



# Aware

*Aware is published by NOAA's National Weather Service to enhance communications between NWS and the Emergency Management Community and other government and Private Sector Partners.*

January 2020

---

## NWS Marine Weather Services Website Has Moved

By [Wayne Presnell](#), Meteorologist, NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Until January 28, 2020, if you type the URL <https://nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm>, in an attempt to get to the home page of NWS Marine Forecasts website, you will get a message saying the NWS Marine Services website has moved to <https://www.weather.gov/marine> and you should update your bookmark. You will be automatically redirected to the new home page of the NWS Marine Weather Services website.

After January 28, 2020, you will get the dreaded "Page Not Found Error." Please update your bookmarks before January 28, 2020. The old version of the website was developed in the late 90s and has provided excellent value to its users for close to 20 years. The new site is more secure and easier to maintain and navigate. Most of the content of the old site is on the new site in an updated format.

Around 2 million users per year visit the NWS Marine Forecasts website, averaging over 5 million sessions per year. In the last 2 years, mobile users have become the largest percentage of hits, 48%. About 44% of the site's visitors use a desktop and about 8% use a tablet. Users are mainly from the United States but also come from a number of other countries. The NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch expects the new site to be even more popular with its improved look and features.

If you have questions concerning the new NWS Marine Weather Services website, contact the NWS marine team at [marine.weather@noaa.gov](mailto:marine.weather@noaa.gov).



*The updated NWS marine website offers all the same information in an updated format.*

---

## NOAA's IDP Delivering New Geographic Information Systems Capabilities

By [Andrea Hardy](#), Chief, Weather Information Distribution Services Branch

In 2014, the NWS Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP) moved the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (mapping) web services from a research/proof-of-concept posture to fully operational status.

The goals of the project were to implement GIS systems, established standards and allow for consistent dissemination formats and protocols across several NOAA datasets and products. Currently, there are two operational GIS stacks on IDP. One stack runs the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) ArcGIS server and the other stack runs the open-source GeoServer.

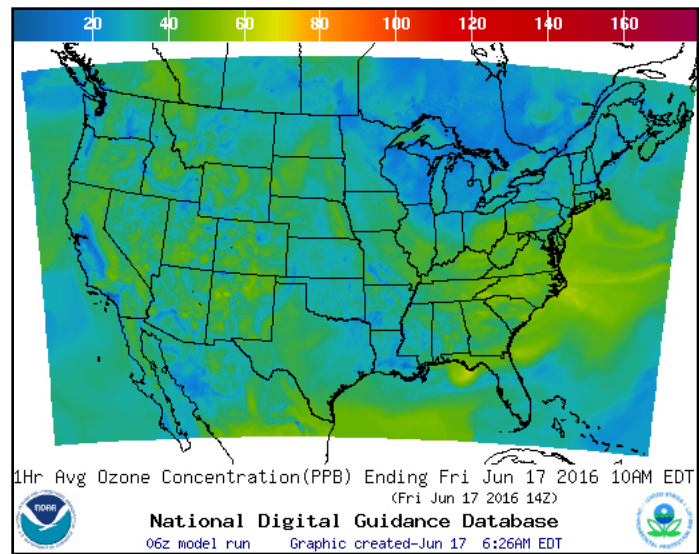
Both stacks disseminate GIS services using standards outlined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). The [IDP-GIS](#) web services provide users with access to the new web mapping services. These services are provided by NOAA's IDP operational center, which provides a scalable, robust, secure, 7x24x365 operational dissemination

infrastructure at College Park, MD, and Boulder, CO. In December 2019, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO), in coordination with the NWS Office of Dissemination (DIS), released the [latest version \(V2.4\) of IDP-GIS](#) web services. This upgrade added:

- ◆ NWS air quality ozone products of 1hr average bias corrected, 1hr max bias corrected, 8hr average bias corrected and air quality ozone 8hr max bias corrected
- ◆ NWS National Water Model lakes and reservoirs
- ◆ U.S. Geological Survey stream gauge locations
- ◆ NWS national forecast as data layers

These products are in addition to the 100+ products already available in the NWS IDP-GIS web service suite. The IDP-GIS services also will be providing data for Ridge2, which is schedule for release in late summer 2020. Ridge2 will replace the current [RIDGE](#) radar application. This enhanced radar application will provide improved graphic images and access to individual radars as OGC services.

