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Service Change Notice 12-31
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
350 PM EDT Mon Sep 10 2012

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Subject: Shapefile Correction and Adjustment for the Upper and Lower
Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay: Effective October 11, 2012

Effective Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 1:00 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX) will correct/adjust its current fire, public, county and marine zone configurations for the Houston Metropolitan Area (Upper and Lower Houston Ship Channel) and Galveston Bay. This change will improve decision support services by reincorporating the Lower Houston Ship Channel into marine zone GMZ335, Galveston Bay, and graphically depicting the Upper Houston Ship Channel in the Harris County, TX, fire and public zones TXZ213 and county area TXC201.

The Lower Houston Ship Channel has always been part of marine zone GMZ335, Galveston Bay, per NWS Instruction 10-302, Marine and Coastal Services Areas of Responsibility. It was inadvertently omitted during the transition from low to high-resolution shapefiles. Reincorporating the Lower Houston Ship Channel into marine zone GMZ335 will restore a portion of the marine zone previously in the lower resolution shapefiles.

In addition, the Upper Houston Ship Channel has always been part of the land zones/county area associated with Harris County. The low-resolution shapefiles were not able to depict it. Graphically depicting the Upper Houston Ship Channel in fire and public zones TXZ213 and county area TXC201 for Harris County will improve decision support services for the Port of Houston. The Upper Ship Channel will not be included in marine zone GMZ335 because the upper channel is not subject to the same sea conditions that occur over the more open waters of the lower ship channel or Galveston Bay.

The following table lists the zones/county and corresponding Zone (Z) and County (C) Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) that will be impacted by this change.

Zone/County Name	UGC	Type
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Galveston Bay	GMZ335	Marine
Harris County	TXC201	County
Harris	TXZ213	Fire and Public

Updated shapefiles are available online:

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>

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

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

Graphical depictions are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/images/hgxA1.jpg>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/images/hgxA2.jpg>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/images/hgxA3.jpg>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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