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Service Change Notice 19-05
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Allison Allen
 Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: NWS High Seas Forecasts Will No Longer Use the Term
 PAN PAN Effective March 14, 2019

Effective March 14, 2019, the NWS will no longer use the term PAN PAN in its High Seas Forecasts. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) agreed to phase out the use of this term for weather messages in December 2018. This change is in conformance with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations provisions for broadcasting urgency information over satellite.

In High Seas Forecasts, PAN PAN indicates there are winds of 64 knots or greater within at least one section of the forecast. Audio alarms for significant weather, such as 64 knot winds, will continue to be activated even though the term PAN PAN will no longer be used.

The term SECURITE will continue to be used as an indicator that important information, including instances of winds 64 knots or greater, will follow in the forecast section.

The term "PAN-PAN" is used as a marine radio-communication protocol to indicate an urgent event aboard a vessel, but there is no immediate danger to life or the safety of the vessel itself. WMO regulatory documentation no longer contains any references to using PAN PAN in weather bulletins.

There will be no other changes to the High Seas forecast and warning information contained in the High Seas Forecast product, or any changes to the product's issuance schedules or dissemination methods.

For technical and policy questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Wayne Presnell
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
Telephone: 301-427-9390
Email: Wayne.Presnell@noaa.gov

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