NWS is in the early stages of the development of an interactive web-based map to display the services available on IDP-GIS to aid in Impact-Based Decision Support Services. The initial implementations will focus on water and tropical products and will be available in late 2020.



---

## Multiagency Effort Enhances Public Messaging

By [Alex Tardy](#), WCM, NWS San Diego, CA

Yes its snows in Southern California, in the San Bernardino mountains. On November 28, Thanksgiving Day, 20 vehicles were abandoned in snow on Highway 38 near Big Bear City, CA, making snow removal difficult. The highway passes reach 8400 feet with snow accumulating as low as 3500 feet on I-15 in the Cajon Pass. That day, there were 10 separate incidents involving accidents with snow plows.

The Friday before the holiday week, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) hosted a media press event to highlight snow storm impacts and travel safety during active snow removal. This press conference specifically

highlighted snow plow safety for the “Don’t Crowd the Plow” campaign. Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Alex Tardy, provided a live briefing on the 6-10 inches of snow expected on December 23 and a stronger and colder storm forecast for December 25-26, which could bring potential significant travel impacts and double the snowfall, ending with a long range forecast for potential weather on New Year’s Eve.

Other agencies that presented for Los Angeles media stations included San Bernardino County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, US Forest Service and two county supervisors for the mountain districts. The briefing was shared on Caltrans [YouTube channel](#).

This outreach was a unique demonstration of multi-agency public safety messaging in front of a major media market before high impact winter storms impacting holidays.



*NWS San Diego, CA, WCM Alex Tardy briefs on winter storms forecast to affect the San Bernardino mountain highway travel.*

How much snow fell? On December 23, 5 to 10 inches of snow was measured, followed by a whopping 12 to 36 inches on December 26–27 including 4 to 8 inches along the 10 lanes of I-15 Cajon Pass at 4000 feet, forcing a rare closure for several hours. Finally, the last storm on December 30–31 produced 3 to 6 inches of snow and widespread chain control requirements across the Big Bear Lake mountain region overnight.

---

## Table Rock Lake, Missouri Derecho/Duck Boat Incident

By [Michael Scotten](#), Performance and Evaluations Branch Chief; [Patricia Brown](#), Service Assessment Program Leader

On July 19, 2018, a significant derecho event occurred over southern Missouri. Winds gusted over 70 mph across much of southwest Missouri, including the Table Rock Lake. During the event, the tourist boat, DUKW “Stretch Duck 7,” sank at approximately 7:08 pm, CDT, generating intense media coverage.

The Stretch Duck 7, owned and operated by Ride the Ducks Branson/Ripley Entertainment, Inc., had 29 tour passengers and two crew members aboard when weather conditions deteriorated. One crew member and 16 passengers died.

Because this was a rare and historic event, NWS formed a regional Service Assessment team to examine NWS warning and forecast services before, during and after the fatal storm. The [NWS Service Assessment of events related to the Table Rock Lake](#) incident was complicated by the investigations by other federal and state agencies and by the potential for civil and criminal litigation against the owners/operators of Stretch Duck 7. The NWS team was limited by a lack of access to interviews and other data from National Transportation Safety Board and U.S. Coast Guard during their investigations, and by parties involved in litigation to be interviewed.

For these reasons, the Service Assessment focused on learning how vulnerable outdoor populations (campgrounds, marina patrons, etc.) receive, interpret and act upon NWS weather information. This evaluation also extended to traditional core partners such as media and emergency managers.



*Weather radar image from NWS Weather Forecast Office in Springfield, MO*

**Aware**

NOAA's National Weather Service, Analyze, Forecast and Support Office  
Managing Editor: [Melody Magnus](#), Editors: **Mark Tew**  
Aware online: [www.weather.gov/publications/aware](http://www.weather.gov/publications/aware) ISSN 1936-8178  
Subscribe/Unsubscribe: [melody.magnus@noaa.gov](mailto:melody.magnus@noaa.gov)