

NOUS41 KWBC 291744
PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 13-36
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
145 PM EDT Tue Oct 29 2013

To: Subscribers:
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
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From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Forecasts of Significant Wave Heights in the
Operational and Experimental National Digital Forecast
Database (NDFD) Will Extend to 6 days and the
Temporal Resolution of Significant Wave Heights
in the Experimental NDFD Will Increase Effective
December 4, 2013

Effective Wednesday December 4, 2013, at 1200 Coordinated
Universal Time (UTC) the NDFD significant wave height element
will provide data out to 6 days. The extension from 5 days to
6 days will occur for the NDFD significant wave height element,
in both experimental and operational status, across the
conterminous United States (CONUS), including all 16 CONUS
subsectors, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Hawaii,
and Guam.

In addition, the significant wave height grid across the entire
CONUS will become available in experimental status from NDFD at
1-hour resolution for the first 36 hours from NDFD issuance time,
at 3-hour resolution through 3 days, and at 6-hour resolution
through 6 days.

The increase in NDFD resolution will enable users to access wave
height grids at the finest resolution Weather Forecast Offices
produce. The effective temporal resolution of WFO wave height
forecasts varies across the CONUS. Alaska will increase from
12-hour to 6-hour resolution.

The significant wave height grid is the average wave height
(trough to crest) of the one-third highest waves valid for the
top of the designated hour. Significant wave height is the
combination of wind, waves and swell.

This change primarily affects users who pull NDFD elements in the
grib2 format from the NWS file transfer protocol (FTP) server,
either via the internet or the Family of Services (FOS) server

access service, and users who pull HTML files from the NWS hypertext transfer protocol (http) server. Those users will now be able to pull this element at a finer time-scale resolution.

The Public Information Statement extending the comment period on increasing the resolution in the National Digital Forecast Database until December 31, 2013, can be found here:

www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns13expndfd_map_viewer_aaa.txt

The significant wave height grid will continue to be available from the NDFD as follows:

- Gridded Binary 2 (grib2) files via http and ftp
- Extensible Markup Language (xml) via simple object access protocol (soap)
- Graphics via web browsers at the operational site:
www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical
- Graphics via a map viewer at the experimental site:
preview.weather.gov/graphical

General information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

If December 4, 2013, is a critical weather day this implementation may be postponed. Users will be notified of that decision via a Technical Implementation Notice (TIN) as far in advance as possible.

For general questions regarding NDFD data please email:

nws.ndfd@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data please contact:

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For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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Technical implementation notices specifically related to the

NDFD are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National TINs are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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