

Product/Service Description Document Experimental Marine Web Portal
National Weather Service Eastern Region
National Weather Service Southern Region
Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product/Service Description - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Experimental Marine Web Portal provides marine observations, forecasts and short and long-fuse warnings for the coastal waters of North Carolina, South Carolina and northern Georgia and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas of the Southern Region. The recent development of regional and sub regional "coastal ocean observing systems under the national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative creates new opportunities for increased meteorological and oceanographic data availability. Currently, region-specific information on marine and coastal conditions is collected by, stored and disseminated from a wide range of government and academic institutions and includes a variety of information types and protocols. There is a need for improved, coordinated delivery of relevant information to a broad user community. One of the most efficient ways for coastal ocean observing systems to disseminate marine information to the public is through a partnership with local NOAA/NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), since the targeted audiences already rely on these offices for marine observations and forecast needs. The prototype website that will be used to disseminate the consolidated marine information is titled "Marine Web Portal". The website will expand to include the US coastal waters through FY 2011.

b. Product Type - Experimental and transitioning to operational status by 2011.

c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental website is to provide our customers and partners a simple, standardized web based portal to access current forecasts, consolidated coastal ocean observations and monitoring activities for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts in one website. This website will support NOAA's Mission Goals of Serving Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information and Supporting the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation.

d. Audience - The target audience for this experimental product is the general marine community, including but not limited to: coastal town managers, recreational and commercial mariners, beachgoers, surfers, scuba divers, fishermen, marine and beach safety officials and the general public.

e. Presentation Format - Figure 1 shows the presentation format of the current version of the Marine Web Portal. The user interface uses tabs, radio buttons and mouse clicks on a web map interface to represent marine themes that the target audience needs to make informed boating decisions: Current observations, hazards, tides, and marine forecast. Map overlays, which can be toggled on/off, provide users with additional information and are incorporated in the display for each of the tabs.

f. Feedback Method - A web survey will be used to obtain user feedback. The survey is available at the following link:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/web-survey.php?code=cc-marine>

Technical comments for the Experimental Marine Web Portal developer may be addressed to:

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E-mail comments can be sent to Donald.J.Miller@noaa.gov

The comment period runs from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis - See Figure 1 for description of the format and web user interface.
- b. Availability - The website will run 24 hours per day and be monitored by NWS staff. The website will be made available to all WFO's in the coverage region.
- c. Additional Information -
 - 1) National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-506, Digital Data Products/Services Specification provides detailed information on both experimental and operational elements in NDFD.

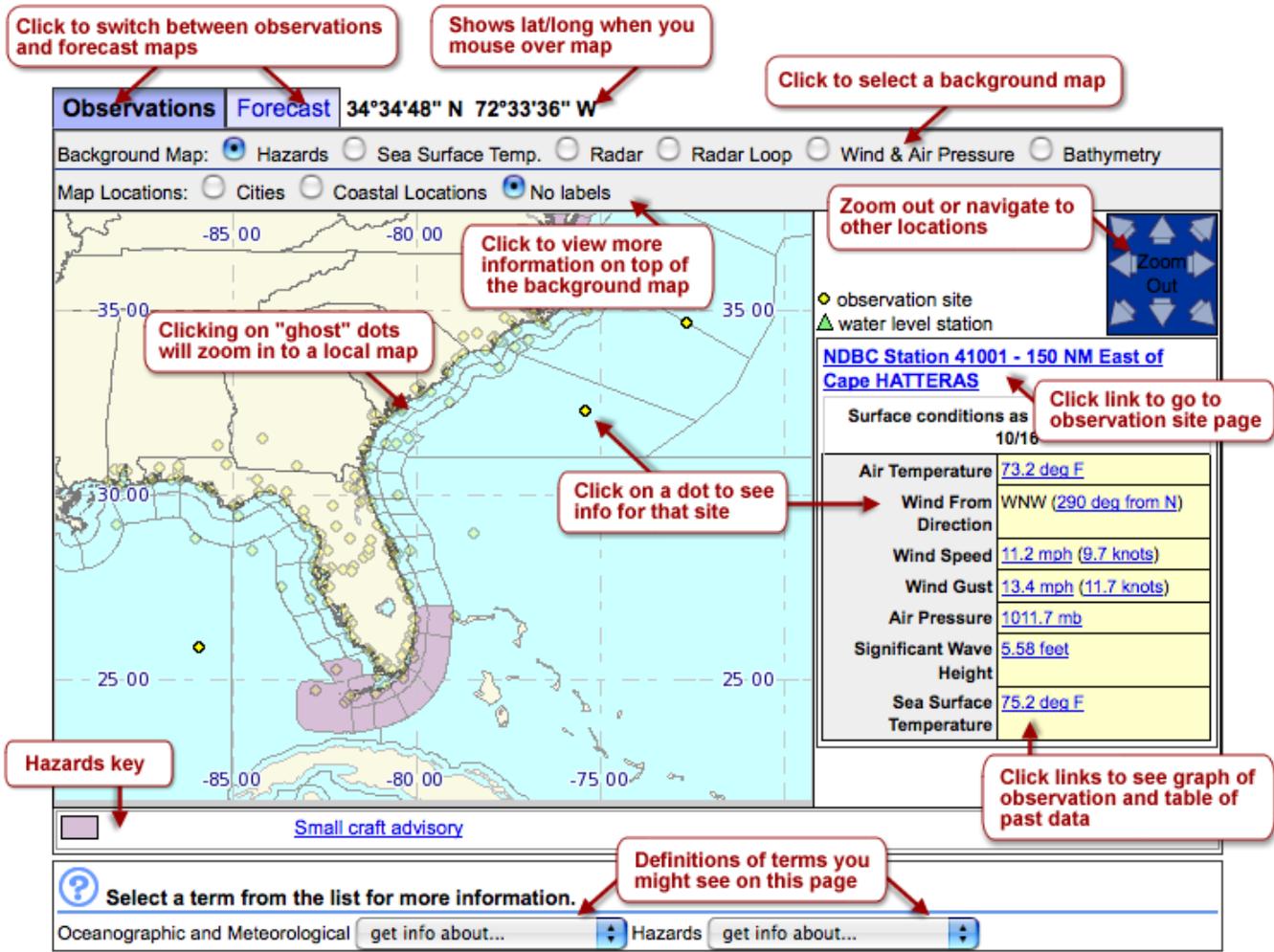


Figure 1 - Marine Web Portal Interface