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From:    Tim McClung
         Chief, Science Plans Branch
         Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Upgrade to High Resolution Real Time Global Sea Surface
         Temperature Analysis: Effective October 11, 2011

On Tuesday October 11, 2011, the National Centers for
Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will make several changes to the
High Resolution Real Time Global Sea Surface Temperature
Analysis system (RTGSSTHR). These changes are expected to
improve performance of the RTG sea surface temperature (SST)
analysis.

The analysis system changes include:

- Add use of Remote Sensing Systems (RSS) retrievals of SST from
  Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer (AMSR) to analysis
  system.

- Switch from using NOAA-18 AVHRR SST for retrievals to using
  NOAA-19.

The combined effect of these changes has resulted in the
following improvements to the analysis:

- Reduced time between observation-based updates of analysis in
  cloudy regions.

- Improved bias and rms of the analysis with respect to buoy
  observations.

Data format, volume, and delivery will not be affected by this
The RTGSSTHR products are available on the NCEP server at:

http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod/sst.YYYYMMDD
or

where YYYYMMDD corresponds to the four digit year, two digit month and two digit day.

The data is also available on NOAAPort with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header ETWA88 KWBI.

The Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) has a publicly available website which can provide users more information concerning the RTGSSTHR:

http://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/sst/

For questions regarding the scientific content of the RTGSSTHR, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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