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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-01  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
830 AM EST Tue Jan 14 2014

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

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

Subject: Extending Comment Period to June 30, 2014 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 in Eureka, CA changed to an experimental new terminology for describing the sea state in its Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF). This change was announced in Service Change Notice (SCN) 12-27, posted at:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn12-27eka\\_wave\\_aaa.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn12-27eka_wave_aaa.pdf)

The original comment period began September 19, 2012, and is now extended through June 30, 2014. In response to comments, NWS Eureka changed the experimental wave terminology. The extension of the comment period allows users to provide feedback on these changes.

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 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 the 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 the NWS 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.

NWS will no longer use the terms WIND WAVE and SWELL because the characteristics of the sea state will be communicated by using the more descriptive direction, height, and period of the individual wave system. The reasons for this change and an explanation of the significance of wave direction, height, and period is available at:

[www.weather.gov/eureka/waves](http://www.weather.gov/eureka/waves)

If response is favorable, the NWS will evaluate the experimental wave terminology product for transition to an operational product with national availability. If the test results are not favorable, the wave portion of the coastal waters forecast will revert to the previous format.

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 Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF).

Table 1: WFO Eureka Products

Product Name	AWIPS ID	WMO Heading
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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
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Point St. George to Cape Mendocino...Out 10 NM	PZZ450
Point St. George to Cape Mendocino...10 to 60 NM	PZZ470
Cape Mendocino to Point Arena...Out 10 NM	PZZ455
Cape Mendocino to Point Arena...10 to 60 NM	PZZ475

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

For questions or comments about this change, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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