

# **PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT**

## **MULTI-FORMAT MARINE FORECAST INFORMATION WEB PAGE**

**APPROVED //SIGNED// Date: June 11, 2007**

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## **MULTI-FORMAT MARINE FORECAST INFORMATION WEB PAGE**

*NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)*

### **Part 1 -Mission Connection**

1. **Product/Service Description:** Advances in computer capabilities and web services technologies, as well as scientific advances in National Weather Service (NWS) software, have afforded an opportunity for NWS to create customer-based marine products and services. Information dissemination via the World Wide Web (www) allows customers to obtain higher resolution marine forecast information in a variety of formats on demand.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:** This version of an interactive marine forecast information web page is being made available to:

- a. Allow users to access marine forecast information that is always current with higher resolution than is possible in traditional text marine forecast products which are averaged over time and space.
- b. Allow marine customers to view forecast information retrieved directly from locally prepared forecast grids in a variety of formats, including icons, text, tabular and graphic.
- c. Receive feedback from those users on potential refinements to interactive information retrieval.

**3. Audience:** The current audience for the marine forecast information web page consists of the general public, recreational boaters, commercial shipping companies and partners such as emergency management, United States Coast Guard, media and private meteorological companies.

**4. Presentation Format:** The web grid point forecasts are presented for display as HTML in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. The forecasts can be viewed using a web browser, and then selected on a map location or by entering specified latitude and longitude coordinates. A sample of this web page may be found at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/>.

**5. Feedback Method:** Feedback Method - We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. Please submit your comments on these experimental elements by completing our brief experimental product survey during the **90-day experimental feedback period from June 11, 2007 through September 10, 2007**. Comments may also be submitted by clicking on the "Survey/Comments" links on the experimental MWAP web pages. To provide additional comments/suggestions, or to request more information about the MWAP, please contact:

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6. Example URL: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/>

7. PDD approved by Lynn Maximuk, Director Central Region and Dean Gulezian, Director Eastern Region.

## Part 2 -Technical

**1 Format and Science Basis:** Grid point forecasts can be viewed in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. Data are extracted from the Graphical Forecast Editor (GFE) program on a routine basis, then processed and sent to the NWS Central Region Web Server. Data are available at a spatial resolution of 5 kilometers. Text forecasts are available out to 5 days; meteograms to 48 hours; digital/tabular forecasts to 120 hours.

**2 Availability:** Updates to grid point forecasts as needed existing GFE database. These updates will occur as necessary by each WFO.

**3 Parameters** - Initial versions will create graphics of several sensible and derived surface weather fields to

include weather, sky cover, wind, probability of precipitation, temperature and wave heights.

**4 Additional Information:** The interactive forecast information display web page is being developed at the Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and tested on all Great Lake WFO web sites. Initially, sites testing this experimental information retrieval system were:

**In Central Region:**

Gaylord, MI  
Duluth, MN  
Detroit, MI  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Milwaukee, WI  
Marquette, MI  
Green Bay, WI  
Chicago, IL  
Northern Indiana, IN

**In Eastern Region:**

Cleveland, OH  
Buffalo, NY

Access to these forecast office web pages can be made by navigating from the National Weather Service web page: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov> and from regional web sites.