

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION
DOCUMENT (PDD) TYPE: Official Product DATE: April 30, 2003**

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANALYSIS AND ANOMALY

Part 1 -Mission Connection

- 1 Product/Service Description: The Sea Surface Temperature Analysis (SST) and Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (SSTA) are graphical products depicting sea surface water temperatures and departure from normal. WFO Honolulu produces the SST for the North Pacific (area bounded by equator to 55N and 110W to 160E) and the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) produces the SST for both the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific (area bounded by 10S to 50N and 0 to 180 longitude) and the SSTA product for the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific (area bounded by 10S to 50N and 0 W to 180 W longitude).
- 2 Purpose/Intended Use: The SST and SSTA are routinely issued products which depict current sea surface water temperatures across much of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. WFO Honolulu and NCEP/EMC intend the SST and the SSTA as aids into the development of forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancing the nations economy.
- 3 Audience: The target audience for the products includes: recreational and commercial mariners; military and government agencies; media; and the general public.
- 4 Presentation Format: -WFO Honolulu (SST) and NCEP/EMC (SST and SSTA) produce the products in graphical format and they prepare them in a consistent manner. NWS policy documents describe any differences and are located on the Internet at:

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

5. Feedback Method: NWS is constantly seeking to improve its products based on user feedback. Customers can provide continuous feedback through e-mail links to the local program managers via the offices Internet web sites and via e-mail links to the program manager in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch, National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters. WFO Honolulu, NCEP/EMC, and NWS Headquarters also obtain feedback through meetings with representatives from other military and government agencies, attendance at boat shows, and through Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the SST and SSTA products should be addressed to:

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National Weather Service
Attn: Mark Tew W/OS21
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Mark.Tew@noaa.gov

Part 2 -Technical

1 Format and Science Basis: The SST and SSTA are graphical products depicting sea surface water temperatures (in degrees Celsius) and anomalies from average. NCEP/EMC and WFO Honolulu automatically generate these products with data derived from ship and buoy observations augmented by satellite derived information.

2 Availability: WFO Honolulu and NCEP/EMC routinely prepare the SST and SSTA as automated products. WFO Honolulu updates the SST product twice weekly, and transmitted daily via the Internet and the Marine Facsimile broadcast on KVM-70. NCEP EMC updates the SST and SSTA products once a week and make them available on the Internet and the high seas radiofax from Point Reyes California. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

The following Internet sites are ways to access the SST and SSTA products:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/graphics/sst.gif>.

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsst.shtml>

3. Additional Information: A description of the Offshore Marine Services, including the SST and SSTA policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination is located in NWS Instructions 10-311 which is available via the Internet at:

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