

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

SURF ZONE FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Surf Zone Forecast (SRF) is an alphanumeric product providing information on surf and water conditions within the surf zone. The surf zone is defined here as the narrow area of water from the high tide level on the beach to the beginning of breaking waves on the water. The SRF may also include information on general weather conditions within the surf zone. This product is prepared for selected National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) with coastal waters marine areas of responsibility (MAOR).

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued routinely once per day, and updated as necessary when conditions change significantly. This product is prepared for specified sections of coastline, with an emphasis on recreational beach areas. This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property.

3. Audience:

The target audience for this product includes the media, local and regional authorities, and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

This product is made available in a consistent alphanumeric format. Any unique differences in the SRF due to local geography or regional customer requests are described in NWS policy documents made available on the Internet at:

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

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, Outdoor and Recreational Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the SRF 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 e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

This product contains weather and wave information affecting the surf zone and immediately adjacent beach areas. If the SRF is issued during the morning hours, it will contain expected conditions for the same day. If the SRF is issued late in the afternoon or during the evening, it will contain expected conditions for the following day. The product may include expected hazards in the surf zone, for example: rip current risk, lightning, severe thunderstorms, and waterspouts. It may also include expected routine weather and water conditions, for example: sky condition, weather (if any), precipitation (if any), wind direction and speed, air and water temperature, tide information, and swell direction and period. Additionally, the SRF may include a generalized outlook for surf and weather conditions.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely once per day, and is updated as necessary when conditions change significantly. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, 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>.

The following WWW Internet site is one location to access the SRF product:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/forecast.htm#bay>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, overall area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the SRF product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and also in NWSI 10-310, available on the Internet at:

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