, 2012.

Table 2 contains lists of the current marine zones affected by the change in WFO Eureka's CWF.

Table 1: WFO Eureka Products

Product Name	AWIPS ID	WMO Heading
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST	CWFEKA	FZUS56 KEKA

Table 2: Affected marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Eureka

Current Marine Zone Name	Current UGC
PT ST GEORGE TO CAPE MENDOCINO...OUT 10 NM	PZZ450
PT ST GEORGE TO CAPE MENDOCINO...10 TO 60 NM	PZZ470
CAPE MENDOCINO TO PT ARENA...OUT 10 NM	PZZ455
CAPE MENDOCINO TO PT ARENA...10 TO 60 NM	PZZ475

Users do not need to make any changes to their systems to receive the CWF product from WFO Eureka.

It is expected that in summer 2016, or earlier, the wave portion

of WFO Eureka's Coastal Waters Forecast will revert to the legacy format while a new, improved format is being developed for national availability. When the new format is ready for experimental comment and review, another Service Change Notice will be released at that time.

For question or comments, contact:

Troy Nicolini
Meteorologist in Charge
Eureka, CA 95501-6000
707-443-6484, x222
troy.nicolini@noaa.gov

Richard May
Marine Meteorologist
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-427-9378
richard.may@noaa.gov

NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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