

## Multi-Format Marine Forecast Information Web Page for Coastal WFOs

### Product Description Document (PDD)

#### Part I – 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 marine forecast information retrieved directly from locally prepared, gridded forecast database in a variety of formats, including icons, text, tabular, and graphic.
- c. Receive feedback from users regarding potential refinements to interactive information retrieval and display.

3 Audience: The primary audience for this Marine Forecast Information Web Page includes (but is not limited to) recreational boaters, the general public, commercial shipping, United States Coast Guard, emergency managers, law enforcement, the media, and private meteorological firms.

Presentation Format: The web grid point forecasts are presented for display as HTML in text, icons, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular output. The forecasts can be viewed using a web browser, with the desired geographical point selected by the user via a map. Forecasts for other marine locations can then be selected from a Google-based map located on the web page. A sample of this web page may be found at <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?map.x=267&map.y=23&site=dtx&zmx=1&zmy=1> and is also found below.

Parameters: Marine-specific and general weather elements may vary based on regional and local needs, but may include: wind (direction, speed, and gust), significant wave height, swell (height, direction, and period), wind wave height, weather, and visibility. Links are also included on the web page to current NWS marine warnings, watches, and advisories; current conditions for nearby observation locations (e.g. buoys, C-MANs, and/or ASOS); NWS radar and satellite information, and the NWS' National Forecast Digital Database (NDFD).

#### Part II – Technical Description

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 appropriate NWS regional web server. Data are available at a spatial resolution of either 5 x5 kilometers or 2.5 x 2.5 kilometers. Forecast information is available out to 5 days; digital tabular forecasts to 120 hours, and meteograms to 48 hours.

2 Availability: Updates to grid point forecasts are accomplished as needed at coastal WFOs, using their GFE.

Marine Forecast for Latitude 43.96°N and Longitude 82.39°W - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?map.x=267& Google

Marine Forecast for Latitude 43.96°N...

**Your National Weather Service forecast**

**18NM ENE Harbor Beach MI  
Lake Huron**

Enter Your "City, ST" or zip code  Go BOOKMARK

NWS Detroit/Pontiac, MI [Mobile Weather Information](#) | [Comments/Suggestions](#)  
**Marine Point Forecast** 43.96°N 82.39°W **Last Update:** 10:14 am EST Feb 23, 2010  
 Associated [Zone Forecast](#) which includes this point **Forecast Valid:** 1pm EST Feb 23, 2010-6pm EST Mar 1, 2010

**Forecast at a Glance**

This Afternoon	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
W 11kt 3ft	W 10kt 2ft	↑NNW 6kt 1-2ft	↑N 23kt ↑6ft	NNW 27kt 9-10ft	NNW 28kt 11-12ft	NNW 28kt 12-13ft	NNW 25kt 11ft↓	N 19kt 7ft↓

**Marine Point Forecast \***

**This Afternoon:** W wind 8 to 11 kt. Scattered snow showers. Waves around 3 ft.

**Tonight:** W wind 6 to 10 kt. A chance of snow showers. Waves around 2 ft.

**Wednesday:** Variable winds less than 5 kt becoming NNW around 6 kt in the afternoon. Snow showers likely. Waves 1 to 2 ft.

**Wednesday Night:** N wind 8 to 13 kt increasing to 18 to 23 kt after midnight. Snow showers likely. Waves 1 ft building to 6 ft.

**Thursday:** NNW wind 23 to 27 kt. Snow showers likely. Widespread freezing spray. Waves 9 to 10 ft.

**Thursday Night:** NNW wind around 28 kt, with gusts as high as 34 kt. A chance of snow showers. Widespread freezing spray. Waves 11 to 12 ft.

**Friday:** NNW wind 26 to 28 kt, with gusts as high as 35 kt. A chance of snow showers. Widespread freezing spray. Waves 12 to 13 ft.

**Current Conditions** [\[Move Down\]](#)

**HRBM4 9075014 - Harbor Beach**  
 Lat: 43.85°N Lon: 82.64°W Elev: 179.2  
 Last Update on Feb 23, 11:48 am EST

<b>Wind:</b>	NW 8 G 14 KT
<b>Pressure:</b>	1009.8 mb
<b>Air Temperature:</b>	28 °F (-2 °C)
<b>Water Temperature:</b>	NA
<b>Dewpoint:</b>	NA
<b>Wave Hgt/Dir:</b>	NA
<b>Dominant Wave Period:</b>	NA
<b>Visibility:</b>	NA

[Nearby Observations](#)

[Past Observations](#)

[Great Lakes Water Temperature \(Graphic\)](#)

**Radar and Satellite Images**

Done