

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

SEA ICE ADVISORY

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Sea Ice Advisory is an alphanumeric product that provides analysis, forecast, and climatological information pertaining to sea ice in the waters surrounding Alaska. The Sea Ice Advisory contains specific sections for the Arctic Ocean, the Bering Sea, and Cook Inlet.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The Sea Ice Advisory is issued routinely three times per week, and updated when necessary, to define the leading edge of sea ice fields and describe their expected movements over a five day forecast period. The information is critical for vessels in planning a safe route through waters routinely impacted by sea ice movement. 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: all vessels working in or traveling through the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, or Cook Inlet; climate research scientists; military and government agencies; native hunters and whalers; and private consulting meteorologists and oceanographers.

4. Presentation Format:

This is an alphanumeric product presented in a narrative format.

5. Feedback Method:

The Sea Ice Advisory product contains a section that requests feedback and provides the telephone and fax numbers for the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage and the E-Mail address for the ice forecaster. 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 Sea Ice Advisory 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 email questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Sea Ice Advisory product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains a narrative weather synopsis describing weather systems that are expected to impact the location of sea ice; a narrative summary of the location of the main ice edge and its characteristics; and descriptive phrases for ice movement, development, or decay forecast over a five-day period.

In addition, a seasonal ice outlook is included in issuances of the Sea Ice Advisory during the first week of the following months: January the outlook for the winter is provided; February the outlook for late winter and early spring is provided; May the outlook for late spring and summer is provided. The objective of the outlook is to identify a representative pattern year from the ice atlas for the outlook period.

Coordination with the National Ice Center is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely three times per week by WFO Anchorage and is updated on an unscheduled basis. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at: <http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

3. **Additional Information:**

Marine and Coastal Services policies, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, dissemination methods, and product specifications for Ocean Sea Ice Services are documented in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304 and 10-330. These documents are made available on the Internet at:

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