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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-41
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
720 AM EDT Tue Aug 5 2014

To: Subscribers:
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From: Mark A. Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes in Eastern Region Outer Coastal Marine Zone
Boundaries, Names, and Universal Geographic Codes
(UGCs) effective December 2, 2014

Effective Tuesday December 2, 2014, at 200 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST), or 1900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), eight Eastern Region (ER) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) serving the Atlantic coastal waters will each subdivide their one outer marine zone (generally 20 nm to 40 nm from the coastline) into several smaller outer marine zones. Subdividing the outer marine zones will create additional boundaries, marine zone names, and Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs).

The reconfiguration of ER outer marine zones to smaller zones will allow WFOs to provide more area specific Special Marine Warnings and follow up statements. The reconfiguration also facilitates the effort to eventually expand Storm Prediction Center (SPC) watches (Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm) to all outer marine zones surrounding the CONUS. At present SPC watches extend only to the inner coastal marine zones, generally 0 to 20 nm from the coastline.

Table 1 lists WFOs subdividing their outer marine zones. Table 2 lists the products affected by the outer marine zone subdivisions.

Table 1. Eastern Region WFOs subdividing their outer marine zones

Caribou ME (CAR)
Gray/Portland ME (GYX)
New York NY (OKX)
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly PA/NJ (PHI)
Wakefield, VA (AKQ)
Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX)
Wilmington, NC (ILM)
Charleston, SC (CHS)

WFO Boston's outer marine zones are already subdivided and WFO Baltimore/Washington marine area of responsibility does not include marine zones along the Atlantic coastline. Therefore these two ER coastal WFOs are not included in this project.

Table 2: Issuing WFO products affected by the outer marine zone subdivisions

Product Name

Special Marine Warning
Marine Weather Statement
Watch County Notification
Hazardous Weather Outlook

For a complete list of product identifiers by issuing WFOs in Table 1 and product names in Table 2, see:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/marine/pns/maine_ids.xlsx

Users are encouraged to read details of the marine zone subdivisions, listed by each WFO, at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/marine/pns/maine_ugc.xlsx

Users must make changes to their communications systems by December 2, 2014 to receive the new marine zone names and UGCs in the products listed in Table 2.

A graphical image of the current ER coastal marine zones is available on-line at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/east/ermzn.htm>

A graphical image of the ER coastal marine zones, with the subdivided outer marine zones effective December 2, 2014, is available at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/marine/pns/east14.jpg>

An updated zone map shape file containing the new boundaries for the marine zones effective December 2, 2014 is available for download at:

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

If you have any questions, please contact:

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This and all other NWS Service Change Notices are posted at

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

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