

NOUS41 KWBC 231920
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-78
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
220 PM EST Mon Dec 23 2013

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

From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes in Marine Weather Forecast Zones for Part
of the Albemarle Sound and Pamlico Sound in North
Carolina Effective April 1, 2014

Effective Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 200 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Newport/Morehead City (MHX), NC, will reconfigure its marine weather zones to separate the Alligator River from the Albemarle Sound Marine Zone, and the Neuse River and Pamlico and Pungo Rivers from the Pamlico Sound Marine Zone.

Currently the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds in eastern North Carolina are two separate marine zones which include the major contributing rivers of the Alligator, Neuse, Pamlico, and Pungo Rivers. NWS is creating three new marine zones to allow more targeted forecast and warning services to our marine community.

-Alligator River
-Neuse and Bay Rivers
-Pamlico and Pungo Rivers

Effective April 1, 2014, the WFO Newport/Morehead City NC marine area of responsibility will be reconfigured for the following changes:

1. A new marine zone, UGC AMZ131 (Alligator River), will be created from the Albemarle Sound portion of marine weather zone AMZ130.
2. A new marine zone, UGC AMZ136 (Pamlico and Pungo Rivers), will be created from the Pamlico Sound marine weather zone AMZ135.
3. A new marine zone, UGC AMZ137 (Neuse and Bay Rivers), will be created from the Pamlico Sound marine weather zone AMZ135.
4. Portions of Core Sound will be extracted from AMZ158 (South of

Cape Lookout to North of Surf City and AMZ135 (Pamlico Sound))

The Core Sound will be combined into one whole area and added to the AMZ156 (South of Ocracoke to Cape Lookout) marine zone.

Table 1: Current marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO Newport/Morehead City

UGC: Current Marine Zone Name

AMZ130: Albemarle Sound
AMZ135: Pamlico Sound
AMZ150: S of Currituck Beach Light to Oregon Inlet NC out 20 NM
AMZ152: S of Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras NC out 20 NM
AMZ154: S of Cape Hatteras to Ocracoke Inlet NC out 20 NM
AMZ156: S of Ocracoke Inlet to Cape Lookout NC out 20 NM
AMZ158: S of Cape Lookout to N of Surf City NC out 20 NM

Table 2: Marine zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for which WFO Newport/Morehead City NC will issue forecasts and warnings effective April 1, 2014

UGC: Marine Zones Effective April 1, 2014

AMZ130: Albemarle Sound
AMZ131: Alligator River
AMZ135: Pamlico Sound
AMZ136: Pamlico and Pungo Rivers
AMZ137: Neuse and Bay Rivers
AMZ150: S of Currituck Beach Light to Oregon Inlet NC out 20 NM
AMZ152: S of Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras NC out 20 NM
AMZ154: S of Cape Hatteras to Ocracoke Inlet NC out 20 NM
AMZ156: S of Ocracoke Inlet to Cape Lookout NC out 20 NM
AMZ158: S of Cape Lookout to N of Surf City NC out 20 NM

Graphical images of the current and future marine weather zones listed above are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/mhx/MarineZoneChanges>

Table 3: NWS products affected by the WFO Newport/Morehead City NC marine weather zone changes effective April 1, 2014:

PRODUCT NAME	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
-----	-----	-----
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST	CWFMHX	FZUS52 KMHX
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING	SMWMHX	WHUS52 KMHX
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT	MWSMHX	FZUS72 KMHX
MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE	MWWMHX	WHUS72 KMHX
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	HLSMHX	WTUS82 KMHX
WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION	WCNMHX	WWUS62 KMHX
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	HWOMHX	FLUS42 KMHX
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	SPSMHX	WWUS82 KMHX
TSUNAMI MESSAGE	WEXX20	PAAQ TSUAT1

Partners and users of WFO MHX products must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above mentioned products.

Also partners and users accessing NWS graphical marine forecasts must download updated zone map shapefiles to correctly view forecasts for the eastern North Carolina.

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

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

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

John Elardo
Marine Program Leader
WFO Newport/Morehead City
Newport, NC 28570
252-223-2328
john.elardo@noaa.gov

National NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

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

\$\$