

# Experimental Enhanced Wave Terminology

## 1. Product/Service Description.

Sea state is described by providing as much detailed wave information as is useful for the mariner, based on the wave conditions. For example, when there is only a single wave, then that wave's direction, height and period will be given.

When there are two distinct waves, both waves (which together make up that sea state) will be described. Here is an example:

TODAY...NW WIND 5 TO 15 KT. WAVES NW 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

TONIGHT...N WIND 10 TO 20 KT. WAVES N 3 FT AT 4 SECONDS... AND NW 7 FT AT 11 SECONDS.

SAT...N WIND 10 TO 20 KT. WAVES N 4 FT AT 4 SECONDS... AND NW 7 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT...N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WAVES N 7 FT AT 6 SECONDS... AND W 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SUN...N WIND 20 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. WAVES N 10 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

## 2. Experimental Review Period:

April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016

## 3. Comments and Feedback

An extension to the enhanced wave terminology experimental period is being requested to continue providing this service to WFO Eureka marine users and partners while a national standard for communicating wave information is developed. The effort to develop a consistent approach for wave terminology is being done in conjunction with the nationwide deployment of the Nearshore Wave Prediction System (NWPS), which will be the primary tool for the generation of wave forecasts at all NWS coastal Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs). The deployment of NWPS has been significantly delayed due to an emerging need to run the software on centralized computing resources instead of on distributed field office computing resources, as originally planned. This delay in the deployment of NWPS has precluded the internal testing and refinement of Eureka's enhanced wave terminology concepts in other NWS Regions. Further testing of this enhanced wave terminology is needed prior to the finalizing of a nationally consistent approach to wave terminology.

The extension time period will be used by WFO Eureka to work with NWS Western Region Headquarters (WRH) and NWS Headquarters (Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Branch) to integrate lessons learned from Eureka's wave

terminology test and those from WFO Miami's concurrent test into a proposal for a national standard format for wave terminology. This new standard approach will then be tested around WR and other NWS Regions using NWPS, which is scheduled for partial nationwide deployment by Fall 2015.

This standard format will be scalable and adaptable to meet the diverse needs of the Regions and Centers, while providing a consistent underlying framework which allows a single formatter to be used for a range of text dissemination methods, including NOAA Weather Radio broadcast scripts, legacy text products, and web-based point and click. An additional goal of the standard format is to leverage a foundational dataset of wave information that can also support a broad range of value-added products and services, such as wave graphics and interpretive services, so that both efficiency gains and consistency are realized.

The terminology used at WFO Eureka during the requested extension will remain as it was at the end of the experimental period.

**RECOMMEND: Regional Director approve the extension of the comment period for the Experimental Enhanced Wave Terminology to April 1, 2016.**

APPROVED: *David Bellamy*

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 5/12/15

Name

Director, Office

*Deputy Director, NWS Western Region*