

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 02, 2003***

CODED MARINE FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Coded Marine Forecast (CMF) is an alphanumeric product in a table format that provides an abbreviated version of the Coastal Waters Forecast. The table contains forecast information for the following marine weather parameters: wind, waves, icing, and significant weather. This product is prepared for the National Weather Service (NWS) Alaska Regions coastal waters and offshore marine area of responsibility (MAOR). This MAOR covers 60 nautical miles off of the Alaska coastline, the Gulf of Alaska north of 55 degrees North, and the Bering Sea east of the International Date Line.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued routinely twice a day to provide ships at sea with marine forecast information via Marine Radio Facsimile broadcasts. Due to large gaps in NOAA Weather Radio coverage along Alaskas coast, this is a way to provide mariners with routine access to marine forecast and warning information. This product is intended to provide information to assist in the protection of life and property and enhance the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: ocean going vessels, barge and tug boat operators; recreational mariners; and anyone with marine facsimile receiving equipment within range of the Kodiak, Alaska broadcast.

4. Presentation Format:

This is an alphanumeric product presented in a table format. It is available via Marine Radio Facsimile only.

5. Feedback Method:

The Radio Facsimile broadcast schedule contains a Request for Comments product that is designed to solicit feedback and provides mariners with contact information for the Meteorologist in Charge at the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage. Feedback on this product is also obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Alaska Region CMF may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The CMF product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains a snapshot of marine forecast information valid at specified time intervals over a 24-hour period. The product contains routine marine weather elements and warnings and advisories for strong winds and freezing spray. The product is compiled through an automated process using portions of the coastal waters forecasts (CWF) and offshore forecasts (OFF) issued by the WFOs in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

Coordination between Alaskas WFOs and the NWS Ocean Prediction Center is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely twice a day by WFO Anchorage. The product is made available via the Kodiak, Alaska Marine Radio facsimile broadcast only.

3. **Additional Information:**

Marine and Coastal Services policies, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, dissemination methods, and product specifications for the CWF and OFF products are documented in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, 10-310, and 10-311. These documents are made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.