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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 13-36: Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
950 AM EST Tue Nov 26 2013

To: Subscribers:  
-Family of services  
-NOAA Weather Wire Service  
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
-NOAAPORT  
Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

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

Subject: Amended: Temporal Resolution of Forecasts of  
Significant Wave Heights in the Experimental National  
Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) will Increase  
Effective December 4, 2013

Amended to announce a delay in extending the NDFD significant wave height grid from 5 days to 6 days while supporting policy is developed

Effective Wednesday December 4, 2013, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) the NDFD significant wave height element 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 5 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 to

increase the resolution in the NDFD until December 31, 2013, can be found here:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns13expndfd\\_map\\_viewer\\_aaa.txt](http://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
- Graphics via a map viewer at the experimental site:  
[preview.weather.gov/graphical](http://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](mailto: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 (TIN) 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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